

Westfalia Jagdreisen



Hunting Marco Polo Argali
Tadschikistan 2024



The history of the Marco-Polo

The main occurrence of the Marco Polo Argali is in the Pamir Mountains of Central Asia, spread over four countries: Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China and Kyrgyzstan. The very first hunts for Marco Polo sheep took place in the late 1960s not in Tajikistan, but in the Wachan corridor in Afghanistan. With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the first chapter of Marco Polo hunting ended. Then in 1987 the hunting development of the Tajik Pamirs was started. The great chapter in the hunting of this wonderful wild sheep began, which continues to this day and is as successful as hardly as any other hunt on earth.

Today the Pamir plateau is the destination of all Marco Polo hunters, with a high density of game and a fantastic trophy quality of old, mature rams, which increases year by year. We at WESTFALIA HUNTING TOURS know Tajikistan and the Pamirs very well, are often there and have not only best connections with local professional hunters and hunting organizers, but also offer personal support for every Marco-Polo hunter. Our hunters have shot not only the World-wide record Marco Polo rams, but also some top sheep, with 100% hunting success so far.



Tajikistan as a hunting country

After an eventful history, the territory of today's Tajikistan belonged to Russia. In 1929 the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan was founded, which declared itself sovereign after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1990. Since 1991, Tajikistan, with a total area of 143,100 km² and a population of about 7.3 million, has been a republic, bordering Kyrgyzstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Afghanistan to the south and China to the east. The capital is Dushanbe with about 582,000 inhabitants. The country consists mainly of high mountains with many small valleys. Most of the famous Pamir Mountains belong to Tajikistan, the south of the Pamirs is in Afghanistan and the east is in China. The Pamir is divided in the west, which is inaccessible for us hunters, into several up to 6,000 m high, strongly glaciated chains. The main hunting area for Marco Polo sheep is in the eastern Pamirs, on the Pamir Plateau. Because of the great aridity and the harsh climate the snow line is very high, at about 5,000 m. The magnificent Pamir landscape is a special attraction

not only for hunters but also for high mountain alpinists. Tajikistan is still in large parts undeveloped for tourism and hunting. To the foreign hunter Tajikistan is mostly known only as the home of the famous Marco Polos sheep. However, the ibex and wolf hunts are also of hunting importance. Since 2015, the Bukhara Markhor from Tajikistan can also be imported into the EU, gaining further attention among trophy hunters. In the south of Tajikistan we organize very successful wild boar hunts. All in all, Tajikistan has developed from a „small“ hunting country to one of the world's most interesting hotspots for mountain hunters. Especially the hunt for the Marco Polo Argali is done so professionally and meticulously that these hunts belong to the best and most successful sheep hunts in the world. Asian explorers and famous hunters have always spared neither effort nor money to get to the Pamir Mountains to hunt for the sheep of all sheep. Until today it is not different.





Current World record with Westfalia Jagdreisen

The hunting grounds

The Marco Polo sheep lives in the central and the eastern part of the Pamir Mountains at an altitude of from 3.500 m to 5.000 m. In the southeastern part of the Pamirs at the borders to Afghanistan and China is the main occurrence and the best hunting grounds for Marco Polo Argali. Exactly we hunt there. Our partner maintains at the base camp Karakul, which has become synonymous with successful Marco Polo hunts, and one near Khorugh. Here is the concentration of Marco Polo sheep in the last few years after the collapse of the cattle industry that it is not that during the rut it is not uncommon to see packs of 300-500 head, in one morning our hunters saw almost 1,000 sheep. Today live here certainly 4 to 5 times more Argalis than 10 years ago. The typical habitat of the Marco Polo argali is the flattened high mountain landscape of the Pamir.

on heights of over 3,000 m; lower the Marco-Polo sheep hardly descends. Therefore it is considered among the Argali subspecies as the only pure high mountain form. Since there is little snowfall in the eastern Pamirs, the wild sheep remain at high altitudes all year round and only descend only a few hundred meters lower in winter. In the wide valleys of the Pamir plateau one often forgets that one is here at an altitude of over 4,000 meters altitude. In the valleys and on many mountain sides you can easily drive a cross-country vehicle, which makes the search for really strong rams facilitated. The camps, which are located at about 4,200 m are very well equipped, with a doctor, cook, mechanic, drivers, camp assistants and hunting guides.

Marco-Polo-Argali

12 travelling days from/to Dushanbe, app. 7 - 8 hunting days, accomodatin and catering in the Camp, hunting guide, interpreter transfer from airport to hunting area to/back and harvest of one Marco-Polo-Argali without trophy-limit

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| Per Hunter (standard-area) | € | 40.950,00 |
| Per Hunter (Premium-area) | € | 45.500,00 |

- If you do not get a chance to shoot a Marco Polo Argali, you can repeat the hunt free of charge in the same season - wounded counts as killed.



VIP hunt for Marco Polo Argali

12 travelling days from/to Dushanbe, app. 7 - 8 hunting days, accomodatin and catering in the Camp, hunting guide, interpreter transfer from airport to hunting area to/back, Prescouting for especially strong Marco Polo Argali, hunting opportunity in the pre-reserved area with confirmed rams, and harvest of one **Marco-Polo-Argali up to 58,99 Inch**

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|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Per hunter | € | 45.500,00 |
| VIP-surcharge for 59 -59,99 Inch | € | 15.000,00 |
| each further Inch | € | 6.000,00 |

- If you do not get a chance to shoot a Marco Polo Argali, you can repeat the hunt free of charge in the same season - wounded counts as killed.

The Trophy Strenght

Compared to the massive horns of the Mongolian Altai-Argali with a base of up to 52 cm and more, the Marco Polo ram has longer, but slimmer snails with a base circumference of 37 to 40 cm. On the other hand, in recent years, there are hardly any strong Altai rams over 55 inch horn length can be found in Mongolia, while in our hunting ground in the eastern Pamir every year top class rams with more than 60 inches are hunted. Truly a sensation, especially as the tendency is increasing. This is one of the reasons why the Marco Polo Argali is not only the most important Argali trophy for many, but also one of the greatest prestige. If you have a Marco Polo trophy on your wall, you don't have to explain to anyone what it is. Every hunter knows about it, and above all, everyone understands the hunting adventure that one has to go through in order to get

such a magnificent piece in the high Pamirs. With hardly any other game species is the trophy strength so as with the Marco Polo ram. In the last hunting season 23 Marco Polo rams were taken in our hunting area, 10 of them were over 58 inches. The strongest trophy was a 65 inch ram. In our areas it is not a problem to take a ram between 54 and 58 inches, which is the good average. Stronger rams have a snail length of 58 to 60 inches, top rams also reach lengths of 61 to 65 inches (68 inches of slug length was previously the strongest ram killed by a visiting hunter; one fall trophy even Fall trophy even measured an incredible 70 inches). If a hunter is interested in exceptionally strong rams with a snail length of more than 60 inches, we can offer a prescouting for him and confirm specific horn length in advance.



The Hunt

Each Central Asian hunting country is unique in its own way, unique and unmistakable, which is why comparisons are only possible to a limited extent. If trophy strength is the priority Tajikistan has clear advantages over Kyrgyzstan. Because in the Pamir the hunter has due to the enormous and the top trophy quality, the hunter has a good chance to catch a strong trophy every day. A big advantage is that you can reach remote valleys from the base camp by off-road vehicle and consequently back to the base camp in the evening with all its amenities. The use of fly-camps is not necessary. The Marco Polo hunts in Tajikistan are logistically very complex, the long journey, the high altitude bring the hunter's physical condition to a higher degree. But hunters are compensated by the fantastic mountain scenery of the high Pamir and an unforgettable hunt. You are every day with an all-terrain vehicle, the driver and his personal on tour. You will drive to the places where at certain times of the year you can see the sheep. When good rams are sighted, they are still addressed with the spotting scope exactly and approached to shooting distance. The best hunting season are the months October to November, but also a spring hunt in February/March is possible.

The itinerary

The arrival is very unproblematic. We recommend to fly from Germany with Turkish Airlines via Istanbul to Dushanbe. Upon arrival in Dushanbe, you will be met by an English-speaking representative, who will help you with the entry formalities and the coordination of your journey. You will use the VIP Service and the import of weapons as well as formalities will be handled by our partner. In the meantime you can have a short rest at the VIP terminal with a coffee or tea. The import of weapons is absolutely no problem all documents are requested by us in advance. From Dushanbe the transfer is with all-terrain vehicles to Khorog. The trip takes about 10 to 12 hours. During the journey you can slowly get used to the altitude. One night is planned in Khorog so that they can slowly acclimatize to the altitude. Here you will stay in a good hotel (100€ per night) with a restaurant. On next morning at 7 o'clock is the transfer with the all-terrain vehicles high up into the Pamir Mountains to the camp. Depending on the camp you hunt in, the drive takes about 4-6 hours. In the hunting area you find the camp with good beds, toilets and washing facilities and a complete team that will make your stay as pleasant as possible.

Personal preparation

Like Kyrgyzstan, the high Pamir is a land of extremes, so good equipment and preparation are necessary. Since the hunter hunts at 4,000 m altitude, acclimatization is planned. Because already from altitude of more than 3,000 m, the first signs of altitude sickness can be headache, nausea, sleep disturbance, vomiting, dizziness, etc.. For prevention, most hunters take Diamox-tablets. What to take, in what dose and how often they should be taken as a preventive measure hunter should discuss with his family doctor. In the camps during the stay in the high mountains, the blood pressure is measured several times a day, medical care is also provided in the base camp. Every

hunter should be conditionally prepared for such a trip. The Marco Polo hunt is a strenuous mountain hunt, which should not be approached unprepared. We have many years of experience (over 20 years) with these hunts and will be glad to assist you personally with the preparation. We maintain contacts with several alpine high altitude centers, which will slowly prepare you for the hunt at altitude. Besides the check of the physical fitness in these altitude centers you can also test yourself in special chambers to prepare for the actual conditions on the ground. These hunts are personally supervised by a representative of Westfalia. Please contact us, we will be happy to advise you.



NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- Hotel accommodation and meals outside the hunting area
 - Excess baggage and trophy shipping
 - Flight home airport - Dushanbe to/back
 - Formalities package € 540,00
(includes: Invitation, possible visa, reception, registration fee, import of weapons, handling charges, veterinary doc).
 - VIP check-in at Dushanbe airport (payable locally) € 200,00
 - Personal expenses, tips, etc.
 - Export CITES App. 2 Ovis ammon polii (Argali) € 250,00
 - Export CITES App. 3 Capra Sibirica (Ibex) € 250,00
- Additional kills:**
- Ibex € 6.000,00
 - Wolf € 2.500,00



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