

MARCO POLO HUNTING IN TAJIKISTAN

Asian Mountain Outfitters 2012 Price and Hunt Information

Tajikistan Overview

Tajikistan is a relatively small country (about 1/2 size of Montana), mountainous (a large percentage of the landscape is covered with mountains, and the highest peaks are over 24,000 feet). The country is poor and underdeveloped with a predominantly agricultural economy. The largest and capital city is Dushanbe. The country-side is very scenic. The major neighboring countries are China (east), Afghanistan (South), Uzbekistan (west) & Kazakhstan (north). Muslim is the most common religion here and most of the people look Russian, Asian, Persian & Mongolian, depending on the location. These are not true "Arabic" countries. We work with reliable local companies, so travel safety concerns are generally not an issue. Most people speak Russian, with "locals" speaking Tajik or Kyrgyz.



Arrival & Departure

We will help you arrange the commercial flight to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, typically through Istanbul, Turkey. Your departing flight from the US will likely be JFK, Chicago O'Hara, Atlanta or LAX. The next leg of the trip will be a stop in Frankfurt, Germany or Istanbul, Turkey. We have gone through Moscow, Russia also, but prefer going through Turkey. Total flight time is over 20 hours from the West Coast and about 15 hours from the East Coast. You'll be met by an interpreter and camp

management at the Dushanbe Airport and assisted as needed. We recommend paying the extra cost of a VIP or CIP transfer as there are less hassles and the service is much better. You'll get a visa at the airport, upon arrival. Currently, there are only 2 flights per week from Istanbul to Dushanbe (landing/departing Dushanbe on Mondays and Thursdays), so we have to schedule these flights carefully. You'll go through a 9 or 10 hour time change from the East Coast to Tajikistan. Once you re-enter the US, you'll go through Customs. You'll need a US Customs Declaration form for your firearm, before leaving the US.



Travel

You'll travel several hundred miles to the hunting area. Most drives to base camp take 18-25 hrs, from Dushanbe, using a 4x4 vehicle, (usually a Toyota Land Cruiser). Times vary, depending on the camp location and weather. If the snow is heavy, driving could take even a bit longer. There is an option of flying from Dushanbe to a small town near the hunting area, Khorog, for an additional cost, but in the late fall and winter, the planes are often very full and have unreliable schedules due to weather delays, so we don't recommend this option. If hunting late in the year (Dec-Feb), there is always

a chance that a big snow can close roads for several days. Depending on when you arrive in Tajikistan and how you feel, you'll leave for camp the same day, or early the next morning. On route to camp, hunters spend the night at a hotel in Khorog to break up the drive. During the trip to base camp, there are several government and/or border checkpoints, but no bribery money is needed. The stops have been very uneventful the last few years. Helicopters are generally not available either.

Accommodations

The hunting areas vary. Some will have well-equipped base camp(s), complete with a permanent buildings, Yurts, outhouses, a generator, furniture, stock corrals and trophy care facilities. Some camps more of a spike camp, and will consist of Yurts, portable trailers and/or lightweight tents. Heat is by Coal or Dung burning stoves. The food is basic: meats, rice & pasta dishes, salami, bread, nuts, vegetables, fruit, soups, etc., but is quite good and filling.

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.



Harvest Fees

Harvest/trophy fees for the Ibex must be brought with you to camp or sent to Asian Mountain Outfitters, before leaving on the hunt. No personal checks will be accepted, only US Cash (**NEW** \$100 bills). If you are not comfortable bringing this much money with you, sent a check or wire money to Asian Mountain Outfitters before your hunt departure. Cash is the preferred method for tipping and paying trophy fees. Make sure to bring lots of smaller bills: \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50s for tipping taxis and for camp staff. Staff also can use headlamps/batteries, knives/sharpening stone, Leatherman style tools, used boots/gloves/clothes, etc.



Price

Hunt dates	Fall: September thru mid-December; Winter: January and February	<p>*Note: Prices for hunt options and additional costs are subject to change. Costs listed are the current, actual costs or the average cost depending on number of trophies shipped, number of people/group and the US destination for flying and shipping. Not all of the above costs will occur on the hunt. Call or email for specifics. Costs like lodging, meet/greet, tips, VIP transfers can vary greatly and not all are required. This list covers nearly all possible costs, for all trips we provide. Our travel agent will handle and arrange International flights. All prices are in US Dollars.</p>
Duration	Approximately 8 - 10 hunting days plus travel and flying time; 15 day turn around, from landing until departing Dushanbe	
Price	\$39,000 - Marco Polo only (includes trophy fee for mature ram of any size) \$42,000 (includes trophy fee for mature Marco Polo ram and one mature male Ibex. No additional charge for exceptional rams)	
Deposit	50% of hunt price; balance due 90 days before hunt	
Additional species	Ibex if done on trophy fee of Marco Polo only hunt: \$4,000 trophy fee (killed or wounded animals); wild boar (per request)	
Additional guide	US/Canadian Guide/personal escort, plus local guides on the Marco Polo hunt: \$4,500 and additional charge for 1 hunter/guide or \$2,250 per hunter for 2 hunters/1 guide for 10 day hunt. Hunter (s) also need to pay travel and lodging expenses for the guide.	
Refunds & Notes	If hunter stays for the entire hunt duration and has no opportunity at a good quality/representative animal, hunter can come back, during the same hunting season, with the only additional cost being the guides/staff, horse and food costs (about \$2,800)	

Included hunt costs

- Travel and permit arrangements
- Firearm Permit
- Visa support (Invitation letters)
- Meeting and greeting in airport
- All hunting licenses and tags
- Area fees and taxes
- Russian CITES and Vet. Cert.
- English speaking interpreter
- Local guide and assistant per hunter
- Cabin or tent accommodations
- Lodging and meals in camp
- Transportation during the hunt (jeeps and/or horses)
- Trophy skinning and preparation



Additional and optional hunt costs

- USFWS CITES/Import Permit for Marco Polo – apply in April (\$100) (mandatory)
- Commercial flight from US to Dushanbe, Tajikistan (\$1,700-2,500)
- Tajikistan Visa – Get at Dushanbe Airport (approx. \$100) – 1 month tourist visa
- Excess baggage fee for bringing trophy back to US (\$150-200/bag)
- 2 - 3 nights lodging in Dushanbe or Istanbul (\$50-100/person/night). Apartments are cheaper than hotels and can be arranged upon request.
- Tips and Gratuities – for Guides, drivers, interpreters, camp staff & management (\$1,500-2,000 USD Total)
- Charter flight from Dushanbe to Khorog (weather permitting) (\$500+)
- VIP Transfers through Dushanbe Airport (\$70-100 each for entry/exit) (highly recommended)
- Emergency Medical Insurance—Global Rescue or Med Jet (\$200-500)
- Brokerage service at airport in US – scheduling with USFWS, clearing and shipping to final destination/taxidermist: (\$500+). But, if hunter clears their trophy to the final destination, this fee is not applicable or, if trophy is shipped at a later date, DHL fees per trophy (\$500-1000)
- Non-hunter/observer, not associated with Asian Mountain Outfitters (\$2,000-2,500)
- Emergency, shopping or fun money for trip; Extended or special side trips: per request
- Meet and Greet person for Istanbul Airport or city tour (optional) and Turkish Visa (only if leaving the Istanbul Airport), done at airport (\$40-50)

The Hunt

We work with a local outfitter who provides local guides, assistants, cooks, vehicles, horses, camps, food, lodging and interpreter (one per camp). They acquire the local licenses/tags/permits and CITES Export, where applicable, for the hunters, and they are politically well connected. The outfitter speaks English and also hires the same 4 local guides (2 per hunter) for all the hunters.

We can also arrange to have an English speaking Western Professional Guide (all have been involved with many successful sheep hunts) accompany you in addition to the local guides. This service we are providing is unique for this type of hunt. Most other operations just set up the hunt with the local outfitters and stay in camp, but don't actually accompany you and almost never help guide an Asian hunt. This is especially helpful if you want help with the trophy judging and shooting process, especially if is your first time to Asia, as most of the local guides do not speak English.

Elevations vary, depending on location. Base/spike camps are between 10,000-14,000 feet and the hunting takes place from camp elevation up to 16,500' (early season Tajik Marco

Polo hunts are the highest). Most people do not get altitude sickness, but a medication, called Diamox, can be taken to alleviate most symptoms. We also recommend taking Wilderness Athlete's High Altitude Advantage.

Arriving in good physical condition will help also. On the first day or two of your hunt, we try and take it easy so that you can rest up and adapt to sleeping and hiking at these higher elevations and conditions. Common effects of this elevation include: shortness of breath, elevated pulse and blood pressure, headaches and a tired feeling. After a few days, most people adjust to the altitude and see noticeable performance improvements.

Vehicles are used on many of the hunts, but because of the terrain, walking will get hunters to the larger animals. Horses are rarely used, as hunters need to be in excellent hiking condition to hunt the areas with the best rams. In the future, we may add more horseback hunts per hunter request.

Generally, especially on the cold, late season hunts, we'll come back to the base camp at night. Spiking out is an option only for the more prepared, adventurous and ambi-



tious. Spot and stalk hunting is the preferred method of hunting as it allows us to judge the animals with spotting scopes before making the final stalk. We don't promote chasing animals. Hunters see many animals on Marco Polo hunts, including Ibex. The average Tajikistan Marco Polo will be in the mid-50". The typical Ibex Taken on a Marco Polo hunt is 38-45". On a typical day, hunters will see several hundred animals of both species and sexes. Game densities are high and vary with location. In 2011, our hunters took 3 rams between 59 1/2" and 60 1/8".

Contact & Inquiry



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