**La Thuile**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

14

**Intermediate Runs**

24

**Advanced Runs**

14

**Total Runs**

52

**Lifts**

17

**Chairs**

12

**Drags**

4

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

2

**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 – as usual for a large ski area – 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 covering 27km (17 miles) of the mountain; the steepest, Franco Berthod (N3) pitches at a stomach-dropping 71% 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, largely due to the influx of skiers from many leading resorts on the French side of the border (where the activity is banned). Heli-skiers and boarders are taken up to 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. For France-based skiers, the descent from Rutor Glacier arrives back at Moroir village, 2,200m (7,200ft) below in France, in time for lunch in a typical Savoyard restaurant.

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**

Most activities off the slopes are concentrated in the modern Planibel hotel complex (tel: +39 0165 812 517), where its sports club has a gym, indoor pool, squash courts, climbing wall, sauna and solarium.

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

Another option is dog sledding from 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**

Children from birth to age three can be taken care of in Il Grande Albero daycare (Frazione Villaret 1). There is also the Miniclub in Planibel, which is free of charge for children aged four to 12. On the snow, there is a snow playground with a free beginners’ lift and a carousel lift.

**Retail Therapy**

La Thuile is not big on shopping, although there are more than 20 options 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 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 in the hotels, and as such is not generally a hotspot for lively après-ski, although on the other hand, typically reasonable 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 the Konver Music Café (tel: +39 0346 643 0635) a five minute walk from the resort centre has a relaxed ambience and free Wi-Fi.

**Eating Out**

La Thuile is gaining a good repulation for food options despite its relatively small size, with now around 30 restaurants for visitors to choose from, most of which are family-run that promote locally sourced ingredients - a very different experience to the big purpose built resorts.

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, with its cheese board that’s gained a somewhat legendary status. There’s a highly regarded pizza restaurant downstairs and the a la carte restaurant upstairs.

Speaking of pizza, this being Italy, pizza and pasta are going to be good; and these specialities come homemade at La Lisse (tel: +39 0165 884 167; [www.lalisse.it](http://www.lalisse.it)), which also serves focaccia, raclette, fondue and grilled meats.

For pizza in particular, head to Le Tata (tel: +39 0165 884 132), which has a traditional wood stove and even does a chocolate-flavoured version; while 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).

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

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.

**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 features a large spa and has other health-centred services and facilities including using organic ingredients in meals in the hotel’s 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**

http://www.chaleteden.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

**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 hearting supplied from 30 underground water sources beneath the hotel.

**Category**

Moderate

**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**

http://www.hotel-botondor.it/

**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**

http://www.lemiramonti.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**

http://www.chaletalpina.it

**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**

http://www.hotelpiccolosanbernardo.it