

Westfalia Jagdreisen



Bearhunting in Kamchatka
2023/2024

**The country:**

Kamchatka is a peninsula in the Far Eastern part of Russia, located between the Bering Strait and the Okhotsk Sea. With an area of approximately 370,000 km², a length of about 1,200 km and a width of approximately 450 km, it is the largest in the Far Eastern part of Russia. Only about 380,000 people live there, of which about 65% in the capital Petropavlovsk. Only since 1990 has the peninsula become accessible to foreigners, having previously been a closed military zone. Even Soviet citizens required a special permit to enter this area. Kamchatka is home to the largest brown bears and moose. Under the guidance of foreign hunters the peninsula has become known as the number 1 bear hunting country. Evaluation of our guests annual hunting results clearly shows that the largest brown bears in the world are to be found in Kamchatka. While Alaska also reports huge bears each year the number measuring over 9 feet in Kamchatka is significantly higher. Employees of Westfalia hunting trips are present on the ground during the Spring and Autumn hunting seasons, something no other German-speaking agent can offer.

General:

Not so long ago it was an adventure to enter this area, now you can comfortably travel by plane via Moscow to Petropavlovsk. Here you will find extremely friendly people, unspoilt nature and of course magnificent bears. Kamchatka is a land of volcanoes and geysers (together 160), high mountains (the highest point is Klyuchevskaya Sopka 4,750 m) and large rivers, (the eponymous river Kamchatka is about 760 km long). A natural paradise, which you can hardly describe, you just have to experience it for yourself. The landscape is very varied. Wide river valleys, seemingly endless taiga crossed by numerous streams and wetlands. Forests are almost exclusively comprised of softwoods, such as birch, the favourite food of the wild moose. The ground is carpeted with a dense grass layer which provides a valuable food source for the brown bear. During the hunting season bears are often seen in the open spaces feasting on the delicious berries that grow abundantly there. However, the bears feed mainly on salmon during the summer months when large numbers are to be found in the many rivers. Carrion will also be eaten when this is available. Rolling hills leading to

mountain ranges complete this wonderful landscape. Thank God for us hunters that the remoteness of the unique Kamchatka region means that it is totally unspoilt and untouched by mass tourism. What better place to hunt some of the largest bears and moose.

Something about brown bears:

Russia has the largest population of brown bears in the world. The size of the bears increases as you travel from west till you reach the giants of Kamchatka. Numbers are very high and so you have a very good chance of bringing an exceptional bear trophy home. Russian wildlife biologists distinguish several sub-species which for the bear hunters are of less interest. Fully grown Kamchatka bears "ursus arctos beringianus" weigh between 300 kg and 400 kg. Every year giants of 500kg, and up to a maximum of 600kg are shot. Only the Kodiak Peninsula in Alaska can still match this. For international comparison of bear sizes the foot (=30.5cm) is used. Two measurement are taken, paw to paw and nose to tail with the average being considered the actual value. As an example: if the paw to paw length is 11 feet and the nose to tail value 10 feet the bear

is considered to be 10 ½ feet. The CIC rating only considers the skull length. Trophy skulls can be up to 70 cm long. Compare this with the best Carpathian bears from Romania which measure between 7 ½ and 8 ½ feet with a maximum skull length of about 60 cm. Pelt quality is usually at its best in spring and the claws are not yet worn. Hunting of brown bears only a short time after hibernation means their coats are of the best quality and claws have not yet been worn down. As many of our guests love to hunt the brown bear in combination with moose we also offer, of course autumn hunts. As in the spring the success rate is more than 90%.

Spring hunting:

The best time is in April and May, when there is still snow in the hunting areas and the bears can best be approached in safety. Another advantage is the mobility of the hunters. Snowmobiles and skis are used together with smaller boats in the coastal areas. Snowmobiles may only be used for finding bears, shooting is prohibited from them. Depending on the weather the brown bears leave their winter range in mid-April and are then looking for food.





Sunlit southern facing slopes are especially sought after. After a long hibernation the bears are very hungry and must in the short active period until the next hibernation ensure that adequate reserves are built up. Each feeding opportunity is seized upon. Carcasses, all kinds of rodents and insects, some of which also excavated (if the frost permits) and vegetarian food (grasses and herbs) form the main part of the food intake. Your guide will scrutinise the mountain slopes in search of a worthwhile bear to be shot, thereafter the stalk begins, taking account of the wind direction. Bears have an excellent nose and hearing, their eyesight is however not so good which means that it is nearly always possible to get within a good shooting distance. Spring bear hunts in recent years have always been very successful. Brown bears exceeding 10 feet and estimated by professional hunters to be between 15 and 20 years

old have been shot. Even if the age estimations for the brown bear are not as accurate as for European game, an experienced hunting guide can determine the age of the bears quite well based on the degree of wear to the teeth. That each year not only trophy bears but also old subjects are encountered depends on various factors. Once is the size of Kamchatka. The Federal Republic of Germany is by comparison only slightly smaller than the peninsula, but has more than 200 times as many residents. Hunting pressure is very low, not only because of the remoteness but also due to the limited number of permits issued by the Russian authorities. We welcome this decision as we feel that for our clients quality comes before quantity. Russian wildlife biologists are globally recognized experts, not only in terms of brown bears but also concerning wild sheep species where they have a very high reputation.

Autumn hunting:

This takes place in late August, early September and in October, when the moose rut begins. Early in this part of this season the bears are drawn to the salmon runs in the many rivers which facilitates the hunting of course. A drawback of the latter part of the season is that the bears may already be heading to their winter retreats in the mountains, fuelled by this rich fishy feast. However all is not negative as animals well over 600kg are not uncommon. A further advantage is that the moose rut is in full swing. All dates will be fixed with the most experienced bear experts in Kamchatka so you can be sure that you hunt at the best possible time. Many brown bear hunters are also interested in specimen moose. Even after organising many hunts in Kamchatka we cannot say which time is the most interesting, it's a matter of personal taste. Whilst summer and autumn are more colourful, the sight of a majestic bear moving in deep snow is an incredible sight to behold in spring.

Hunting in Kamchatka:

You will hunt in unique wilderness, far from all civilisation and of course with some limited comfort. Sleeping is in heated tents and on hunting days home cooked meals are served. Despite careful planning, preparation and organisation it may happen every now and then that due to unforeseen circumstances some hiccups may occur. You may need to accept an overnight stay in a hotel where your plane is grounded due to bad weather. As with any hunting trip abroad we advise you prepare yourself and consult your family doctor. Try to do some regular walking and jogging. Snowmobiles will be used to reach the hunting areas, the final stalk will involve either skis or walking. Here are a few tips on clothing requirements for the trip. Bring appropriate footwear with good ankle support, thick well threaded soles and a water-repelling surface material. Breathable, warm and windproof clothing is an absolute must, as is warm head covering, gloves and sunglasses.





Already for spring hunting a sunscreen with a high protection factor is necessary due to the bright light reflected off the snow cover. For the autumn, you should, depending on the date take a light mosquito protection and mosquito spray. Based on our experience of the past 25 years hunting in Kamchatka we will be glad to give advice on anything of concern to you.

Weapons and calibres:

While bears are not considered a particularly hard shot, because of the large body mass and the danger a wounded animal represents only powerful calibres should be considered. Cartridges such as 9.3 x 62 64 8 x 68 S or all calibres from the .300 group (Winchester or Weatherby Magnum) are recommended. Your 7 x

64 or 30-06 is best left at home. The game guide will take you only as close to the bears that there is no danger to life and limb. Shooting distances between 100 m and 200 m, are normal in this region. You should only shoot bears standing broadside and aim for a chest hit.

Our hunting areas:

For the brown bear hunt, we focus on two selected areas. Every year we spend several weeks on site in contact with the local hunting organisers and know the local conditions better than any other German-speaking agent. Our investments both in time and in money have borne fruit for many years. These selected camps are negotiated exclusively by Westfalia hunting trips with our Russian partners.

Our guest list is international and many experienced foreign hunters are on our reference list. This is all to your advantage, because practice makes perfect. The starting point for all trips is the Petropavlovsk-Kamtschatkskij airport. In the southern hunting area on the west coast we hunt both in spring and autumn. It is approximately 3 to 4 hours' drive from Petropavlovsk. In spring, it is also possible to fly directly from Petropavlovsk by helicopter. The camp is in the foothills, next to some thermal springs. It is very comfortably furnished, even has internet and the snowmobiles used are almost all of western production. Numerous rivers and streams cross the region. There are also swamps, the dimensions of which would put many German regions in the shade. At some points you can climb onto higher ground and admire a panorama which is guaranteed to warm your heart. Our northern hunting area is located in Central Kamchatka east of the village of Palana and is only accessible by helicopter. There are no roads or paths. Depending on the weather, the helicopter journey takes approximately 1 to 1 ½

hours. Also here you will find the taiga and as in the South there is no shortage of water, be it streams, rivers, swamps or bogs. Hunting success depends entirely on the skill and knowledge of the stalking guide. It is for this reason that we work exclusively with highly experienced guides. Here in one of the most remote corners of our planet is home to the world's largest brown bears, moose, wolves, wolverines and the stone grouse. Kamchatka, pure wilderness.

Getting there:

From Germany you fly to Moscow and then on to Petropavlovsk. The connections are now so well developed, that it will not be too time-consuming. We will be very happy to help you in planning and booking flights. From Petropavlovsk you will travel to the actual hunting area, depending on the region either by jeep or helicopter. Despite the best planning it can happen that due to extreme weather conditions flights may not take off or land as scheduled. You may need to be flexible and spend a night in Petropavlovsk.





Spring hunt for brown bear in Kamchataka (25.04.-25.05.2024)

13 days • 9 hunting days • including meals and overnight accommodation at camp • hunting guide 1:1 • interpreters • field preparation of trophies and shooting a brown bear per hunter

	€	12.500,00
Shooting of a second bear	€	7.500,00
Shooting a stone capercaillie	€	900,00

Wounded counts as bagged.

Further animals shot are charged according to our current price list.





Autumn hunt for brown bear in the south of Kamchatka (20.08.-20.09.2023)

12 days • 8 hunting days • including meals and overnight accommodation at camp • hunting guide 1:1 • interpreters • field preparation of trophies and shooting a brown bear per hunter

	€	12.500,00
Shooting a second bear	€	7.500,00
Shooting a stone capercaillie	€	900,00

Wounded counts as bagged.

Further animals shot are charged according to our current price list.





Once again, some information:

It is a pure wilderness hunting far away from cities and civilisation. Even with meticulous preparation, things can sometimes inconvenience you. Your accompanying interpreters will try to find a quick solution. If we look back at the past years no significant disturbances to the organisation of these hunts has been observed. Please note that you are hunting in a different culture. The concept of time is not so important to the Russians as

to us Europeans. Trust the local team accompanying you. They are totally committed to ensuring a good outcome to your hunting trip, knowing that then they can expect a good tip. When you've shot your bear it must be carefully transported and readied for subsequent preparation. Our professional hunters know their craft and for them going the extra mile is an everyday hunting reality. Always ensure that lips, nose and ears are cut for the salt to reach all places.





Additional information about the arrangements:

- Refund if unsuccessful € 2.000,00

Price does not include:

- Return flight Frankfurt / Petropavlovsk in economy class ca. € 950,00
 - Cites per trophy € 300,00
 - Handling fees € 250,00
 - Visa € 120,00
 - Formalities package Moscow € 350,00

(Includes: pick up at the airport, transfers in Moscow, interpreter services, rifle import)

- Hotel accommodation outside the hunting area, trophy transportation, etc.

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