



[Latest snow report](#)

[Latest snow forecast](#)

[Season progress report](#)

[Who got the most snow 2014-15?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2014-15 - N America](#)

[The snow quality equation](#)

[What is the Foehn?](#)

[Avoiding rain](#)

[Avalanche awareness](#)

[Who got the most snow 2013-14?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2013-14 - N. America](#)

[Who got the most snow 2012-13?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2012-13 - N. America](#)

[The winter of 2012-13 in pictures](#)

[Archive](#)

[2015-16](#)

[2014-15](#)

[2013-14](#)

[2012-13](#)

### Latest snow report

**Updated: 1.40pm Thursday 3 December 2015**

Snow conditions in the Alps are highly variable right now, depending on exactly where you are.

The most snow is across the north-western half of the Alps. By this we mean the northern French Alps (e.g. **Tignes, Val Thorens, Chamonix, Avoriaz**), and the northern and western Swiss Alps (e.g. **Verbier, Mürren, Engelberg**).

Now that the recent snowfalls have consolidated, these areas have somewhere near to "normal" snow depths for early December – just a fraction below in most northern French resorts, but above average in some parts of northern and western Switzerland, for example in **Mürren**, where the snow pack at 2300m is currently 40% above average.

The area with the least snow is the southern Alps, especially Italy, where with one or two exceptions there is very little natural snow indeed. That said, the recent cold weather did allow their impressive snow-making systems to operate on an industrial scale, which will allow a surprising number of new openings this weekend (e.g. the **Sella Ronda** resorts), almost entirely on man-made snow.

The extreme southern French Alps (e.g. **Isola 2000**), the far south-east of Switzerland (e.g. **St Moritz**) and parts of southern Austria are in a similar position to Italy.

The rest of Austria is "somewhere in between". The glaciers, as you would expect, are doing fine but elsewhere it's a mixed picture. The Arlberg resorts (e.g. **Lech, St Anton**) have reasonable, though far from exceptional, snow cover with a decent number of pistes expected to open this weekend.

However, the lower resorts of the Tirol and Salzburgland are still threadbare lower down, and need more snow in order to look forward to anything like a convincing start to the winter season.

Looking further ahead and there's good news and bad news for the Alps. The bad news is that no significant snow is expected anywhere until 12 - 14 December at the very least. The good news, however, is that thereafter there are signs of a pattern change which will hopefully see a return to winter. However, we must stress that this is a long way off and far from certain as things stand.

Across the pond, snow conditions are more consistent, with generally pretty good conditions for early December in western US and western Canadian resorts.

---

### Austria

Glaciers aside, **Ischgl** (10/30cm) and **Obergurgl** (30/50cm) are the best bets in Austria right now thanks to their high altitude slopes and state of the art snow making.

The Arlberg resorts of **Lech** (30/35cm) and **St Anton** (5/50cm) join them tomorrow, though snow depths are also modest.

Elsewhere in Austria, there are bits and pieces opening or scheduled to open this weekend but, with generally modest cover, forget any serious off-piste for now.

**weathertoski** 

 **weathertoski**  
@weathertoski

Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! [tinyurl.com/llt6xzy](http://tinyurl.com/llt6xzy)



31 May

 **weathertoski**  
@weathertoski

Where to ski in the Alps in

Follow us on: 

Tweet this page 



Tailor-made ski holidays and short breaks to some of the finest hotels in the Alps

020 3397 8450



 **weatherto...**  
2.9k likes



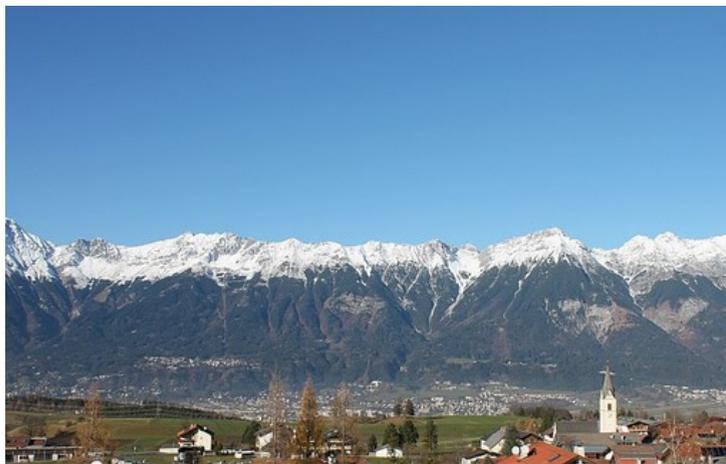
 0

### Contact us...

Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps? [Contact us](#) and we'll do our best to answer it...

E: [info@weathertoski.co.uk](mailto:info@weathertoski.co.uk)

T: +44 (0)20 3151 3154



View towards Innsbruck and the Nordkette ski area - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

### France

The best snow conditions in France are in the high resorts of the northern Alps, such as **Val d'Isère/Tignes** (28/90cm) and **Val Thorens** (85/115cm), both of which already have a good selection of pistes open.

Elsewhere there are a number of other options, with a whole raft of further openings this weekend. Included among these will be the 3 Valley resorts of **Courchevel** and **Méribel**, as well as **Les 2 Alpes**.

Further south there is less snow but, with artificial help, a selection of resorts will also be open here, including **Montgenèvre** (20/30cm) and **Isola 2000** (10/30cm), almost entirely on artificial snow.



Val Thorens is one of the best options in the Alps right now - Photo: valthorens.com

### Italy

Many Italian resorts have a serious lack of snow right now. That said, they do have the best snow-making in the Alps, which has allowed a number of Dolomite resorts (e.g. **Kronplatz**) to open a handful of runs on just a 10cm base! Other resorts such as **Selva** (10/30cm) and **Corvara** will join them this weekend.

The most natural snow in the Italian Alps is in the far north-west, in resorts such as **Cervinia** (20/125cm), but even here it is some way behind what we would expect for early December.



Skiing almost entirely on artificial snow in Kronplatz - Photo: kronplatz.com

## Switzerland

The greatest extent and variety of skiing in Switzerland remains in **Saas-Fee** (12/125cm) and **Zermatt** (5/140cm), even if they missed the heaviest of the recent snow, with **Zermatt** saying it will open 165km of pistes this weekend!

Elsewhere in Switzerland, there are lots of partial openings with the best snow in the western and northern resorts, such as **Verbier** (15/50cm) and **Engelberg** (40/160cm), though off-piste opportunities remain limited.



Decent snow cover in Laax in the northern Swiss Alps - Photo: laax.com

---

## Rest of Europe

There are currently lots of possibilities for skiing in the Pyrenees, though it has also turned much milder here after a very snowy end to November. Among the better options right now are Spain's **Baqueira Beret** (60/100cm) where most lifts are open, and France's **Cauterets** (40/100cm).

Snow depths in Andorra are generally more modest, but all ski areas are partially open, with 20/40cm of settled snow depending on altitude in the **Grand Valira** region.

Scandinavia also has plenty of options, albeit mostly very modest in extent. In Finland, **Levi** is operating 11 lifts and has a 40cm upper base. Further south in Norway, **Hemsedal** has 8 lifts open and an upper base of 30cm.



Decent snow at altitude in the Pyrenees. This is Baqueira Beret in Spain - Photo: baqueira.es

---

## USA

The majority of the big name resorts in the western states are at least partially open and in pretty good shape for early December.

In California, **Mammoth** is offering 78 trails and an upper base of 122cm, while in Colorado, **Winter Park** has 62 trails open on an 84cm upper base.

If there is one state that is still obviously behind the curve it is Utah, where **Snowbird** (56cm mid-mountain) has comparatively little snow by its own super-snowy standards.

---

## Canada

Snow conditions are pretty good in western Canada and will improve further over the next few days.

**Whistler** (87cm mid-mountain) is just beginning a very stormy spell of weather, with over 1m of new snow expected at altitude over the next few days.

Further east, the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (76cm mid-mountain) is not expecting quite so much new snow, but is still in excellent shape for the time of year with

the majority of trails now open.



Plenty of snow in the Canadian Rockies. This is Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com

---

**Next full snow report will be on Monday 7 December 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for regular updates**