**La Thuile**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

15

**Intermediate Runs**

24

**Advanced Runs**

14

**Total Runs**

53

**Lifts**

18

**Chairs**

11

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5.5m (18ft).

**Overview**

La Thuile is a firm favourite with the all-rounder ski crowd, the ones who want old style culture yet modern facilities, and serious skiing on the slopes yet fun activities off them.

La Thuile even accommodates those who can’t settle on a single country, with the Italian resort’s location, situated close to the French border, meaning keen skiers can cross over to France to try out the slopes at neighbouring La Rosière.

Nestled in the historic Aosta Valley, La Thuile itself is a captivating mix of old and new, having developed from several small Aosta Valley hamlets and an old mining town into the ski town it is today.

The resort has been something of a slow burner, growing slowly in popularity over the decades after the Second World War. In many respects La Thuile has actually benefited from this, with the majority of the resort’s businesses still remaining locally run and retaining a very personal feel.

However, serious investment in the cross-border ski area, known as the Espace San Bernardo, with fast new lifts, has helped raise capacity figures and with new slopeside bars, restaurants and shops springing up each year, La Thuile has proven it can still compete in the modern world.

**Location**

La Thuile is in the Aosta Valley, in northwest Italy. It neighbours the French resort of La Rosière to the southwest and the Italian resort of Courmayeur to the north.

**Website**

http://www.lathuile.it

**Piste Map**

http://www.lathuile.it/datapage.asp?id=84&l=3&s=I

**Hit The Slopes**

La Thuile has excellent skiing for all ability levels, extending to a world-class 160km (100 miles) of runs thanks to its cross-border lift link to La Rosière in France. If that's still not enough, you can buy an Aosta Valley Pass that covers several dozen small to medium resorts in the area that are linked by a public bus service; altogether offering 1,200km (750 miles) of runs.

Beginners have their own ski area at the base of the mountain with its own lifts. This is separated from the throughflow of more experienced skiers and boarders moving up and down the mountain.

Intermediates have the most to enjoy, with more than two fifths of the terrain made up of red runs and some glorious cruisers up to 11km (7 miles) in length.

Experts have much more choice than usual with 14 black runs including classics such as the steep Franco Berthod (N3), which pitches at a stomach-dropping 73% gradient. There's also plenty of excellent off-piste terrain after a snowfall arrives from nearby Mont Blanc.

Heli-skiing is big in La Thuile, with descents from the summit of Rutor Glacier (3,486m/11,437ft) or Miravidi Glacier (3,051m/10,009ft), where an Alpine guide leads the way down through spectacular scenery.

The heli-skiing season usually operates from New Year's Day until the end of May. The general ski season in La Thuile runs from late November until late April.

**La Thuile**

**Resort**

1450

**Base**

1450

**Top**

2642

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

La Thuile is a modest sized resort and its biggest draw is simply the slopes themselves, with limited indoor facilities on offer.

That said, the Planibel hotel complex (tel: +39 0492 956 411; [www.hotelplanibel.it](http://www.hotelplanibel.it)), houses a sports centre with a gym, indoor pools, games room, large TV lounge, squash courts, climbing wall, sauna and solarium.

There has also been a growth in health and beauty facilities and services in the village in recent years, with four separate spa service options. These include the ‘beauty centre’ Le M Club (tel: +39 0165 883 084; [www.lemiramonti.it](http://www.lemiramonti.it)).

Outdoor entertainment includes a toboggan hill, ice climbing and snowshoe hiking by day or night, and 6km (3.5 miles) of cleared scenic winter hiking trails.

Another whimsical option is to try your hand at dog sledding, with Dog Sled Man (tel: +39 0335 182 9414; [www.dogsledman.com](http://www.dogsledman.com)), which allows participants to have a go at guiding the sled with three or four dogs along a 5km (3-mile) trail.

**Family Fun**

With one clear exception, La Thuile does not have a lot of family-friendly facilities, though the resort’s laidback atmosphere and plethora of beginner slopes may still appeal to young skiing families.

The primary family hub of La Thuile is the slopeside Planibel hotel (tel: +39 0492 956 411; [www.hotelplanibel.it](http://www.hotelplanibel.it)). Located a few steps from the lifts, the hotel complex features a nursery for very young children and access to a good ski school for those eager to hit the slopes. On-site facilities including a swimming pool and an in-house entertainments team looking to keep the party going until bedtime.

Other activities suitable for families include dog sled rides and scenic winter hiking trails.

**Retail Therapy**

There are more than 20 retailers dotted around the resort. These include the usual ski resort selection of ski shops, mini supermarkets and souvenir outlets. Alternatively, the nearest market town to La Thuile is the regional capital, Aosta, 42km (26 miles) away by bus.

For traditional items, from furniture to ornaments, head to L’Ancien Bazar Martinet (tel: +39 0165 884 843). Or, for a wide range of wines and spirits, try Liquorilandia (tel: +39 0165 884 268).

**Splashing Out**

The fully-restored spa centre of Pré-Saint-Didier (tel: +39 0165 867 272; [www.termedipre.it](http://www.termedipre.it)) offers various massage treatments, sauna and Turkish bath facilities, and covers more than 500 sq m (5,400 sq ft).

The water used in the spa emerges with a temperature between 30°C and 40°C (86°F to 104°F) from the ground inside an artificial cave situated at the bottom of the Gorge of Pré-Saint-Didier, 10km (6 miles) from La Thuile.

**Apres Ski**

La Thuile has more than 20 bars, mostly situated in the resort’s hotels, and as such is not generally a hotspot for lively après-ski. Although, on the other hand, typically lower drinks prices compared to much of the Alps gives the valley’s watering holes a bit of a buzz, especially at weekends.

The Pub La Cage Aux Folles (tel: +39 0165 883 033) is often busy and has a big screen TV that shows films as well as major sports events live, while the Konver Music Café (tel: +39 0346 643 0635), a five-minute walk from the resort centre, has a more relaxed ambience and free Wi-Fi.

**Eating Out**

La Thuile has a good reputation when it comes to dining out. Despite its relatively small size, there are around 30 restaurants to choose from, most of which are family-run establishments using locally sourced ingredients.

The Pepita Café (tel: +39 0165 883 047) is a resort institution, serving up a full Italian menu – look out for the totem pole 200m (660ft) from the resort centre.

The slightly more upmarket Taverna Coppapan (tel: +39 0165 884 797) close to the slopes is another good choice; serving a cheese board that’s gained somewhat of a legendary status.

For pizza, head to Le Tata (tel: +39 0165 884 132), which has a traditional wood stove and even does a chocolate-flavoured version. The tasty homemade pizza and pasta from La Lisse (tel: +39 0165 884 167; [www.lalisse.it](http://www.lalisse.it)) also comes highly recommended.

Out of town, around 10km (6 miles) from the resort centre (just off piste 7), La Neige (Strada Stata 26) serves high-quality and hearty regional cuisine, including typical cold cuts and cheese.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Geneva International Airport (GVA); Turin Airport (TRN); Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP).

Distances to resort: 130km (80 miles); 155km (97 miles); 220km (136 miles) respectively.

Driving times: 1 hour 40 minutes; 1 hour 50 minutes; 2 hours 20 minutes respectively.

Nearest railway station: Pré-Saint-Didier.

Distance to resort: 10km (6 miles).

Driving time: 15 minutes.

**Getting Around**

La Thuile is quite spread out, so it's worth checking where the accommodation is in relation to lifts and the village centre. A free ski bus service does circulate around the area however, linking the ski areas and the centre of the resort.

**Hotels**

Many visitors find the main resort complex a bit characterless and prefer to stay in the old village, which has more charm. Having developed from small hamlets, the accommodation in La Thuile is a mixture of quaint guesthouses and modern slopeside apartment complexes. There are also a number of hotels in La Thuile rated up to 4-stars, as well as a hostel for those on a budget.

**Hotel Piccolo San Bernardo**

Family-run, chalet styled accommodation located in the heart of La Thuile, the Hotel Piccolo San Bernardo has twelve rooms and an on-site restaurant.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Marcello Colomb 18

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 884 539

**Website**

www.hotelpiccolosanbernardo.it

**Chalet Alpina**

This chalet hotel is well located close to the ski lifts, shops, bars and restaurants, and offers inclusive ski packages on request.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Frazione Arly 42

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 884 187

**Website**

www.hotelchaletalpina.com

**Hotel Le Miramonti**

A recently refurbished 4-star hotel in the centre of the old village, Le Miramonti houses a sauna, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi, hammam and relaxation area to ease any post-ski aches.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Via Piccolo San Bernardo 3

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 883 084

**Website**

www.lemiramonti.it

**Hotel Boton d’Or**

The highly regarded Hotel Boton d’Or is located close to lifts and ski school and has an eco friendly ethos, with thermal heating supplied from 30 underground water sources beneath the hotel.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Villaret No 71

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 883 174

**Website**

www.hotel-botondor.it

**Hotel Martinet**

A small, friendly slopeside mountain hotel that wins a lot of repeat business, primarily due to the fact it does the basics right, including having clean rooms and an excellent service standard from staff.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Frazione Piccola Goletta, 159

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 884 656

**Website**

www.hotelmartinet.it

**Chalet Eden**

Located in a quiet and pretty part of the resort only a 10-minute walk from the slopes and shops, the Chalet Eden has adopted a wellness ethos, evident in its large spa complex and on-site organic bio restaurant.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Frazione Villaret 74

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

I 11016

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

+39 0165 885 050

**Website**

www.chaleteden.it