

## **PETOSAN**

**Arrival:** Petosan 1752 m

**Departure:** SR39 of Colle San Carlo 1745 m

**Total elevation gain:** 70 m

**Total distance:** 2 km

**Total hiking time (without breaks):** 1 hour

**Signage:** snowshoes 1-purple Petosan

**Difficulty:** Easy

**How to get there:** From La Thuile, follow the SR39 road toward Colle San Carlo for 3.8 km. Park at the entrance of the road leading to the hamlet of Petosan.

**Coordinates:** 45°44'04"N 6°58'20"E

**For whom:** A hike suitable for everyone, including snowshoe beginners and those with children.

**Why:** An easy circular route with no difficulties, following a snow-covered road to a delightful hamlet that offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the Grandes Jorasses cliffs. With a gentle slope, it is perfect for first-time snowshoers or anyone seeking a relaxing winter walk surrounded by snow and in the presence of the Mont Blanc massif.

### **Description:**

From the parking area (1745 m), we immediately begin walking on snow over what is an asphalt road in other seasons. With a gentle incline, we move along the edge of the trees, including imposing larches, passing wide snow-covered pastures.

On the left, the peaks of Mont Belleface rise, dominating the town of La Thuile. It's a small peak that catches the eye: behind the nearby Tête du Gran Mont, another peak visible is Mont Blanc of Courmayeur. Turning to the right, the unmistakable rocky shape of the Dente del Gigante stands out against the immaculate whiteness of the Grandes Jorasses walls.

We reach the small and charming hamlet of Petosan (1752 m, fountain), crossing it entirely. Once beyond, we keep left and begin ascending along the slope toward the tree line. Sharp-eyed hikers will already spot a yellow snowshoe trail sign "1-purple" on one of the tree trunks.

Once at the tree line, we reach the highest point (1783 m) and, looking back, admire the peaceful basin in which Petosan sits. The official purple trail continues through the trees, but it would be shaded and cold; it's better to turn away from the quiet trunks and enjoy a fun sunny descent toward a lone small tree holding one of the trail signs. From there, continue toward an isolated shelter, after which we face a short climb leading to a sort of ridge: to the left, the panorama opens over the pastures and houses of Petosan, overlooked by the forests of Punta della Croce (2485 m), while to the right the slope drops steeply, covered with vegetation.

Our route continues gently along the tree line. When the trees become denser, we approach the wall of the Prince Tommaso fortifications, a defensive system dating back to the late 17th century. Depending on the snow conditions, it is possible to get closer and look out from it, offering a spectacular view of La Thuile.

The trail then turns left, keeping the stone wall on our right, and after a short climb we emerge again into the open near a transmission tower. From here, the extraordinary view of the Grandes Jorasses reopens, and it's worth pausing one last time to admire them before facing the steep

descent that quickly returns us to the starting parking area, concluding a wonderful and panoramic excursion.