

MID-ASIAN IBEX HUNTING IN KYRGYZSTAN

Asian Mountain Outfitters 2018 Price and Hunt Information



Kyrgyzstan Overview

Located at the heart of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan's total area of 76,640 sq. miles 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 8,200 ft. Only about 1/8 of the country's territory lies lower than 4,900 ft, while glaciers and permanent snowfields cover more than 3% of the 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. 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 the capital city of 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 \$100-300 a day. Islam is the most common religion here and most of the people look Russian or 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 and Turkish Air. Your departing flight from the US will likely be JFK, Chicago O'Hara, Atlanta, San Fran, Houston or LAX in USA and Toronto or Vancouver from Canada. The next leg of the trip will be a stop is Istanbul, Turkey or sometimes Frankfurt, Germany. Total flight times vary from 16-20 hours, depending on your location. You'll be met by an interpreter and management at the Bishkek Airport. We recommend paying the extra

cost of a VIP transfer as there are less hassles and the service is much better/faster. Visas are not required in Kyrgyzstan any longer. In the past we used Aeroflot via Moscow, but we've been recommending Turkey instead of Russia. Dubai is another option using Emirates Air. You'll go through a 9-10 hour time change from the East Coast to Bishkek. Our office manager and travel agent will help with all of your documentation preparation for your hunting trip.

***Note:** Harvest/trophy fees for a 2nd Ibex must be paid to Asian Mountain Outfitters prior to departure for your hunt or you can take cash. We will hold the trophy fee money and either send funds to the outfitter upon kill, refund it to you or apply it to another hunt with AMO. For hunters not wanting to carry large amounts of \$, You need cash for shopping, taxis, and tipping your guides and camp staff. Cash is the preferred method for tipping (about 10 to 12 percent of hunt cost). Make sure to bring lots of new \$100 bills plus small bills: \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50s. Staff also can use headlamps/batteries, knives, sharpening stone, Leatherman style tools, used boots/gloves/clothes.



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 8-14 hours, depending on the camp location. If hunting late in the year (November), 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 morn-

ing. We have had 1-2 day delays in town, waiting for permits or weather breaks. During the trip to base camp, there are 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.



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 stove. Spike camps may have no stove. The food is basic: meats, rice, pasta, salami, bread, nuts, vegetables, fruit, and soups, but is quite good and filling. If you like special snack foods like candy bars, juice/energy drink mix and jerky, we recommend 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 coffee. Sodas, fruit juice, beer & vodka are also provided.



Price 2018

Hunt dates	Fall: August 15th thru Nov. 30th
Duration	We offer 6-7-day hunts. Travel to area by driving & flying are additional days (add about 4 days total)
Price (8-day hunt)	Trophy/remote area hunt: \$8,500 if booked individually. \$8,000/hunter if 2 hunters book together. \$7,500/hunter for a group of 3 hunters; \$7,000 if 4 hunters booking together.
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 or taken in cash.
Additional guide	Optional, price approximately \$ 4,000 to 5,000 plus travel expenses. this price can be split among the group, so it is not so expensive per hunter.
Note	If hunters want to take trophies home with them as checked 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 and Export CITES) can be completed. If hunters wish to have trophy shipped, standard Turkish Air Cargo shipping cost between \$450-750, depending if there are 1 or 2 Ibex and if skin is life sized or shoulder size.

***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 listed 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 – Kyrgyz 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 (\$1,400-2,100 USD) via Istanbul from US or Canada
- 2-3 nights lodging in Bishkek (\$50-250/night/person). Apartments are cheaper than hotels for longer stays but hotels are recommended.
- 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—1,100 for Ibex only hunts.
- Brokerage service at airport in US – scheduling with USFWS, clearing and shipping to final destination/taxidermist. 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, Ripcord or Med Jet Assist (\$250-500)
- 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

2018 Schedule:

We start our hunts, August 15th and we have 11-12 day hunt rotation schedules. Most hunts take place in September and October. November hunts are generally reserved for M. Polo hunters, but we can do a few Nov. hunts each year.

Costs if Hunter wants to stop over in Turkey on route to Bishkek:

- Meet & Greet person for Istanbul Airport or city tour (optional) (\$100-300)
- Turkish Visa (only if leaving the Istanbul Airport), done at airport (\$40-50);
- Lodging in Istanbul (\$100-250)
- Daily Tours: \$100-300/day.

The Hunt

Most hunts are 2-3 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 10 to 14 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 a Garmin Inreach and/or an Iridium or Inmarsat Satellite phone and Western (AK/BC/MT) style hunting equipment. We use Toyota Land Cruisers for transportation. We use Hilleberg tents and MSR Whisperlite International stoves. 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. This 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, need help with trophy judging or the shooting process or if it is your first time in 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 also help. 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-effects 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,

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. Stay in Bishkek 1 day, go ½ distance to hunting area (about 4-6 hrs) or some hunters drive the entire way

Day 2: Drive the rest of way to hunting area (5-10 hrs, depending on camp and weather). Or the entire way, depending on what is decided.

Day 3-9: Hunt or leave early if finished

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.

Contact & Inquiry



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