

Mont du Parc – Between Snow and Sky Snowshoe Hike

- **Arrival:** Mont du Parc 1700 m
- **Departure:** Les Granges 1628 m
- **Total Elevation Gain:** Loop 170 m; Out & back 70 m
- **Total Distance:** Loop 4 km; Out & back 3.2 km
- **Hiking Time:** Loop 2 hours; Out & back 1 hour 30 min (without breaks)
- **Difficulty:** Loop Medium; Out & back Easy
- **Signage:** Snowshoes 2-black “Mont du Parc”
- **How to get there:** From La Thuile, take SR39 toward Colle San Carlo for 2.4 km. Parking available at the entrance to Les Granges. Coordinates: 45°43'41"N 6°57'57.5"E

For whom: The loop is suitable for hikers with some snowshoe experience. The out-and-back route is easier and suitable for all.

Why go: After a gentle ascent, the trail traverses a beautiful, flat valley with breathtaking panoramas. The loop offers more technical sections for experienced hikers, while beginners can enjoy a safer return along the same route.

Description:

From the small parking area near SR39, head toward Les Granges (1628 m). At the first houses, turn left following a yellow arrow marked “1” and find the first snowshoe sign. The path climbs steadily along wide curves, offering glimpses of snow-covered peaks through the larches.

After reaching a transmission tower, the trail levels off, crossing a mix of fir trees and open snow-covered clearings—perfect for slowing down and enjoying the scenery. Follow the clear signage to a wide, open area with panoramic views that feel like walking between snow and sky.

At a small metal shed, the black snowshoe trail 2 splits: ignore the left branch descending to Buic (technical) and continue straight along the relatively flat path with expansive views.

The descent begins afterward. The loop is recommended only for experienced snowshoers, as the slope can be steep, exposed, or icy depending on snow conditions. Others can return along the same route safely.

The trail then descends steeply toward Thovex (1535 m). After reaching asphalt, turn left and pass a private parking area—note that signage is absent here. The trail continues on snow, initially gradual, then climbs sharply.

At the first junction (1600 m), ignore the snowshoe sign pointing to Mont du Parc via the technical route and take a right following an old MTB sign along a gradual path on the Mont du Parc slopes. This panoramic segment is suitable only for experienced hikers and should be avoided in deep snow; otherwise, hikers can walk along SR39 with snowshoes carried.

The trail approaches the road at a hairpin turn but continues parallel slightly above it, eventually returning to Les Granges, completing a beautiful loop.