

MID-ASIAN IBEX HUNTING IN KYRGYZSTAN

Asian Mountain Outfitters 2012 Price list and Information



Kyrgyzstan Overview

Located at the heart of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan's total area of 198,500 sq. km (76,640 sq. mi) is about the size of Nebraska, and borders with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. The country is almost completely mountainous, being found at the juncture of two great Central Asian mountain systems – Tian Shan and the Pamirs. More than half of Kyrgyzstan lies at an elevation higher than 2,500m (8,200ft). Only about 1/8 of the country's territory lies lower than 1,500m (4,900ft), while glaciers and permanent snowfields cover more than 3% of total land area.

Snow-capped mountain peaks, crystal clear lakes, rushing streams, highland pastures and meadows, unique flora and fauna are what make up the land of this small country. The

local currency is a Kyrgyz som. However, US dollars are widely accepted in a number of restaurants and stores. 1 USD = 47 Kyrgyz soms. People are friendly and hospitable. Local population generally speaks Russian and Kyrgyz language, although you will have no trouble finding an English-speaking person in capital city Bishkek. You will find a variety of foods and cuisines offered at local restaurants and cafes. Your daily expenditure including hotel, meals and some sightseeing will vary between \$150-300 a day.

Islam is the most common religion here and most of the people look Russian and Asian depending on the location. These are not true "Arabic" countries. We work with reliable local companies, so travel safety concerns are not an issue.

Arrival & Departure

We will help you arrange the commercial flight to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 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. You'll be met by an interpreter and camp management at the Bishkek Airport and will be assisted as needed. We recommend paying the extra cost of a VIP transfer as there are less has-

sles and the service is much better. You'll get your visa at the airport upon arrival. There are daily flights from Istanbul to Bishkek on Turkish Air and daily flights from Moscow to Bishkek on Aeroflot, but because of hassles with firearm transfers, we've been avoiding Russia and have been going through Turkey. You'll go through a 9-10 hour time change from the East Coast to Tajik and Kyrgyz. 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.

***Note:** Harvest/trophy fees for a 2nd lbex must be paid to Asian Mountain Outfitters prior to departure for your hunt. We will hold your deposit, and either send funds to outfitter upon kill, or refund to you (less any miscellaneous costs such as gun rental) upon your return. This allows safe-keeping of your funds and the need to carry enough cash on your person for items such as shopping, taxis, and tipping your guides and camp staff. Cash is the preferred method for tipping. 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.



Accommodations

The hunting areas vary. Some will have well-equipped base camp(s), complete with permanent buildings, Yurts, outhouses, a generator, furniture, stock corrals and trophy care facilities. Some camps are more of a spike camp, and will consist of Yurts, portable trailers and/or lightweight Hilleberg tents and portable gas stoves. Heat is by coal or dung burning stoves. Spike camps may have no stove. 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/energy drink mix and jerky, we recom-



Travel

You'll travel several hundred miles to the hunting area, using Russian 4x4 Jeeps. Depending on the camp location, most drives to base camps take 8-20 hours, depending on the camp location. 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 Kyrgyzstan and how you feel, you'll leave for camp mid-morning, the day you arrive or early the next

morning. We have had 1-2 day delays in town, waiting for permits or weather breaks. During the trip to base camp, there are a several military/government and/or border checkpoints we travel through. Bribery money has not been necessary, but we can't guarantee it will never happen. Helicopters are generally not available, but it could be an option if a group was interested and was willing to pay this additional cost.

mend that you bring some with you and if you plan on spiking out (recommended), you'll also need to bring some freeze dried meals and energy bars, as they are typically not available in this part of the world. Bottled water is generally available when staying in base camp, but if you are worried about drinking water, bring a water filter, Steri-Pen or purification tablets, especially for the spike out camps. 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	Fall: August 15th thru October 31st & Dec 1-10th; Winter: January and February
Duration	We offer 8-day hunts. Travel to area by driving & flying are additional days (add about 4 days total)
Price (8-day hunt)	Trophy/remote area hunt: \$8,750 for a group of 2 or more hunters booking together; \$9,000 if booked individually. Standard/less remote area hunt: \$8,000 for a group of 2 or more hunters booking together; \$8,250 if booked individually.
Additional species	2nd Ibex \$5,000 trophy fee; Wolf: No Charge. Trophy fee for 2 nd Ibex must be forwarded to AMO before you depart for hunt.
Additional guide	Optional, price on request
Note	If hunters want to take trophies home with them as check luggage (we encourage this), they may need to stay an extra 1-2 days in Bishkek, after the hunt, so that skin(s) can dry and export documents (Vet Certificate) can be completed. If hunters are in a rush to leave, we sometimes have the option of getting expedited documents for an additional cost of \$200 per trophy. If hunters wish to have trophy shipped, standard DHL shipping costs vary between \$800-1000.

***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.

Included hunt costs

- Travel and permit arrangements
- Firearm Permit
- All hunting licenses and tags
- Permits – Russian CITES & Vet Cert.
- Area Fees & Taxes
- Pickup and transportation from
- Airport
- English Speaking Interpreter
- Local Guide and assistant per hunter
- Cabin or tent accommodations
- Lodging & meals while in Camp
- Trophy skinning and preparation
- Transportation - Jeeps and/or horses



Optional or additional hunt costs

- Commercial Flight from US to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (\$1,900-2,500) via Istanbul from US or Canada
- Kyrgyzstan Visa (mandatory) – 1 month tourist Visa; obtained at Bishkek Airport upon arrival (\$70)
- 2-3 nights lodging in Bishkek (\$50-175/night/person). Apartments are cheaper than hotels for longer stays
- Extra baggage fee for hunting gear and trophy: (approx. \$150-200/50 lb bag).
- Tips and Gratuities – for Guides, drivers, interpreters, camp staff & management \$700—1,200 for Ibex only hunts)
- Brokerage service at airport in US – scheduling with USFWS, clearing and shipping to final destination/taxidermist: (\$500+). If hunters clear their own trophy and ship or deliver to their tannery or taxidermist, then this fee is not applicable.
- Emergency Medical Insurance (recommended) – Global Rescue (best) or Med Jet Assist (\$150-500)
- VIP Transfers through Bishkek Airport (Approximately \$120/person/entry) (Highly recommended)
- Non-hunter/observer, not associated with AMO (\$2,000-2,500)
- Emergency, shopping or fun money for trip; Extended or special side trips: per request
- Meet & Greet person for Istanbul Airport or city tour (optional) (\$100-150)
- Turkish Visa (only if leaving the Istanbul Airport), done at airport (\$40-50);
- Lodging in Istanbul (\$100-500)
- Expedited Veterinary Certificate (for hunters who are departing from Bishkek on less than 1 day after arriving from the field/hunt and would like to take their trophies with them instead of having them shipped) (\$250)

The Hunt

Most hunts are 2 hunters/hunt date for maximum efficiency and for a personalized hunt. Ibex hunting is very physically demanding and hunters need to be experienced mountain hunters. The trophy area hunts are more remote and will be very physical, but the average ibex taken in this area is 45" with a high chance of even larger trophies. Drive time to the trophy area is 12+ hours. The less remote area hunts still offer excellent hunting opportunities on average trophies, and fewer hours spent in a vehicle travelling to/from the area and Bishkek. All hunters need to bring an Iridium Satellite phone and Western (AK/BC/MT) style hunting equipment. We have purchased our own Toyota Land Cruiser and we provide a lot of Western hunting equipment on most hunts. We work with 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. There will generally be an English Speaking, Kyrgyz Manager in the Hunting Camp to make sure your needs and questions are being met; they can help Guide if needed. We can also arrange to have an American/Canadian guide (all have been involved with many successful sheep hunts) accompany you in addition to the local staff. It is an additional cost. This optional service we are providing is unique for this type of hunt. Most other operations just set up the hunt with the local outfitters but don't actually have an English-speaking person to accompany you during the hunt. This service is quite helpful if you wish to harvest a very large animal and need help with

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the trophy judging and shooting process, especially if it is your first time to Asia, as most of the local guides do not speak English.

Elevations vary, depending on location. Hunting is typically between 9,000-14,000 ft. Most people don't get altitude sickness, but a medication called Diamox can be taken to alleviate most symptoms. Arriving in good physical condition will help also. On the first day or two of your hunt, we try to take it easy so that you can rest up and adapt to sleeping and hiking at these higher elevations and conditions. Common side-effect of high altitude hunts 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. If hunting with horses, you'll find these people to be remarkable horsemen, and in some cases, they can get the hunter right to the animal. Vehicles are used on many of the hunts, but because of the terrain, horses and walking will get hunters to the larger animals. Generally on the cold, late season hunts, hunters typically travel back to the base camp at night. Spiking-out is an option for the more fit,

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prepared, adventurous, and ambitious. For hunters wanting really big ibex (over 45"), then spiking-out in backpack style tents is necessary. Spot & stalk hunting is the preferred method of hunting as it allows us to judge the animals with spotting scopes before making the final stalk. Shooting 300-550 yards is often necessary. We don't promote chasing/driving animals. Hunters typically see many animals on ibex hunts. Game densities are generally quite high and vary from area to area.

Sample Itinerary

Kyrgyzstan ibex hunt is 11-day schedule.

Day 1: Arrive early am and go ½ distance to hunting area (about 4-6 hrs)

Day 2: Drive the rest of way to hunting area (5-10 hrs, depending on camp and weather)

Day 3-9: Hunt or leave early if finished early (7 days)

Day 10: Drive to Bishkek

Day 11: Fly Home

***Note:** If hunt requires an extra 1-2 days, due to weather, delays or difficult hunting, hunt can be extended at no charge. There are daily flights to Bishkek from Istanbul (arriving early am), so rescheduling flights is generally not difficult if extra days are needed or if hunt finishes early.

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