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Latest snow report

Updated: 9.30pm Thursday 31 March 2016

March may have offered us some of the best snow conditions of the season, but spring has now hit the Alps hard. It comes courtesy of a blast of warm air from the south, which has sent freezing levels soaring to 3000m in some northern parts of the Alps. Temperatures even reached the mid-20°Cs this afternoon in the [Foehn](#)-affected valleys of the Austrian Tirol (i.e. Innsbruck).

Needless to say, snow conditions have deteriorated rapidly at low and medium altitude, not helped by the considerable cloud cover which, with some exceptions, has prevented a decent overnight refreeze. This cloud has also produced some patchy precipitation, especially in the southern and western Alps, with a relatively high rain/snow limit (close to 2000m).

There will be a slight cool down on Friday, but the weekend will be warm again, which means that you need a ski resort with plenty of high north-facing terrain if you want consistently good snow conditions over the next few days.

Meanwhile, the best snow conditions across the pond are currently in Utah and Colorado...

Austria

It was exceptionally warm in the central and northern Austrian Alps today due to the Foehn, which means very wet snow conditions for the likes of [Söll](#), where snow cover is 30/50cm deep depending on altitude.

Glaciers aside, to stand any chance of finding any firm, wintry snow right now you need to aim for ski resorts with plenty of north-facing terrain above 2300m, such as [Obbergurgl](#) (20/150cm) and [Ischgl](#) (10/90cm).



Patchy snow cover low down in Leogang near Saalbach - Photo: bergfex.com

France

The warm, often cloudy weather is taking its toll on conditions in French ski resorts, particularly lower down, where the snow is disappearing rapidly from the likes of [Megève](#) (50/230cm) and [La Clusaz](#) (20/300cm).

For better (but still varied) snow conditions you need to stick to resorts with plenty of skiing above 2500m, such as [Tignes](#) (142/235cm) and [Val Thorens](#) (160/280cm).

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



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Rapid snow loss in the warm weather in Morzine - Photo: chilloutmountain.com

Italy

Spring-snow conditions rule across most of the Italian Alps, with only the highest ski resorts like **Cervinia** (40/230cm) offering a more wintry flavour right now.

Further east, **Bormio** has 30/90cm of snow cover, while **Alta Badia** (which closes on Sunday) has 30/100cm.



Warm spring sunshine in the Alta Badia this morning. This is Colfosco - Photo: Jamie Tennant

Switzerland

Just like everywhere else in the Alps, it has turned much milder across Switzerland, especially in the **Foehn** affected central and northern valleys where temperatures climbed into the low 20°Cs today. Resorts such as **Wengen** (0/100cm) are now struggling with wet snow conditions.

For better snow quality you need to head to ski resorts with plenty of slopes above 2500m, such as **Zermatt** (10/25cm) and **Saas-Fee** (87/305cm).



Still looking reasonably wintry in the higher Swiss resorts. This is Bettmeralp - Photo: aletscharena.ch

Rest of Europe

Spring-snow conditions reign in the Pyrenees, despite good cover at altitude in both **Baqueira Beret** (110/205cm) and **Pas de La Casa** (40/110cm).

Snow cover is patchy in Scotland, with only limited skiing available at **Cairngorm** (5/30cm).

Conditions are better in Norway, as you would expect, despite no significant snow for some time. **Hemsedal** reports 100cm mid-mountain.



Decent snow cover at altitude in the Pyrenees. This is Piau Engaly - Photo: piau-engaly.com

USA

All eyes were on Utah earlier in the week, with 50cm of new snow in **Snowbird** (292cm mid-mountain), where there were additional flurries today.

It has also been snowing in Colorado today. **Vail**, for example, has 15cm of fresh and 173cm of snow packed down mid-mountain, with excellent conditions for the time of year.

Canada

Warm temperatures mean spring snow conditions in **Whistler** right now, despite a healthy upper mountain base of well over 3m.

Further inland, the **Banff/Lake Louise** area reports 110/147cm of settled snow, depending on altitude.



Spring snow conditions in Whistler right now - Photo: whistlerblackcomb.com

**Next full snow report will be on Thursday 7 April 2016,
but see [Today in the Alps](#) for regular updates**