

SAC Snowshoe Tour Grade Scale

Schweizer Alpen-Club SAC
Club Alpin Suisse
Club Alpino Svizzero
Club Alpin Svizzer



The length of the tours is not taken into account in the difficulty rating. Knowledge of the means of orientation (map, compass, altimeter or GPS) and good route selection is required for all tours. The relative requirement of skills and the seriousness of the tour both increase with each grade.
For all tours (except WT1), it is recommended that you bring an avalanche transceiver (LVS), shovel and probe with you. The levels of difficulty are guidelines assuming good snow and weather conditions and only apply when wearing snowshoes.

Grad	Terrain	Dangers	Prerequisites	Example Tours
WT1 Easy snowshoe hike	< 25°. Overall flat or not very steep. No steep slopes in the vicinity	No danger of avalanches. No risk of slipping or falling	Avalanche skills not necessary	Buffalora–Jufplau; Goldau–Wildspitz, Zettenalp, La Lécherette–Mt. Chevreuil, Chasseron
WT2 Moderate snowshoe hike	< 25°. Overall flat or not very steep. Steep slopes in the vicinity	Avalanche danger No risk of a slip or fall	Basic knowledge of assessing the avalanche situation	Val S-charl (Talboden), Parpan–Churer Joch, Dreibündenstein, Realp–Tiefenbach, Hundsrügg, Solalex–Pas de Cheville, La Dôle, Alpe Casaccio–Campo Solario
WT3 Difficult snowshoe hike	< 30°. Overall little to moderately steep. Short, steeper passages ¹	Avalanche danger Risk of slipping a short distance down slope	Basic knowledge of assessing the avalanche situation	Munt Buffalora, Mattjisch Horn, Buochserhorn, Hengst (Schrattenflue), Turnen, Bürglen, Staldhorn, Croix de Javerne (N-Grat), Campo Solario–Passo del Sole–Cap. Cadagno
WT4 Snowshoe tour	≤ 30°. Moderately steep Short, steeper passages ¹ and / or traverse slopes. Partly rocky. Glaciers with few crevasses	Avalanche danger Risk of slipping some distance. Low risk of falling and injury	Good knowledge of assessing the avalanche situation Basic mountaineering knowledge. Good technique.	Piz Calderas; Schilt, Bannalp–Chaiserstuel, Hohgant, Steghorn, Wistätthorn, Col de Chaude–Rochers de Naye, Madrano–Föisc
WT5 Alpine Snowshoe tour	≤ 35°. Steep Short, steeper passages ¹ and / or traverse slopes and/or rock steps. Glaciers	High avalanche danger Danger of falling. Risk of falling into crevasses. Some Alpine dangers.	Good knowledge of assessing the avalanche situation Good mountaineering knowledge. Very good technique.	Piz Kesch, Piz Buin, Sustenhorn, Wildstrubel, Wandflueh, Äbeni Flue, Strahlhorn, Pigne d’Arolla, Basodino
WT6	> 35°. Very steep	High avalanche danger	Good knowledge of assessing the avalanche situation	Piz Palü, Tödi, Galenstock, Wetterhorn, Jungfrau, Mont Vélan, Pizzo Campo Tencia

Difficult Alpine Snowshoe tour	Demanding passages and / or traverse slopes and / or rock steps. Crevassed glaciers	Danger of falling. Risk of falling into crevasses. Alpine dangers.	Very good alpine knowledge. Good technique on rock, snow and ice.	
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¹ steeper than the generally stated steepness

WT = winter trekking