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Latest snow report

Updated: 1pm Thursday 7 April 2016

Snow conditions in the Alps have taken a hammering over the last 10-12 days, thanks to the persistent south to south-westerly winds which have brought lots of warmth, cloud (meaning poor overnight refreezes) and even some Saharan sand!

Not surprisingly, the thaw has been rapid at low altitudes, especially on the northern side of the Alps where the Foehn wind has raised temperatures to above 20°C at times. As ever, it has still been possible to find some decent snow over the last few days, but only really above 2200m (preferably even higher than this), or in the few lucky areas where breaks in the cloud have allowed some decent overnight cooling.

Snow conditions will temporarily improve in many places in the Alps over the next few days as it turns colder and more unsettled from the north. However, it won't last long, as warm air is set to return later in the weekend, lasting into next week...

Austria

Many lower Austrian ski resorts are already closed or threadbare. **Kitzbühel** (90cm upper base) is struggling on, but the snow quality is generally poor.

Glaciers aside, the best snow conditions are in ski resorts with plenty of north-facing terrain above 2200m, such as **Obergurgl** (10/125cm) or **Ischgl** (0/75cm).

New snow should temporarily improve conditions above 1500m or so over the next couple of days.



Very little snow now at low altitude in the northern Austrian Alps. This is Zell-am-See - Photo: foto-webcam.eu


France


There is still lots of snow at high altitude in France, though cloudy weather has made conditions challenging over the last few days.

For the very best snow quality, you need to stick to ski resorts with plenty of north-facing terrain above 2200m, such as **Tignes** (95/175cm) and **Val Thorens** (140/260cm).

Lower down, lots of ski resorts are still at least partially open, but snow quality is generally poor in the likes of **Megève** (30/170cm) and **Châtel** (60/150cm).

It will turn colder with a modest top-up of snow over the next couple of days.


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



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
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Plenty of snow still in Tignes - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

Italian ski resorts have suffered from the same mild and often cloudy conditions that have afflicted many other parts of the Alps over the last few days.

Generally speaking spring-snow conditions rule, but it is still possible to find some firmer snow at high altitude in the likes of **Cervinia** (30/215cm) and **Passo Tonale** (50/250cm).

Some heavy snow is expected at altitude in the eastern Italian Alps (e.g. **Cortina**) tomorrow.



Spring snow conditions in Sestriere today - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Snow conditions remain on the poor side in most Swiss ski resorts, thanks to the recent mild weather and (in places) Foehn winds.

For the best snow quality you need to aim for the higher ski resorts, such as **Zermatt** (5/210cm) and **Saas-Fee** (75/300cm).

Lower down, there is still plenty open, but snow cover is patchier and snow quality far more spring-like in resorts such as **Adelboden** (0/40cm).



Thin snow cover in the Lenk-Adelboden region - Photo: lenkbergbahnen.ch

Rest of Europe

Many Pyrenean resorts saw a moderate fall of snow on Tuesday, and there is still decent snow cover in Andorra's **Soldeu** (40/110) even if snow quality is variable.

You can also still ski in Bulgaria, with 0/160cm in **Bansko** where conditions are described as spring-like.

By contrast, it is cooler in Norway where **Hemsedal** (95cm mid-mountain) is expecting a few cm of new snow over the next 48 hours.

Scotland is still struggling though despite some fresh snow, with only patchy cover in **Cairngorm (5/30cm)**.



Spring in Glencoe, Scotland - Photo: winterhighland.info

USA

Snow conditions are still generally pretty good across the western US, with 20cm of new snow yesterday in **Breckenridge** in Colorado, where the mid-mountain base is 185cm deep. It is set to get warmer though over the next few days.

Further west Utah's **Alta** still has 256cm of snow at altitude, while California's **Mammoth** has a whopping 510cm.

Canada

Whistler still has lots of snow, especially at altitude where the base is nearly 3m deep. However, it will be warm and sunny over the next few days, so expect spring-snow conditions.

Further east, the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (104/142cm) is also in pretty good shape for April.



Good cover at altitude at Kimberley - Photo: skikimberley.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 14 April 2016,
but see [Today in the Alps](#) for regular updates