



*Passion & Prey*  
*European Hunting Services*

## **Marco Polo and Ibex hunting in Tajikistan**

### **Highlights**

For centuries, Tajikistan has been of great importance, being at the crossroads of four major Silk Road routes passed through the Pamir. Yet, among the mountain hunters, the country is more famous for having the longest horned, high-quality Marco Polo trophies in Asia.

Due to the solid population of Marco Polo and Ibex, the consistent wild game management and the strong genetics, the Pamir plateau is a desired destination for dedicated sheep hunters. As a result of pre-scouting the hunting area for large trophy animals, harvesting a Marco Polo trophy within the high 50” or even the 60, and the “mid-40” category for Ibex is realistic.

Hunting in the Pamir is physically and mentally challenging, because of the potentially extreme weather conditions and the high altitude.



## Travel

Hunters arrive in the capital city, Dushanbe, usually via Istanbul. Our representative is waiting for the guests at the airport and help them with checking in the country through the VIP entry. From Dushanbe, there will be a long and grueling drive (about 20 hours, depending on camp location and weather conditions) before reaching the hunting region near Khorog. Depending on the actual hunting dates and weather conditions, a domestic flight from Dushanbe to Khorog might be available, for extra cost. In Khorog, hunters can choose to take a daybreak before finishing the drive to the base camp.

An alternate route can also be taken, arriving to Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), then driving to the hunting area by crossing the Kyrgyz-Tajik border and travel to the hunting area.

## Camp, accommodation

There are various types of camps available, depending on the actual location: base camps offer heated container houses, and temporary or spike camps consist of yurts or tents with minimum level of comfort. The camp staff provides cooked meals made of local basic ingredients. Hunters are welcomed to bring extra snacks or treats based on their preferences.



## Hunting area

As the Pamir Mountains are declivous and consist of numerous relatively flat plateaus, almost all parts of the hunting areas can be accessed by 4x4 trucks. (Unlike in Kyrgyzstan, where the hunting ground can be approached on horseback only). The camps are set between 3,000- 4,300m (10,000-14,000 feet), while the hunt is conducted mostly about 4,000-4,600m (13,000- 16,000 feet) above the sea level. Marco Polo is rarely found below 3,000m (10,000 feet). The Pamir's dry and rocky region is often described as a polar desert, where the climate can be cruelly harsh and hunters may show the symptoms of altitude sickness.



## Hunting

Tajikistan has a solid Marco Polo population; it is not rare to see hundreds of animals a day. Daily hunt is taking by leaving the camp early in the morning and scanning the surrounding valleys and hillsides for shootable rams. Once the desired trophy animal is spotted, hunters will try to get close enough, within a reasonable shooting distance. Because of the terrain provides limited coverage, most likely longer shots will need to be taken. Hunters should present solid shooting skills up to 400-500 m. Practicing long distance shooting is highly recommended before going on any Asian hunting trip. Central- Asian Ibex can be added to Marco Polo hunt, as both species live in the same habitat.

**Season:** September 15 – December 15.



## Trophy Size

Previous years' average size of Marco Polo trophies was in a range between 53" and 57" (135 to 140 cm), the top-quality horns can exceed the 60". The expected trophy size of Ibex is about 37-42" (95-105 cm), with a chance to harvest animal up to 45" trophy.



## **For dates and rates, please contact us at one of the contact details below!**

### **The offer includes**

- 1 Marco Polo Sheep – any size
- all ground transportation during hunting
- lodging, camping and all meals
- 1:1 guiding
- interpreter, local assistance (English or German)
- all export documentation (licenses; Vet certification)



### **Extras (not included in the price)**

- Travel cost to and from Dushanbe or Bishkek
- Charter flight from Dushanbe to Khorog (weather permitted)
- Hotel costs before and after the hunting
- Drinks, gratuities
- VIP entry and exit at Bishkek airport
- Travel and Medical / Rescue insurance (Global Rescue, Med Jet)
- Multi entry Visa and administration fees (can be arranged through our office or upon arrival in Bishkek)
- Trophy shipping, customs, brokerage fees
- CITES (for Marco Polo Sheep)
- Organization fee

### **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 the total estimated cost (non-refundable) deposit is due upon booking. Remaining balance is payable up until 90 days prior the hunt. Extras are payable in cash upon leaving the hunting area (if applicable). Wounding means killing, no refund available on wounded and/or lost animal.

**We are here to help our clients plan and guide their hunting trips. Book your hunt with us for 2023-2024!**

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