

# Dagestan (Eastern) Tur Hunting in Azerbaijan

## Asian Mountain Outfitters Dagestan Tur 2020/2021 Price List & Information

### Azerbaijan Overview

Azerbaijan - a nation with a Turkic population - gained its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Bordering the Caspian Sea, between Iran and Russia, Azerbaijan covers an area slightly smaller than Maine. You won't see the mountainous landscape until you leave the Apsheron Peninsula, where the capital city Baku is situated. The Azeri people make up a little over 90% of the 8.4

million local population, the rest comprises 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, it's economy has seen a significant boost in the last few years. This is evidenced in the construction boom in Azerbaijan's capital, and largest city, Baku, also the country's largest port. Local currency is 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 in the language, culture, local food and customs. Your daily expenditures while in Baku include hotel and meals. City tours can be organized also.



### Arrival & Departure

Clients from the US will have to book their flights to Baku, Azerbaijan through their travel agents. 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 fewer flights from Frankfurt each week. You may have a several hour

holdover at Istanbul Airport. We 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, San Fran 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 infor-

mation 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 can opt for the VIP service, which provides faster and better service for clearing your firearms. Azerbaijan visa must be obtained in the USA or Canada prior to arrival in Azerbaijan.



## Arrival & Departure (cont. from page 1)

If you're flying from Istanbul, there are morning and evening arrivals. 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 the next morning. Hotel reservations can be made upon request. As hotels rooms are usually expensive, between \$100-200/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 6-7 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, however, our office manager will help you with all of your documentation.

### 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 25 or 50% deposit is due at time of booking; Final payment of \$4,500-5,000 is to be paid in US Cash upon arrival in Baku.

## Travel

We hunt camps/areas located in the Sheki and nearby regions of Azerbaijan. The total distance from Baku are approximately 200-300 km. (4 hours drive). 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 back into the city.

An English-speaking camp manager will accompany you to the hunting area, but not all guides speak English. 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 the time of year and camp location. There are numerous villages and cafes on the way, where you'll stop for a 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 horseback the last 10—20 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 any other items you may need help with.



## Accommodations

Since hunting season lasts from May thru December, there are camps for summer and winter seasons. Hunting areas do not vary drastically. Almost all camps are newly built stone construction that are 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. If going on an early season hunt when it's warm, you may stay in backpack tents if you are physically and mentally prepared for such a hunt. The food is basic: meats, rice, pasta, salami, bread, nuts, vegetables, fruit, and soups, 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 coffee. Sodas, fruit juice, beer & vodka are also provided.

Satellite phones are not allowed into AZ, but cell phones work in some areas. There are ways to get a Sat phone into the country, but it is not "legal".

## Price 2020/2021

<b>HUNT DATES</b>	June 1st thru Oct. 15th
<b>DURATION</b>	Hunting program is for 7 days, of which 5 hunting days and 2 days of travel to/from camp plus flying time
<b>1 hunter</b>	\$10,500
<b>2 hunters</b>	\$10,000 per hunter
<b>3 hunters</b>	\$9,500 per hunter
<b>4 hunters</b>	\$9,000 per hunter
<b>Additional hunting days</b>	\$350-400 USD/day
<b>Additional species</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tur - \$4,500 (cash upon kill)
<b>Non-Hunter/Observer</b>	\$2,500/person
<b>Refund</b>	\$2000 will be refunded by outfitter if there is no chance to shoot a trophy under 350 yards

**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 and Romania offer 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 safe storage over the duration of your second hunt. Approximate cost is \$400. Please contact us for details. All prices are in US Dollars.

<b>Other hunt options</b>	Bear, wild boar, wolf, reed cat and jackal
<b>Additional Guide</b>	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
- Veterinary Certificate
- English Speaking Interpreter
- Area Fees & Taxes
- Local Guide and assistant per hunter
- Cabin or tent accommodations
- Pickup and transportation from airport
- VIP Transfers through Baku 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 (\$1,500-2,000) Turkish Air
- Hotel/food in Baku before/after hunt (approx. \$100-200/day)
- Azerbaijan Visa (approx. \$50). Must apply at least 1 month prior to hunt date.
- Emergency Medical Insurance – Global Rescue or Ripcord (\$200-300) (opt)
- Tips & Gratuities ( 10-15%) Guides, drivers, staff & management (\$1,000-1,500)
- Emergency, shopping or fun money for trip
- Extra hunting days or special side trips: Per request
- Expedited Skull/skin drying for taking trophy home on plane—\$50
- Meet and Greet person for Istanbul Airport or city tour (optional). Turkish Visa (only if leaving the Istanbul Airport) done at airport; firearms clearance at Istanbul Airport.
- CITES export permit (\$700 to 800) plus shipping approx. 1700 USD total



## The Hunt

We work with 2 different partners in the Sheki and a nearby region. These areas have the largest Tur in Azerbaijan. We organize 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 (for an extra cost). 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 trophy judging and the shooting process or if it is your first time in Asia.

The hunting season starts in mid May and lasts thru December 15th. May and June are excellent hunting, but skins are not good for life sized mounts. July through September are the best months for spike out hunting. Best hides are from mid Oct. to Dec. The hunt is conducted at 6,500—11,500 feet altitude, which is why very few hunters suffer from altitude sickness. This, however, is not to imply that good physical condition is not a prerequisite to a 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 normal hiking shafts. Instead of walking straight up, try climbing in zigzag trails. This will put less pressure on your feet and ankles, and you won't get tired as fast.

In summer, temperatures 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 might stay at fly camp for the entire duration of the hunt. Humidity is high, so make sure you have enough change of underwear. Winters are mild with +10 to -10 Celsius at the lowest.

Horseback hunting is possible only in summer, early fall and only in certain hunting areas, where there are horse trails. As hunting areas are at a considerable distance from the base camp, hunters can ride on horseback to hunting areas that the horses can access. Horseback hunting is especially welcome for those who lack good physi-

cal 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 herds consisting of 100-150 males. On average, however, you'll observe several herds of 20-30 males per day. Tur are wary animals and can escape into the cliffs quite quickly if spooked. Specimens of 100-120 kg with 40" horns are possible, but rare. For 26-32" trophy the success rate is 95%; 33-35" - 60%; 35" plus - 30%. Stalking is the general hunting method, although driven hunts are used as well. Shooting distances can range from 100 to 500 yards.

## 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; hunters can leave for camp on Day 1 if they arrive on the 4:05 am flight.



[www.asianmountainoutfitters.com](http://www.asianmountainoutfitters.com)

## Contact & Inquiry

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