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### Latest snow report

**Updated: 1.45pm Thursday 21 January 2016**

Snow conditions are excellent across many (but not all) parts of the Alps right now. It is turning milder, however, which will complicate matters somewhat over the weekend and into next week.

The best snow conditions this week have been in the north-eastern Swiss, and northern and western Austrian Alps (e.g. **Engelberg, Braunwald, Lech, Warth-Schröcken, Fieberbrunn**) where between 50cm and 100cm of new snow fell last weekend. With the frigid temperatures, this snow was also "light" and "dry" in consistency, not something we have seen much of this season.

Snow conditions are also excellent across most other northern and western parts of the Alps, but the south has again seen very little snow. Here, most resorts (e.g. the Dolomite region) are still heavily reliant on artificial snow, with little or no off-piste to speak of.

The weather in the Alps will turn significantly milder over the weekend, with some snow in places (heaviest in the eastern Alps) but also the risk of a little rain low down. Next week, it should settle down again but stay mild, with cold clear nights and mild sunny days, which will start a freeze-thaw cycle on some lower south-facing slopes.

Meanwhile, many North American resorts have seen new snow, with lots of fabulous skiing on offer...

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#### Austria

Right now, the northern Austrian resorts still offer some of the best snow conditions in the Alps, thanks to last weekend's big snowfalls. **St Anton** has base depths of 75/165cm, while **Fieberbrunn** has 50/145cm.

As a rule, the snow becomes thinner the further south you go, but the recent cold weather has enabled **Bad Kleinkirchheim** (20/45cm) to also offer some enjoyable skiing, so long as you are happy sticking to the pistes.

It will turn milder in Austria over the weekend with some further snow in places, but also the risk of rain at low altitude.



Near perfect conditions in the Austrian Vorarlberg right now. This is Mellau-Damüls - Photo: damuels-mellau.at

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#### France

Snow conditions are good to excellent across most of the French Alps, especially in the north where the deepest snow is to be found. **Val d'Isère** now has settled snow depths of 102/183cm, while **Avoriaz** has 105/155cm. Only below 1500m is

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the cover still a bit thin but, for now, even **Morzine** looks thoroughly wintry, with 30/90cm of settled snow depending on altitude.

Further south, snow depths are generally more modest, but the likes of **Risoul** (60/70cm) are still offering excellent piste skiing.

It will turn milder over the next few days with a few showers possible over the weekend.



Excellent snow conditions at altitude in the Portes du Soleil. This is Morzine - Photo: morzine-avoriaz.com

### Italy

Only the far north-west of Italy has what you might call normal snow levels for January, with 110/180cm of settled snow in **Courmayeur**, and 65/180cm in **Cervinia**.

Further south and east, cover is still very thin, which means that most if not all the action here is on-piste. **Selva** (20/30cm) and **Sestriere** (30/40cm), for example, are still heavily reliant on the artificial bases laid down earlier in the season.

It will continue to turn milder over the next few days, but Italian resorts will again see very little precipitation.



Decent piste skiing in Kronplatz, even if natural cover remains thin - Photo: kronplatz.com

### Switzerland

There is some excellent skiing on offer right across Switzerland at the moment, with the best conditions in the north and west. Skiing as well as anywhere are **Engelberg**, where base depths are 80/310cm, and **Crans Montana** with 60/250cm.

Only the far south-east is still struggling a bit, but if you are happy to stay on-piste then **St Moritz** (35/45cm) is still in reasonable shape, thanks to the recent cold weather.

The temperature will continue to increase over the weekend, although there will be some snow in places, heaviest in the east. However, there is also the risk of a little rain at low altitude.



Snow conditions are fabulous right now in much of Switzerland. This is Laax - Photo: laax.com

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### Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees have seen some new snow since we last reported, heaviest in **Baqueira Beret** (Spain) where settled snow depths are now a respectable 80/135cm. Snowfalls have been more modest in Andorra, but there is still some decent piste skiing on offer in **Soldeu** (30/70cm).

Conditions in Bulgaria are quite good, with **Bansko** (65/100cm) leading the way, with more snow forecast this weekend.

Norwegian resorts haven't seen a huge amount of snow in the last week, but on-piste conditions remain excellent in **Hemsedal** (82cm mid-mountain), as they also are further north in Finland's **Levi** (60cm mid-mountain).



Plenty of good skiing to be found in Bulgaria. This is Pamporovo - Photo: pamporovo.me

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### USA

Some of the best snow conditions in the US right now are in Utah, where **Snowbird** has seen plenty of snow in the last week and mid-mountain snow depths are over 2m.

Colorado resorts are also skiing superbly, with fresh snow in **Vail**, where the mid-mountain base is now 135cm deep.

Over in California, temperatures have been fluctuating with some rain at lower elevations, but a powerful "cold storm" is expected to improve conditions right across the region over the weekend. Currently **Mammoth** has an impressive 190/292cm of snow depending on altitude.



Snowbird offers some of the best conditions in the US right now - Photo: facebook.com/snowbirdUT

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#### Canada

**Whistler** has seen a further 20cm of new snow in the last 48 hours, with more in the forecast, but only at higher elevations as the milder air turns it to rain lower down. Right now the mid-mountain snow-pack is just over 2m deep.

Further east, the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (88/105cm) has seen very little snow in the last week, but has excellent top to bottom snow cover and, on-piste at least, is still skiing superbly.

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**Next full snow report will be on Monday 25 January 2016,  
but see [Today in the Alps](#) for regular updates**