**La Thuile**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

34

**Intermediate Runs**

32

**Advanced Runs**

14

**Total Runs**

80

**Lifts**

38

**Chairs**

18

**Drags**

19

**Gondola Cable Cars**

1

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

5.5m (18ft).

**Overview**

The resort of La Thuile is a 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, with its large modern slopeside complex of bars, restaurants and shops.

La Thuile's French-sounding name underlines the fact that it’s located right on the French border, and indeed is one of only two Italian ski resorts to share an international ski area with a neighbouring French resort – in La Thuile's case, with La Rosière, creating the ski area known as Espace San Bernardo.

The lifts – which have a capacity of more than 58,000 skiers per hour for the combined area – reflect an investment in high-speed, high-capacity, modern equipment that usually makes getting around the exciting Espace San Bernardo an efficient and hassle-free experience.

**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: (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: (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 spread 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 (Via M. Collomb 55; tel: 0165 884 843). Or, for a wide range of wines and spirits, try Liquorilandia (Via M. Collomb 16; tel: 0165 884 268).

**Splashing Out**

The fully restored spa centre of Pré-Saint-Didier (tel: 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. A good place to start the evening revelry is Chocolat (Località Entrèves 2; tel: 0165 884 783), where customers can enjoy homemade ice cream or the signature chocolate tometta and chocolate fondue. They can eventually move on to the Planibel complex, where the disco can be busy in the small hours, particularly at weekends.

**Eating Out**

There are about 30 restaurants in La Thuile and its environs, featuring better quality establishments than on average in a resort of its size.

This being Italy, pizza and pasta are going to be good; and these specialities come homemade at La Lisse (Frazione Arly 24; tel: 0165 884 167; [www.lalisse.it](http://www.lalisse.it)), which also serves focaccia, raclette, fondue and grilled meats. A La Lune (tel: 0165 884 964), in the Planibel complex, is the place to go for tasty Tuscan and Aosta Valley specialities.

For pizza in particular, head to Le Tata (Frazione Petite Golette 103; tel: 0165 884132), which has a traditional wood stove and even does a chocolate-flavoured version; while Pepita Café (Frazione Entrèves 12; tel: 0165 883 047) also serves the Italian favourite – look out for the totem pole 200m (660ft) from the resort centre.

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.

**Hotel Piccolo San Bernardo**

This central, family-run hotel features homecooked Aostan specialities in the on-site restaurant. Accommodation here is composed of 12 simple, yet comfy rooms within the chalet-style building.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Via Marcello Colomb 18

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

La Thuile

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0165 884 539.

**Website**

http://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**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0165 884 187.

**Website**

http://www.chaletalpina.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**

XXX

**Country**

Italy

**Telephone**

0165 883 084.

**Website**

http://www.lemiramonti.it