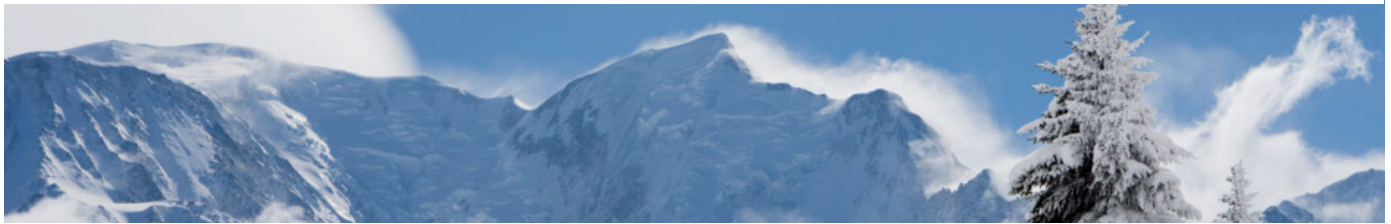




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[Latest snow report](#)

[Latest snow forecast](#)

[Season progress report](#)

[Who got the most snow?](#)

[The complete guide to...](#)

[The snow quality equation](#)

[What is the Foehn?](#)

[Avoiding rain](#)

[Avalanche awareness](#)

[Archive](#)

[2025-26](#)

[2024-25](#)

[2023-24](#)

[2022-23](#)

[2021-22](#)

[2020-21](#)

[2019-20](#)

[2018-19](#)

[2017-18](#)

[2016-17](#)

[2015-16](#)

[2014-15](#)

[2013-14](#)

[2012-13](#)

[Today in the Alps - April 2026](#)

[Today in the Alps - March 2026](#)

[Snow report - 29 March 2026](#)

[Snow report - 20 March 2026](#)

[Snow forecast - 13 March 2026](#)

[Snow report - 12 March 2026](#)

[Snow report - 5 March 2026](#)

[Today in the Alps -](#)

Latest snow report

Updated: 7.15pm Friday 24 March 2023

Snow conditions in the Alps have deteriorated over the last week thanks to mild weather and the increasingly strong spring sun. You can still find some decent skiing at altitude, mostly on-piste, but lower down natural snow is patchy with some smaller resorts already closed or on their last legs.

Over the next two or three days the situation will improve considerably at altitude, at least across the northern half of the Alps where significant fresh snow is due. However, there will also be rain lower down, at least until late on Sunday and Monday when colder air from the north will bring snow to much lower levels for a time. The southern Alps will be less affected by this new storm cycle.

In short, if you are planning a late season ski holiday in the Alps, it is still best to aim for a resort with plenty of skiing above 2000m, such as Tignes, Val d'Isère, Val Thorens, La Plagne, Cervinia, Ischgl and Obergurgl.

Across the pond, most western US ski areas are continuing to offer some excellent late season skiing, especially those in California and Utah...

Austria

Most low Austrian resorts are now looking very threadbare. You can still find some reasonable piste-skiing at altitude in the likes of **Kitzbühel** (5-90cm) and **Söll** (5-50cm), but only if you time it right as spring-snow conditions are now the order of the day.

For better snow quality you need to head much higher, to resorts such as **Obergurgl** (40/80cm) and **Ischgl** (10/120cm) where most of the skiing is above 2000m.

Some snow is expected at altitude over the next few days, and lower down for a time early next week before it turns milder once again.



Changeable weather in Lech, with rain and snow expected over the next few days – 24 March 2023
– Photo: lech-zuers.com

France

Snow conditions in French resorts like **Val d'Isère** (100/185cm) and **La Plagne** (105/295cm) remain fairly decent higher up. However, lower down, the recent warm weather has melted most of any natural snow and there is a very 'end of season' feel in the likes of **La Clusaz** (0/240cm) and **Megève** (5/95cm).

February 2026

Snow report - 26
February 2026

Snow report - 19
February 2026

Snow report - 13
February 2026

Snow report - 5
February 2026

Today in the Alps -
January 2026

Snow report - 30
January 2026

Snow forecast - 23
January 2026

Snow report - 22
January 2026

Snow report - 16
January 2026

Snow report - 9
January 2026

Snow forecast - 8
January 2026

Today in the Alps -
December 2025

Snow report - 31
December 2025

Snow report - 26
December 2025

Snow forecast - 20
December 2025

Snow report - 19
December 2025

Snow report - 12
December 2025

Snow forecast - 6
December 2025

Snow report - 5
December 2025

Today in the Alps -
November 2025

Snow forecast - 28
November 2025

Snow report - 27
November 2025

Snow report - 20
November 2025

Snow forecast - 19
November 2025

Snow report - 14
November 2025

Snow report - 5
November 2025

Today in the Alps -
May to October 2025

Today in the Alps -
March to April 2025

Snow report - 4 April
2025

Significant snow is expected across many French resorts in the next few days, mostly at altitude, with 30-50cm set to fall above 2000m by Monday in the Tarentaise, for example.

The rain/snow limit should fall to lower levels (1000m) for a time on Monday but not for long enough to make any material difference to the areas that have already lost their base.

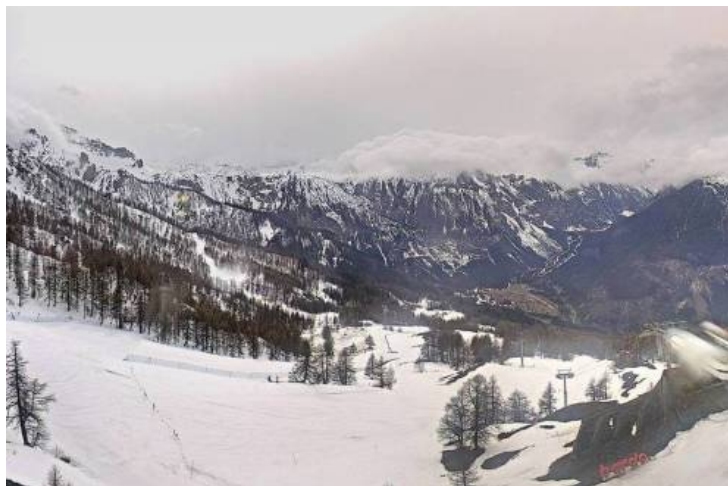


Very little natural snow at lower altitudes now in the Portes du Soleil. This is Châtel – 24 March 2023
– Photo: chatel.com

Italy

Snow depths remain modest across most Italian ski areas, but you can still find some good skiing high up in resorts like **La Thuile** (50/260cm) and **Cervinia** (15/140cm). Lower down, spring conditions (i.e. afternoon slush) are more prominent, meaning that is best to ski earlier in the day in resorts like **Sauze d'Oulx** (20/110cm) and **Selva** (10/50cm) in the Dolomites.

Most Italian ski areas will only see bits and pieces of snow at altitude over the next few days but north-western resorts like **Courmayeur** (30/100cm) and **La Thuile** will see as much as 30-50cm above 1800m by Monday, before it starts to warm up again later next week.



Lower slopes now looking worn in Bardonecchia, after a reasonably good season for snow – 24 March 2023 – Photo: bardonecchia.it

Switzerland

Snow conditions are very mixed across the Swiss Alps, with universally below average snow depths and only patchy natural snow cover in lower resorts like **Gstaad** (5/55cm) and **Grindelwald** (0/45cm).

For more consistent snow conditions, you need to aim much higher to resorts like **Zermatt** (10/140cm) and **Verbier** (25/135cm) but, even here, the snow cover is disappointingly thin.

Significant snow is expected across many Swiss resorts over the next few days, at least at altitude, heaviest in the north and west where the likes of **Verbier**, **Crans Montana** (5/100cm) and **Mürren** (20/195cm) may see 20-40cm above 2000m by the end of Monday.

Snow report - 21
March 2025

Snow report - 14
March 2025

Snow report - 7
March 2025

Today in the Alps -
February 2025

Snow report - 28
February 2025

Snow report - 21
February 2025

Snow report - 14
February 2025

Snow report - 7
February 2025

Snow report - 31
January 2025

Snow forecast - 26
January 2025

Snow report - 24
January 2025

Snow report - 17
January 2025

Snow report - 10
January 2025

Snow report - 3
January 2025

Today in the Alps -
January 2025

Snow report - 27
December 2024

Snow forecast - 21
December 2024

Snow report - 20
December 2024

Snow report - 12
December 2024

Snow forecast - 7
December 2024

Snow report - 6
December 2024

Snow forecast - 2
December 2024

Snow report - 1
December 2024

Today in the Alps -
December 2024

Snow report - 22
November 2024

Today in the Alps -
November 2024

Today in the Alps -
September to October
2024

Today in the Alps -
April 2024

Today in the Alps -
March 2024



Cloudy in Saas-Fee today, with rain at resort level but snow higher up – 24 March 2023 – Photo: saas-fee.ch

Rest of Europe

You can still find some reasonable piste-skiing at altitude in the Pyrenees, though spring conditions rule in Andorra's **Soldeu** (20/60cm) where there is also not much in the way of new snow in the forecast.

Norway continues to offer some good skiing, with more comprehensive top to bottom cover in **Hemsedal** (70/140cm).

In Scotland, only **Cairngorm** is offering any proper skiing, but natural snow cover is patchy and skiing is only possible to the mid-station.



Only patchy snow on the upper slopes now in Glencoe, where lift-served skiing is not currently possible – 24 March 2023 – Photo: winterhighland.ch

USA

You guessed it, another storm cycle is on its way to California's **Mammoth** early next week. Upper snow depths here are already nearly 7m deep and skiing is likely to continue well into the summer!

Good skiing is also widely available in Colorado though mid-mountain depths of 188cm are far closer to average in **Vail**!

Snow report - 29
March 2024

Snow report - 15
March 2024

Today in the Alps -
February 2024

Snow report - 23
February 2024

Snow report - 2
February 2024

Today in the Alps -
January 2024

Snow report - 18
January 2024

Snow report - 12
January 2024

Today in the Alps -
December 2023

Snow report - 30
December 2023

Snow report - 24
December 2023

Snow report - 15
December 2023

Snow report - 8
December 2023

Snow report - 1
December 2023

Snow report - 26
November 2023

Today in the Alps -
November 2023

Today in the Alps -
October 2023

Snow news - Summer
2023

Today in the Alps -
April 2023

Today in the Alps -
March 2023

**Snow report - 24
March 2023**

Snow report - 17
March 2023

Today in the Alps -
February 2023

Snow forecast - 10
March 2023

Snow report - 9
March 2023

Snow report - 4
March 2023

Snow report - 25
February 2023

Snow report - 10
February 2023

Today in the Alps -
January 2023

Today in the Alps -
December 2022



Excellent skiing in Mammoth right now – 24 March 2023 – Photo: facebook.com/MammothMountain

Canada

Snow depths are a little below par in **Whistler** (240cm mid-mountain base) and further inland in **Banff** (135cm). The best conditions in both resorts are currently to be found at altitude and on-piste.

Some light snow flurries should freshen things up a little tonight in **Whistler** and more generally over the weekend in **Banff**.

**Our next full snow report will be on
Thursday 30 March 2023**

See "Today in the Alps" for regular updates