

Westfalia Jagdreisen



Hunting for Marco Polo Argali
Tajikistan 2026



The story of Marco Polo

The main habitat of the Marco Polo argali is the Central Asian Pamir Mountains, which span four countries: Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China, and Kyrgyzstan. The very first hunts for Marco Polo sheep took place not in Tajikistan, but in the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan in the late 1960s. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 brought the first chapter of Marco Polo hunting to an end. In 1987, the hunting development of the Tajik Pamir began. This marked the start of a major chapter in the hunting of this magnificent wild sheep, a chapter that continues to this day and is more successful than almost any other hunt on earth. Today, the Pamir Plateau is the destination

for all Marco Polo hunters, boasting a high density of game and fantastic trophy quality of old, mature rams, which is increasing year after year. We at WESTFALIA JAGDREISEN know Tajikistan and the Pamir very well, visit frequently, and not only have excellent connections with local professional hunters and hunting organizers, but also offer personalized support for every Marco Polo hunter. Our hunters have not only harvested the European record Marco Polo ram here, but also several other top-quality sheep, with a 100% hunting success rate to date..



Tajikistan as a hunting destination

After a turbulent history, the territory of present-day Tajikistan belonged to Russia. In 1929, the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan was founded, which declared its sovereignty after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990. Since 1991, Tajikistan, with a total area of 143,100 km² and a population of approximately 7.3 million, has been a republic and borders Kyrgyzstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Afghanistan to the south, and China to the east. The capital is Dushanbe with approximately 582,000 inhabitants. The country consists predominantly of high mountains with many small valleys. The largest part of the famous Pamir Mountains belongs to Tajikistan, the south of the Pamirs lies in Afghanistan, and the east in China. In the west, which is inaccessible to us hunters, the Pamirs are divided into several heavily glaciated mountain ranges up to 6,000 m high. The main hunting area for Marco Polo sheep is located in the eastern Pamirs, on the Pamir Plateau. Due to the great aridity and harsh climate, the snowline is very high, at approximately 5,000 m. The magnificent Pamir landscape is a

special attraction not only for hunters but also for high-altitude mountaineers. From a tourism and hunting tourism perspective, Tajikistan is still largely undeveloped. Foreign hunters usually only know Tajikistan as the home of the famous Marco Polo sheep. However, ibex and wolf hunts are also of hunting importance. Since 2015, the Bukhara Markhor can also be imported from Tajikistan into the EU, thus gaining further attention among trophy hunters. In southern Tajikistan, we organize very successful wild boar hunts. All in all, Tajikistan has developed from a „small“ hunting country into one of the world's most interesting hotspots for mountain hunters. The hunting of the Marco Polo argali in particular is conducted so professionally and meticulously that these hunts are among the best and most successful sheep hunts in the world. Asian explorers and famous hunters have always spared neither effort nor expense to reach the Pamir Mountains and hunt the king of all sheep there. This remains true to this day.

Video zur Jagd





Ausrüstungstipps



Current world record achieved with Westfalia Hunting Trips.

The hunting grounds

The Marco Polo sheep lives in the central and eastern parts of the Pamir Mountains at an altitude of 3,500 to 5,000 meters. The main population and the best hunting grounds for Marco Polo argali are located in the southeastern part of the Pamirs, on the borders with Afghanistan and China. This is precisely where we hunt. Our partner maintains a base camp in this region near Karakul, which has become synonymous with successful Marco Polo hunts, and another near Khorugh. Here, the concentration of Marco Polo sheep has become so high in recent years following the collapse of livestock farming that during the rut, it is not uncommon to see herds of 300-500 animals; one morning, our hunters even spotted almost 1,000 sheep. Today, there are certainly 4 to 5 times more argali here than 10 years ago.

The typical habitat of the Marco Polo argali is the flattened high-mountain landscape of the Pamirs at altitudes of over 3,000 meters; the Marco Polo sheep rarely descends to lower elevations. Therefore, it is considered the only pure high-mountain form among the argali subspecies. Since there is little snowfall in the eastern Pamirs, the wild sheep remain at high altitudes year-round, only descending a few hundred meters lower in winter. In the wide valleys of the Pamir Plateau, one often forgets that they are at an altitude of over 4,000 meters. In the valleys and on many mountainsides, it is easy to drive with an off-road vehicle, which greatly facilitates the search for truly impressive rams. The camps, located at approximately 4,200 meters, are very well equipped, with a doctor, cook, mechanic, drivers, camp assistants, and hunting guides.

Marco-Polo-Argali

8-10 travel days starting and ending in Dushanbe, approximately 3-6 hunting days, accommodation and meals in the camp, hunting guide, interpreter, round-trip transfer from the airport to the hunting area, and hunting of one Marco Polo Argali without trophy restrictions.

per Hunter (Standard-Area- 50 to 54,99 Inch)	€	43.950,00
per Hunter (Premium-Area- 55 to 58,99 Inch)	€	48.500,00

• *If you do not get a shooting opportunity at a Marco Polo argali, you can repeat the hunt free of charge in the same season. If the hunt is cancelled, the guarantee is forfeited.*



VIP hunt for Marco Polo Argali

8-10 travel days starting and ending in Dushanbe, approximately 3-6 hunting days, accommodation and meals in the camp, hunting guide, interpreter, transfer from the airport to the hunting area and back, pre-scouting for exceptionally large Marco Polo Argali, hunting opportunity in a pre-reserved area with confirmed rams, and the possibility of shooting a **Marco Polo Argali up to 58.99 inches.**

per Hunter	€	48.500,00
VIP surcharge for 59 - 59.99 inches	€	15.000,00
every additional inch	€	6.000,00

• *If you do not get a shooting opportunity at a Marco Polo argali, you can repeat the hunt free of charge in the same season. If the hunt is cancelled, the guarantee is forfeited.*

The trophy size

Compared to the massive horns of the Mongolian Altai argali, with a base circumference of up to 52 cm and more, the Marco Polo sheep has longer but more slender horns with a base circumference of 37 to 40 cm. On the other hand, in recent years, hardly any large Altai rams with horn lengths exceeding 55 inches have been found in Mongolia, while in our hunting area in the eastern Pamir, top-class rams with more than 60 inches are harvested every year. Truly a sensation, especially since the trend is increasing. This is one reason why, for many mountain hunters, the Marco Polo argali is not only the most important argali trophy but also a trophy of the highest 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, and above all, everyone understands the hunting adventure that one has to undertake to bag such a magnificent

specimen in the high Pamir. With hardly any other game species is the trophy quality as outstanding as with the Marco Polo sheep. In the last hunting season, 23 Marco Polo rams were harvested in our hunting area, 10 of which were over 58 inches. The strongest trophy was a 65-inch ram. In our areas, it is no problem to harvest a ram between 54 and 58 inches, which represents a good average. Stronger rams have a horn length of 58 to 60 inches, and top rams even reach lengths of 61 to 65 inches (a 68-inch horn length was the strongest ram ever harvested by a guest hunter; a found trophy even measured an incredible 70 inches). If a hunter is interested in exceptionally large rams with a horn length of over 60 inches, we can, for an additional fee, arrange for pre-scouting and have a specific horn length confirmed in advance.



The hunt

Each Central Asian hunting destination is unique and distinctive in its own way, which is why comparisons are only possible to a limited extent. For those who prioritize trophy size when hunting the Marco Polo sheep, Tajikistan offers clear advantages over Kyrgyzstan. In the Pamir Mountains, hunters have excellent chances every day of bagging a magnificent trophy due to the enormous game population and the top-quality trophies available. A major advantage is that remote valleys can be reached from the base camp by off-road vehicle, allowing hunters to return to the comfortable base camp each evening. The use of fly camps is not necessary. Marco Polo sheep hunts in Tajikistan are logistically very demanding and, due to the long journey, the high altitude, and the strenuous hunting, place considerable demands on the hunter's physical condition. However, the hunter is rewarded by the fantastic mountain scenery of the high Pamir and an unforgettable hunting experience. Every day, the hunter travels with an off-road vehicle, a driver, and a personal hunting guide. They drive to areas where the sheep are expected to be found at certain times of the year and glass the area extensively. When good rams are spotted, they are carefully assessed with a spotting scope and stalked to within shooting distance. The best hunting season is from October to November, but a spring hunt in February/March is also possible.

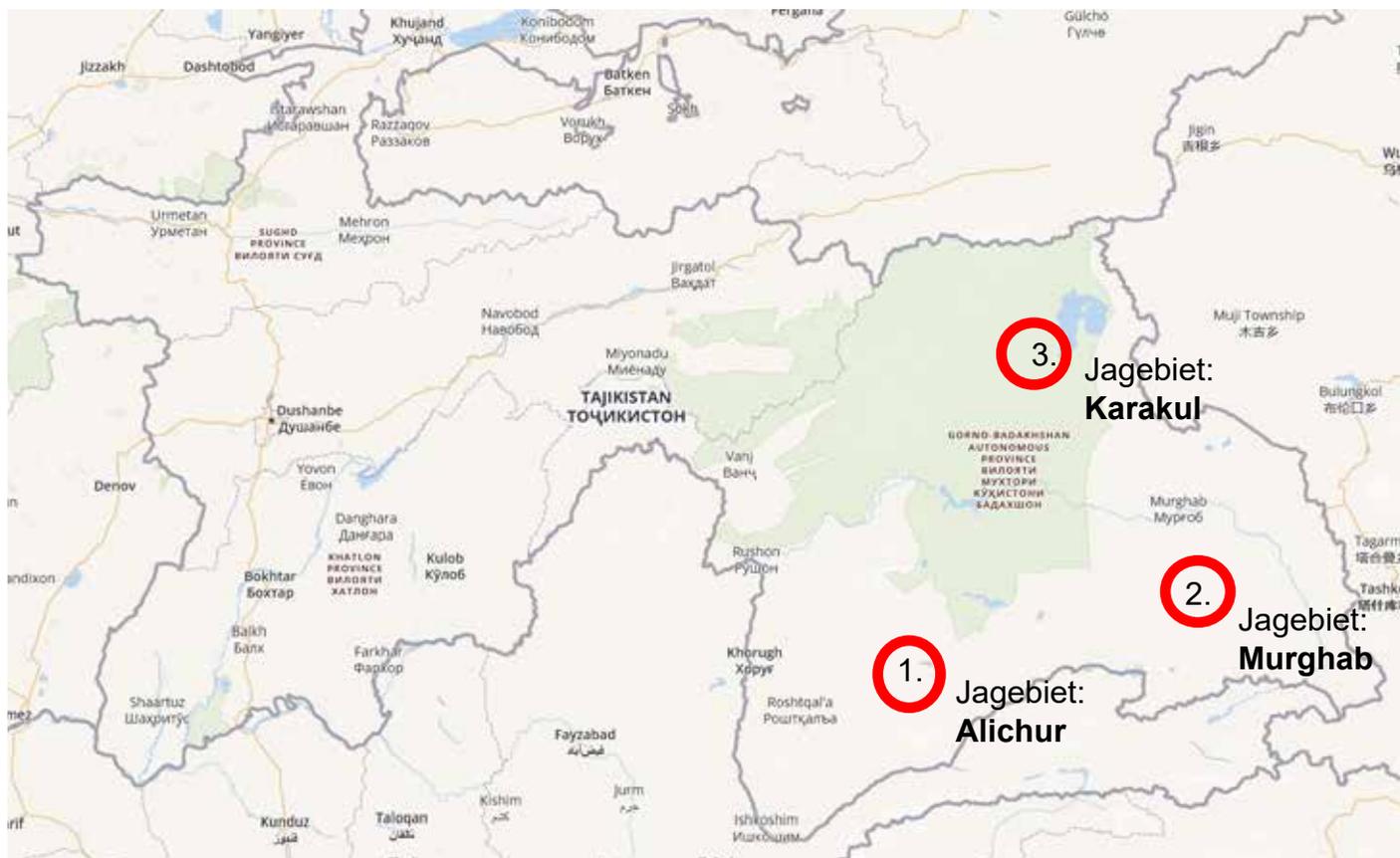
The travel itinerary

The journey is very straightforward. We recommend flying from Germany to Dushanbe via Istanbul with Turkish Airlines. Upon arrival in Dushanbe, you will be met by an English-speaking representative who will assist you with immigration formalities and coordinating your onward journey. You will use the VIP service, and both the import of firearms and all other formalities will be handled by our partner. During this time, you can relax briefly at the VIP terminal with a coffee or tea. Bringing and importing firearms is absolutely no problem; all necessary documents will be applied for by us in advance. From Dushanbe, the transfer to Khorog takes place in off-road vehicles. The journey takes approximately 10 to 12 hours. During the drive, you can gradually acclimatize to the altitude. One night is planned in Khorog to allow you to further acclimatize. You will stay in a good hotel there (€100 per night) with a restaurant. The next morning at 7:00 a.m., the transfer in off-road vehicles continues up into the Pamir Mountains to the camp. Depending on which camp you will be hunting from, this drive takes approximately 4-6 hours. Upon arrival at the hunting area, you will find a heated camp with comfortable beds, toilet and washing facilities, as well as a complete team that will make your stay as pleasant as possible.

Personal preparation

Like Kyrgyzstan, the high Pamir Mountains are a land of extremes, which is why good equipment and preparation are essential. Since the hunter will be hunting at an altitude of 4,000 meters, acclimatization is planned. Even at altitudes above 3,000 meters, the first signs of altitude sickness (headaches, nausea, sleep disturbances, vomiting, dizziness, etc.) can occur. To prevent this, most hunters take Diamox tablets. Each hunter should discuss with their doctor what dosage and frequency of medication is appropriate for them. In the camps, blood pressure is also measured several times a day during the stay in the high mountains, and medical

care is also available at the base camp. Every hunter should prepare themselves physically for such a trip. The Marco Polo sheep hunt is a strenuous mountain hunt that should not be undertaken unprepared. We have many years of experience (over 20 years) with these hunts and will gladly assist you personally with your preparation. We maintain contacts with several alpine altitude training centers that can prepare you for hunting at high altitudes with trained personnel. In addition to checking your physical fitness, you can also prepare for the actual conditions on site in special hypobaric chambers at these altitude training centers.



NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- Hotel accommodation and meals outside the hunting area.
- Excess baggage and trophy shipping
- Flight from home airport to Dushanbe and back.
- Formalities package

(Includes: invitation, visa (if applicable), reception, registration fee, weapons import, processing fees, veterinary documentation.)

- VIP handling at Dushanbe Airport (payable on site) € 200,00
- Personal expenses, tips, etc.
- Export CITES App. 2 Ovis ammon polii (Argali) € 250,00
- Export CITES App. 3 Capra Sibirica (Steinbock) € 250,00
- Non-hunting companion € 4.500,00

Additional kills:

- Ibex € 8.500,00



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