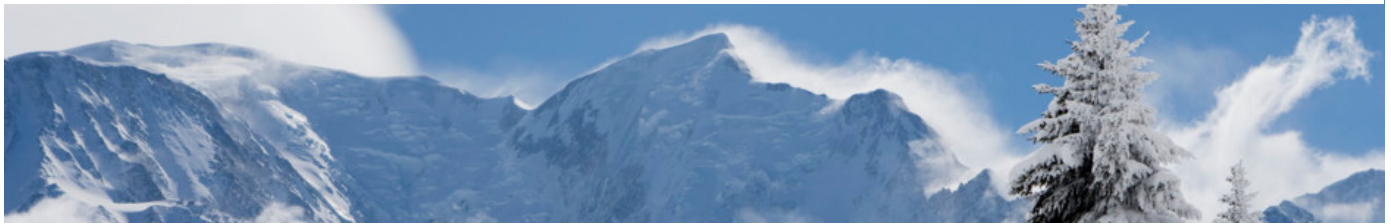




weather to ski

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Latest snow report

Updated: 2.30pm Saturday 4 March 2023

Snow conditions in the Alps remain very mixed, with generally below average snow depths for early March, especially in the Swiss and northern French Alps.

One area that is doing better is the southern Piedmont (roughly south of the Milky Way, including resorts such as Prali and Prato Nevoso), and some resorts just over the border in the southern French Alps, such as those of the Queyras and Isola 2000. Having already fared reasonably well all season, these resorts also saw another round of heavy snow last week.

Aside from these favoured areas, natural snow cover is very patchy at low altitudes across most of Switzerland, France and Italy. There is still some good piste skiing to be found but, with many areas having not seen any significant snow since January, hard-packed or icy pistes remain an issue in places, particularly as the recent cold temperatures have not allowed much softening of the snow as the days wear on, at least on shadier runs.

Austria is the alpine country offering the most consistent snow quality right now, with decent piste-skiing at most altitudes (if a little hard-packed in places), and some good off-piste possibilities here and there.

As to the forecast for the Alps next week, it is currently chopping and changing, with snow still expected for some, but no longer to the very low levels that had been expected.

Across the pond, California and Utah continue to stand out, with the upper mountain base in Mammoth now well over 7m deep!

Austria

Austria continues to offer the most consistent snow conditions of the four main alpine countries thanks to having received more regular snowfalls and had colder temperatures in recent weeks.

Snow depths remain universally below average for early March though, but there is lots of good skiing on offer in the Arlberg where settled snow depths in **St Anton** are 80/160cm depending on altitude.

Decent piste skiing is also possible in lower resorts, such as the **Ski Welt** (30/70cm) and **Alpbach** (40/100cm), though more snow would obviously be welcome, especially if for those looking to ski off-piste.



Decent piste-skiing in the Austrian Vorarlberg. This is Lech – Photo: lech-zuers.at, 4 March 2023

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France

Snow conditions are very mixed across the French Alps right now. The best conditions are in areas close to the Italian border, roughly south of **Val d'Isère** (90/270cm), including the likes of **Montgenèvre** (200/270cm) and **Isola 2000** (100/130cm), both of which saw fresh snow last week.

Most French resorts haven't seen significant snow for some weeks, however, meaning that natural snow cover is now patchy lower down in resorts such as **Megève** (20/65cm) and **Les Gets** (0/75cm). These areas can still offer some reasonable piste-skiing higher up, though more snow is urgently needed.

If you are planning a late season ski holiday in France, you should aim for much higher resorts, such as **Val Thorens** (90/145cm) and **Tignes** (90/270cm).



Impressive snow cover in Montgenèvre, close to the Italian border – Photo: montgenevre.com, 4 March 2023

Italy

Italy still has a lot of decent piste-skiing available, despite most areas not having seen a huge amount of new snow in recent days, or even weeks. The main exception is the southern Piedmonte where over 1m of new snow fell in **Limone Piedmonte** (40/170cm) last week. **Sestriere** (50/110cm) and **Bardonecchia** (50/90cm) also did well and are skiing nicely right now.

Elsewhere in the Italian Alps, snow depths are generally very modest, but you can still enjoy the pistes in **Livigno** (30/60cm) and **Selva** (10/50cm), though more snow would be welcome.



Plenty of snow in the southern Piedmont. This is Prato Nevoso – Photo: pratonevoso.com, 4 March 2023

Switzerland

Snow depths are universally below average across the Swiss Alps with only patchy natural snow cover lower down in the likes of **Gstaad** (5/40cm) and **Grindelwald** (0/35cm). It is still possible to find some reasonable piste-skiing higher up in these resorts, but more snow is urgently needed in order to keep them operational until the end of the season.

For better overall cover you need to aim much higher, but even resorts such as **Zermatt**, which boasts the highest pistes in the Alps, only has settled snow depths of 5/75cm depending on altitude.

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Today in the Alps -
April 2024

Today in the Alps -
March 2024



Not a huge amount of snow left lower down in the Aletsch Arena. This is Bettmeralp – Photo: bettmeralp.ch, 4 March 2023

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees aren't doing too badly at the moment, with fresh snow having topped things up nicely last week. Base depths are currently 40/100cm in Andorra's **Soldeu** and 50/180cm in Spain's **Formigal**.

Up in Scandinavia, Norway continues to offer good skiing in all areas, on-piste at least, with an impressive 135/170cm in **Voss** and 60/110cm in **Hemsedal**.

Scotland is still struggling though, with very little natural snow in any of its five main areas and only some very limited skiing available in Cairngorm, the Lecht and Glenshee.



Very little snow left in Scotland. This is the top of Glencoe – Photo: winterhighland.info, 4 March 2023

USA

California and Utah's incredible season continues, with yet more snow falling this weekend. **Alta** now has mid-mountain snow depths of 410cm, while **Mammoth** has upper snow depths of 762cm.

Further east, things are more normal in Colorado, where **Vail** has 178cm mid-mountain, not far off what you would expect at this point in the season.

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Insane snow depths in Mammoth right now! – Photo: facebook.com/MammothMountain, 4 March 2023

Canada

Whistler (236cm mid-mountain) has seen half a metre of snow in the last week, meaning that it has lots of good skiing on offer even if base depths are a bit below where they should be at this stage of the season.

Conditions have been improving in recent weeks further inland, after a slow start to the season, with the stand-out resort being **Big White** (265cm upper base).

**Our next full snow report will be on
Thursday 9 March 2023**

See "Today in the Alps" for regular updates