

Dagestan (Eastern) Tur Hunting in Azerbaijan

Asian Mountain Outfitters 2012 Dagestan Tur Price list & Information



Azerbaijan Overview

Azerbaijan - a nation with a Turkic and majority-Muslim population - gained its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Bordering the Caspian Sea, between Iran and Russia, Azerbaijan has a territory of 86,600 sq km, slightly smaller than Maine. You won't see the mountainous landscape until you leave the Apsheron Peninsula, where the capital city Baku is situated. Azeri make up a little over 90% of the 8, 4 million local population, the rest comprising of a small number of Orthodox Armenians and Russians, and Dagestani. Like most former Soviet republics, Azerbaijan is an undeveloped country. However, due to extensive petroleum resources and oil exports to the west, its economy has

seen significant boost in the last few years. This evident outcome is seen in construction boom in Azerbaijan's capital and largest city Baku, also the country's largest port. Local currency is Manat. Currently exchange rate is roughly 1 USD = 0, 8 Manat. People are friendly and hospitable. Local population generally speaks Azerbaijani language, although you'll have no trouble finding an English-speaking person in Baku. If you are familiar with Istanbul, you'll find Baku similar to it, including the language, culture, local food and customs. Your daily expenditure including hotel, meals and some sightseeing will vary between \$300-350 a day.

Arrival & Departure

Clients from US will have to book their flights to Baku, Azerbaijan through their travel agents or by going online. We can also help you with travel arrangements either via Istanbul, Turkey or Frankfurt Germany, if you're flying to Europe first. Turkish Airlines has daily flights to Baku, whereas there are only 2-3 flights from Frankfurt. You may have up to 12 hours of holdover at Istanbul Airport, but we still recommend flying via Turkish Airlines, since there's less hassle traveling with firearms. Your departing flight from the US will likely be JFK, O'Hara, Atlanta

or LAX. The next leg of the trip will be a stop in Istanbul, Turkey (most likely) or Frankfurt, Germany. Total flight time, is approximately 20 hours and longer if flying from Germany. Make sure to check with your travel agency for more detailed information on flights from Frankfurt.

An English-speaking company representative will meet you at Baku International airport and assist you with Customs clearance and firearms declaration. For the extra charge listed, you may be escorted through a VIP service area, which provides faster and better service for clearing your

Arrival & Departure (cont. from page 1)

firearms. Azerbaijan visa must be obtained in USA or Canada prior to arrival in Azerbaijan.

If you're flying from Istanbul, you'll land in Baku at around 4.05 am, and proceed to hunting camp directly from the airport. There is also a flight arriving 12:50 pm. Clients, flying via Frankfurt will arrive at Baku in the early evening, therefore they'll be taken to a hotel before heading out to camp early next morning. Hotel reservations can be made upon request. As hotels rooms are usually expensive,

between \$150-250/day, we recommend that you ask for company staff to make reservations for you prior to your arrival. Time difference from the East Coast is not drastic, only about 5-6 hours. Once you re-enter the US, you'll go through Customs and will check your trophies with USFWS or will leave them with a trophy expeditor/Broker, before heading to your final destination. You will need a Customs Declaration form for your firearms too.

Travel

We hunt camps/areas in located in the Sheki, Ismayilli and Quba regions of Azerbaijan. The total distance from Baku are approximately 200-300 km. You'll change transportation from Toyota Land Cruiser to Toyota Pickup to a refurbished Soviet Army truck as roads get worse and travel the remaining distance on riverbeds. You'll have to present your passport at a military checkpoint when leaving and entering the city again.

An English-speaking camp manager will accompany you during your entire trip. Your guide and several other camp staff will join you at the last stop point, in a small village. Due to mountainous landscape, and serpentine roads, it will take 7-8 hours depending on time of year and camp location. There are numerous villages and cafes on the way, where you'll stop for brief lunch. A wide range of kebabs and fish dishes are especially popular in the country. Fresh vegetables and fruits are always served with fresh made bread. Sometimes, depending on weather, you might have to ride on a horseback the last 20-30 km to the base camp. For those not used to horseback riding, this is an arduous trip. Roads are non-existent. But the camp staff is very hard-working and friendly people. They'll help you with your luggage and other things you might need help with.



Accommodations

Since hunting season lasts from June thru December, there are camps for summer and winter seasons. Hunting areas do not vary drastically. Almost all camps are newly built stone constructions well-equipped with comfortable furniture, separate kitchen, generator, stock corrals and trophy care facilities. There is also a hut, where you can take a shower and an outhouse in a summer camp. Winter camp has a complete indoor bathroom and toilet. Satellite phone is provided at all camps at \$3 per minute, but we recommend that you bring your own. If going on an early season/warm tent, you may stay in backpack tents if you are physically and mentally prepared for such a

REFUND & NOTES:

If a hunter has no chance to shoot a Tur (due to lack of organization by outfitter or shortage of sheep) \$2000 will be refunded. In cases, when a Tur is wounded or missed 3 or more times, then no sum will be refunded or credited to a future hunt.

Prices are subject to change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances. A 50% deposit is due at time of booking; the remainder (minus \$3,500 in USD) is due in June, the year of your hunt. Final payment of \$3500 is to be paid in US Cash upon arrival in Baku.

hunt. The food is basic: meats, rice & pasta dishes, salami, bread, nuts, vegetables, fruit, soups, etc., but is quite good and filling. There is a full-time cook, who makes traditional and European dishes. If you like special snack foods like candy bars, juice mix and jerky, we recommend that you bring some with you, as they are not always available there. Bottled water is generally available, but if you are worried about drinking water, bring a water filter, Steri-Pen or purification tablets. Tea is served with every meal, so if you prefer coffee, you'll need to let us know or just bring instant or coffee bags. Sodas, fruit juice, beer & vodka are also provided.

Price

HUNT DATES	June 1 st – November 30 th	<p>NOTE: Prices for hunt options and additional costs are subject to change. Costs listed are current, actual costs or the average cost depending on number of trophies shipped, number of people/group and the final destination for flying and shipping. Call or email for specifics. Also, if you'd like to add a hunt onto your trip, Kyrgyzstan offers some very good hunting without a lot of excessive travel. We can arrange for you to bring your Dagestan Tur trophy with you and keep it in a safe storage over the duration of your hunt. Approximate cost is \$400. Please contact us for details. All prices are in US Dollars.</p>
DURATION	Hunting program is for 7 days, of which 5 hunting days and 2 days of travel to/from camp plus flying time	
1 hunter	\$11,000	
2 hunters	\$10,000 per hunter	
3 hunters	\$9,500 per hunter	
4 hunters	\$9,000 per hunter	
Additional hunting days	\$400 USD/day	
Additional species	2 nd Tur - \$3,500 (cash upon kill)	
Non-Hunter/Observer	\$2,500/person	
Refund	\$2000 (if no opportunity to shoot a trophy)	
Other hunt options	Bear, wild boar, wolf, reed cat and jackal	
Additional Guide	US/Canadian Guide/personal escort, plus local guides is available. Price will depend on length of trip and number of hunters. Hunter/s also have to pay travel and lodging expenses for this guide.	

Hunt costs include

- Travel and permit arrangements
- Firearm Permit
- All hunting licenses and tags
- Veterinarian Certificate
- English Speaking Interpreter
- Area Fees & Taxes
- Local Guide and assistant per hunter
- Cabin or tent accommodations
- Pickup and transportation from airport
- Lodging & meals while in camp
- Trophy skinning and preparation
- Transportation - Jeeps and/or horse

Additional costs & Hunt options

- Commercial Flight from US to Baku, Azerbaijan (\$1,500-2,500)
- 1 - 3 nights lodging in Baku: depends on # persons/room and travel schedule (\$75-400)
- Brokerage service at airport in US – scheduling with USFWS, clearing and shipping to final destination/taxidermist: (\$500+). If hunter wants to take trophy to their final destination, then this fee is not applicable.
- VIP Transfers through Baku Airport (\$350); Azerbaijan Visa (\$131)
- Emergency Medical Insurance – Global Rescue or Med Jet Assist (\$200-300)
- Tips and Gratuities (approx 8-12%) Guides, drivers, inter, staff & management (\$600-1,000)
- Travel or Sportsman's Insurance
- Emergency, shopping or fun money for trip
- Extra hunting days or special side trips: Per request
- Excessive Baggage fees apply if you bring a lot of gear or when you take trophy (s) home
- Meet and Greet person for Istanbul Airport or city tour (optional) (\$100-150)
Turkish Visa (only if leaving the Istanbul Airport), done at airport (\$40-50)

The Hunt

We work with a long time and experienced guide/interpreter who works with all 3 local outfitters who provide local guides, assistants, cooks, vehicles, horses, camps, food, lodging and interpreter (one per camp). They acquire the local licenses/tags/permits for the hunters, and they are politically well connected.

Upon your request and for an additional cost, there can be one English Speaking, American or Canadian Manager/Guide in the Hunting Camp to make sure your needs and questions are being met. We can also arrange to have an experienced sheep guide (all have been involved with many successful high-altitude hunts) accompany you in addition to the local guides. This service we are providing is unique for this type of hunt, but is not generally necessary for Tur, as the local guides are very good. Most other operations just set up the hunt with the local outfitters and only stay in camp; they don't actually accompany you and almost never help guide an Asian hunt. This service is especially helpful if you wish to harvest a very large animal, want help with the trophy judging and shooting process, especially if it is your first time to Asia, as many of the local guides do not speak English.

The hunting season starts on June 1st and lasts thru December 15th. While July and August are the best months for stalk hunting, the hide is better in October, November and December months. The hunt is conducted at 7500-9000 feet (2500-3100) altitude, which is why very few to none suffer from altitude sickness. This, however, is not to imply that good physical condition is not a prerequisite to successful Tur hunt. Caucasian mountains are famous for being



one of the steepest and most dangerous. You'll find yourself climbing a nearly vertical rock. Climbing up and down such steep slopes is the main challenge of this truly adventurous mountain goat hunt. Local guides use wooden sticks for climbing. They use them for support while constantly shifting weight for balance and are quite apt. We recommend using those instead of climbing sticks. Instead of walking straight up, try climbing in zig-zag trails. This will put less pressure on your feet and ankles, and you won't get tired as fast.

In summer, temperature will vary between +15 to +30 Celsius, with frequently cold and rainy nights. You'll need a good mat and sleeping bag to keep warm and dry, as for summer hunts you will stay at fly camp for the entire duration of hunt. Humidity is high, so make sure you have enough change of underwear. Winters are mild with +10 to -5 Celsius at the lowest.

Horseback hunting is possible only in summer and only in certain hunting areas, where there are horse trails. There is practically no difference between horseback hunting and hike hunting. As hunting areas are at a considerable distance from the base camp, hunters can ride on horseback to hunting areas that horses can access. Horseback hunting is especially welcome for those who lack good physical condition

and are not able to hike for long distances.

For further distances, however, hunters will be compelled to proceed on foot. You'll be able to find bigger flocks consisting of 100-150 goats in the highlands of eastern Greater Caucasus, where you can only reach by foot. On average, however, you'll observe several flocks of 20-30 goats a day. Animals are generally not spooked, which is why you'll often find them grazing close by. Specimens of 100-120 kg with 1 meter wide (39") horns are not uncommon in the Sheki, Ismailly and Guba regions. For 26-32" trophy the success rate is 95%, 33-35" – 60%, for trophies of 35" and more, the success rate is 30%. Stalking is the general hunting method, although driven hunts are used as well.

Sample Itinerary

Azerbaijan Tur hunt is a 9-day schedule.

- Day 1: Arrive in Baku & check-in hotel
- Day 2: Transfer to base camp (6-8 hrs)
- Day 3-7: Hunt or depart early if done early (5 Days)
- Day 8: Drive back to Baku
- Day 9: Depart home

*Note: There are 3 flights/day into Baku: 4:05 am, 12:50 pm and 7:00 pm, so hunters can leave for camp on Day 1 if they arrive on the 4:05 am flight.

Contact & Inquiry



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