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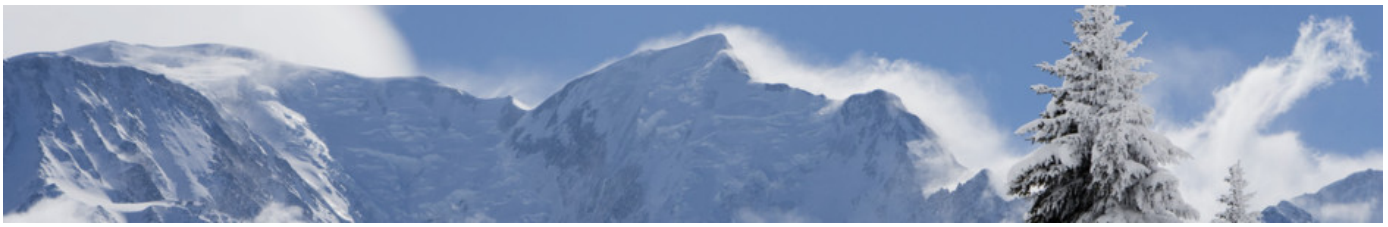

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Latest snow report

Updated: 3.50pm Thursday 24 March 2016

Snow conditions in the Alps remain pretty good for late March, even if many areas haven't seen any significant snow for a while now. One exception is the Austria Alps, particularly in the north and east, where around 10-20cm (locally a bit more) of snow has fallen in the last 36 hours.

Elsewhere in the Alps the inevitable freeze-thaw cycle has led to spring-like conditions on some lower and/south-facing slopes. However, with freezing levels largely below average over the last couple of weeks, it has been easy to find more "wintry" snow on higher and/or shadier slopes. In short, afternoon slush has not been nearly as bad in recent days as it can be at this time of year.

Meanwhile, across the pond there has been lots of snow in the western US, where late season conditions are excellent…

Austria

Some northern and eastern Austrian ski resorts are enjoying fresh snow today - 15cm at altitude in **Saalbach**, for example, where base depths are 45/75cm.

The southern and far western Austrian Alps have missed most of the recent snow but conditions are still generally good, particularly at altitude, with 105/185cm in **Lech** and 10/310cm in **Sölden**.

Excellent snow high up in Ischgl - Photo: ischgl.com

France

Snow conditions in the French Alps remain quite good for late March despite a lack of significant new snow in recent days.

Not surprisingly, the very best snow quality is at altitude in resorts such as **Tignes** (143/240cm) and **Les Arcs** (117/287cm).

However, even lower down there is some enjoyable skiing to be had, especially if you chase the sun round the mountain. **Châtel** has an impressive 85/175cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Megève** has 60/275cm.

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Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! tinyurl.com/llt6xzy

31 May

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Not much wrong with Val d'Isère at the moment - Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

Most Italian ski resorts are still in great shape for the time of year.

The very best snow conditions are at altitude in ski resorts such as **Passo Tonale** (70/250cm) and **Livigno** (60/133cm).

However, even lower down the cover is still good, with plenty of enjoyable on-piste skiing to be had in the likes of **Selva** (30/100cm) and **Sauze d'Oulx** (70/120cm).

Great piste skiing still in Sestriere - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

There is still lots of good skiing on offer across Switzerland. The very best snow is in resorts with plenty of slopes above 2500m, such as **Zermatt** (15/225cm) and **Saas-Fee** (105/320cm).

However, even lower down conditions are good, so long as you expect a more pronounced free-thaw cycle, particularly on south-facing slopes. **Villars** has base depths of 50/185cm, while **Wengen** has 10/100cm.

Decent snow cover in Bürchen in Switzerland, even here at low altitude (1450m) - Photo: bergfex.com

Rest of Europe

Snow depths are reasonably healthy for late March across most of the Pyrenees. Naturally though the best conditions are at altitude, with 80/130cm in Andorra's **Soldeu**, and 140/235cm in Spain's **Baqueira Beret**.

There has been a little snow in some Bulgarian ski resorts, including **Bansko**, where base depths are 80/90cm.

Up in Scandinavia, Sweden's **Åre** (97cm mid-mountain) is in good shape right now following 30cm of new snow in the last seven days.

Scotland, however, is struggling with only patchy snow cover, though new snow is expected over the Easter weekend. The best conditions are currently in the west, with 30/60cm in **Glencoe**.

Only patchy snow cover now mid-mountain in Glencoe, Scotland - Photo: winterhighland.info

USA

Many western US ski resorts have seen significant snow in the last few days and are in great shape.

The recent storm hit California first before moving further east to affect many parts of Utah and Colorado. **Telluride** (168cm mid-mountain) has seen 30cm of new snow in the last 24 hours, while **Alta** (271cm mid-mountain) clocked over 40cm yesterday.

Great conditions in Colorado. This is Arapahoe Basin - Photo: arapahoebasin.com

Canada

Whistler has had further modest top ups and is in fantastic shape on the upper mountain with base depths of 336cm.

Further inland, **Banff**/**Lake Louise** have also seen a few cm of new snow and are skiing superbly for late March, with base depths of 120/154cm depending on altitude.

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 31 March 2016,
but see Today in the Alps for regular updates

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