



*Passion & Prey*  
*European Hunting Services*

## **Marco Polo and Central-Asian Ibex hunting in Kyrgyzstan**

### **Highlights**

Kyrgyzstan is a dream destination for advanced level mountain enthusiasts. The country is often called the Asian Switzerland because of its breathtaking natural environment.

The capital city is called Bishkek, the country's territory is 198,000 square kilometers, with a population of 5 million people.

The landscape of the entire country is mountainous, the Kyrgyz Mountains are laying at the northern part, the Tien-San Mountains in the middle and the Turkestan mountain in the southern part of the country. The "Victory Summit" with 7,439 m is the highest point of Kyrgyzstan. It's most important river is the Naryn.

Among mountain hunters, the country is well-known and famous about its Marco Polo Argali population, considered to be the home of the long horned rams. The habitat has solid Mid-Asian Ibex stocks as well, so a trip to Kyrgyzstan is a perfect option for a combination of both species. Due to the pricing system, the all-inclusive packages have no limit as to the size of the trophy, the price is therefore predictable.

The hunt for the majestic species of the Mid-Asian Ibex and Marco Polo requires serious preparation due to the high altitude and potentially extreme weather conditions.



**Travel:**

Hunters arrive in Bishkek International Airport, usually via an Istanbul connection. The base camps are 250-380 miles (400-600 km) from Bishkek. Under optimal conditions the camps can be reached in an approx. 10-15-hour drive, but the actual length of driving depends on the snow conditions. From the main camps, the hunting is conducted by horse-riding to gain the elevation and reach vantage points where the daily glassing and stalking begins for the desired trophy animal.

**Hunting area:**

The hunt is taken place in several different areas depends on our clients' hunting goals and fitness level, mainly in the Naryn, Arpa or Issyk – Ol regions of southeast Kyrgyzstan. This vast area is part of the Tien-San Mountains, with altitudes ranging from 10,000 – 15,000 feet (3,000 to 4,500 meters).

The Marco Polo lives in dry and bare habitat and rarely found below 10,000 feet.

**Camps, accommodation:**

The camps usually consist of container houses with iron stoves used for heating. Meals are served in a central container, which includes a kitchen.

The camp has electricity (provided by generators), separate guest toilet, sauna, satellite TV. A cook, an interpreter, 2-3 drivers (depending on the number of guests), and usually 2 guides and 6-8 horses comprise the staff.

In case of larger groups (over 3 people), the group is split and placed in two separate camps in the hunting area, about 25-31 miles (40-50 km) apart.

Hunters can have the option to stay overnight in the spike camps in order to save the daily hikes from and to the main camp and be as close as possible to the most frequented or pre-scouted zones. Hunters spend those nights in small tents or yurts within minimum comfort level.



## **Hunting:**

Hunting days start early in the morning and finished in the evenings before dark. The hunters gain the most of elevation on horseback to reach the daily hunting zone and then hike up to the ridges or lookouts to glass over the surrounding hillsides and valleys. The altitude of these hunting grounds is close or above 4.000 m (14,000 feet), the terrain is difficult to pass through sometime.

The regions we hunt on are rich in game population of both species. It is not uncommon to observe 100 or more Marco Polo sheep daily in herds. Older rams sometimes stay in smaller age groups, spending their day preferably at areas where they have a good view for watching out for potential hazard.

After spotting the desired sheep or ibex, the hunters will try to get as close as possible to them, using horses if possible, taking advantage of the hide the mountains provide. However, the last few hundred feet (sometimes miles) must be done on foot.

Due to the exposed terrain and the sheep's all-time alertness, it is common that a longer shot, up to 4-500 meter, needs to be taken. Hunters are required to be in good physical fitness and health, as the human body is exposed to increased level of stress due to high altitudes. Solid shooting skills also necessary to be successful.

Expected weather temperatures in October: daytime: + 5 ° C / -10 ° C, night: -5 ° C / -20 °



## **Trophy Size:**

Expected trophy size of Marco Polo is 45-49 inches average and up to 55 or more of top quality animals.

Ibex with 39-43 inches horns considered a strong average trophy, around 50" is also can be realistic.

The longest recorded Marco Polo horn is 75 inches or 190.5 cm (Rowland Ward, 1895)

The biggest recorded Central-Asian Ibex has shot by Dan Duncan in 1996, with a 152,7 cm (60 1/8 inches) horn.

Wolves are also common and shootable species in the area.

## **Hunting Season:**

August to December (preferred time is October-November).

### **Pricing:**

- Central Asian Ibex only: 7 hunting days + travel: \$ 7,500 (no trophy size limit)
- Hume / Tian Shan Argali 10 hunting days+ travel: \$ 29,000 (no trophy size limit)
- Additional Ibex: \$ 4,000

### **Service package:**

- hunting and service fees
- trophy fees of Marco Polo or/ and Ibex
- lodging, camping, meals
- transportation
- 1/1 guiding
- permits, licenses, documentation
- VIP entry at Bishkek airport
- English or German speaking assistance

### **Extras (not included in the package):**

- travel cost to and from Bishkek
- hotel costs in Bishkek before and after the hunting
- personal expenses, drinks,
- gratuities,
- travel insurance
- visa and administration fees (upon arrival in Bishkek)
- CITES: 200 \$ / Marco Polo Sheep
- organization fee: 200 \$ / person

### **Notes:**

Due to the occasionally unpredictable weather conditions or any other circumstances can cause delays, exchangeable or open returning flight tickets are highly recommended if possible.

Upon request, our company representative can guide this hunt (extra cost may apply).

### **General conditions:**

Booking: 50% of total hunting costs. Remaining 50% payable latest up until 90 days prior the hunt.  
Wounding means killing, no refund available.

**We are here to help our clients planning and guiding hunting trips. Book your hunt with us for the majestic Marco Polo & Central-Asian Ibex!**



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