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2018-19

Latest snow report

Updated: 8pm Thursday 28 February 2019

The unusually sustained period of warm and sunny weather in the Alps is now coming to an end, after the best part of three weeks. The first weather front is due to hit the western Alps tonight and, although it won't be particularly strong, it will signal the start of a more mobile weather pattern that is likely to persist throughout next week and beyond.

Over the next seven to ten days, the heaviest snow is likely to fall in the north-western Alps but, as temperatures will be yo-yoing all over the place, there will also be some rain lower down. That said, a more sustained drop in temperature is possible later next week, meaning that significant snow is possible to lower levels. As it currently stands, the southern Alps are likely to miss the heaviest of any precipitation.

So what does this all mean for snow conditions in the Alps?

In short, the imminent change in weather is something of a mixed blessing. While it will bring some much needed snow to some parts of the Alps, it will also bring wind, fog and even rain – whether this is preferable to the recent wall-to-wall sunshine, but spring-snow conditions, very much depends on your point of view!

Meanwhile, the deepest snow across the pond is still to be found in California...

Austria

Spring-snow conditions have ruled in Austria this week, meaning that the most consistent snow quality has been at altitude in resorts such as **Obergurgl** (80/180cm) and **Sölden** (20/400cm).

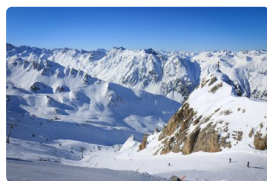
The weather is now on the turn though, with new snow expected in most resorts over the next few days, the most significant falls due at altitude and in the west (e.g. St Anton).

That said, as temperatures will be fluctuating some damp and rainy weather is also possible at times lower down.

Tweets by @weathertoski



Head to head... #Ischgl vs #StAnton
Which has the better snow?
tinyurl.com/y56wuy9l



43m



#Cervinia unexpectedly closed again tomorrow following new decree. No further details at this time.
<https://twitter.com/CerviniaValt/status/1320372177292623872>

1h

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Another lovely day in Lech today, but the weather is on the turn – 28 February 2019 – Photo: lech.com

France

Snow conditions have been spring-like in the French Alps in recent days which has meant some afternoon slush in low resorts, especially on south- and west-

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facing slopes.

The weather is now on the change, with plenty of new snow expected over the next few days, especially in the north and at altitude. Lower down, there is the risk of some rain at times, especially in the northern French Alps.

For the most consistent snow quality you will need to stay high. **Val d'Isère** currently has base depths of 104/214cm depending on altitude, while **Serre Chevalier** has 48/232cm.



Excellent snow cover still in Avoriaz, despite the recent spring-like weather – 28 February 2019 – Photo: avoriaz.com

Italy

Spring has ruled in the Italian Alps in recent days, with the best snow conditions now in high altitude resorts such as **Cervinia** (55/190cm) and **Passo Tonale** (40/300cm).

Lower down, resorts such as **Selva** (80/140cm) and **Courmayeur** (20/80cm) can also offer some good piste skiing but afternoon slush has been more of an issue.

The forecast is for the weather to turn more unsettled over the next few days, but large amounts of snow are not expected.



Good piste skiing in Madonna di Campiglio – 28 February 2019 – Photo: funiviecampiglio.it

Switzerland

Spring has dominated in the Swiss Alps in recent days with the very best snow quality reserved for high resorts such as **Zermatt** (15/205cm) and **Saas-Fee** (53/315cm).

That said, there has also been some perfectly good skiing lower down, it's just that the freeze-thaw cycle in resorts such as **Villars** (70/135cm) and **Champéry** (70/110cm) has been more marked.

Some snow is forecast over the next few days but fluctuating temperatures mean that some rain is also possible lower down.



Plenty of snow still in Davos – 28 February 2019 – Photo: davos.ch

Rest of Europe

As in the Alps, spring snow conditions have been prevalent across the Pyrenees in recent days. However, the weather is slowly changing now although significant snow is unlikely until later next week. Right now base depths are 165/215cm in Spain's **Baqueira Beret**, and 70/140cm in Andorra's **Granvalira**.

A continued lack of snow in Scotland means that the only currently open lift-served skiing is one short beginners' run in **the Lecht**.

The weather remains relatively mild across Scandinavia. That said, there is still plenty of good piste skiing on offer, with upper base depths of 80cm in Norway's **Hemsedal** and 70cm in Sweden's **Åre**.



Good snow cover still in the French Pyrenees, at least at altitude. This is Saint Lary – 28 February 2019 – Photo: saintlary.com

USA

Right now California still has the deepest snow in the western US, with 550cm on the upper slopes of **Squaw**, for example.

However, it is the resorts of Utah and Wyoming that are doing best from the current storm. **Jackson Hole** (343cm upper base) has seen 70cm in the last 48 hours alone, while **Snowbird** (318cm upper base) has seen around 25cm, but has plenty more in the forecast.

Canada

Whistler has seen a foot of snow since we last reported a week ago and now has 252cm packed down on its upper slopes. There isn't much more snow forecast over the next few days, but it will stay cold, meaning that conditions should remain good.

Further inland, conditions are also good in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (163cm upper base) with a dusting of new snow expected over the next 36 hours. Watch out for some very low temperatures this weekend though, before it warms up (a fraction) next week.



Lake Louise early this morning – 28 February 2019 – Photo: skilouise.com

**Our next full snow report will be on Thursday 7 March 2019,
but see [Today in the Alps](#) for regular updates**