

Dagestan Tur hunting in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a small country located on the shores of the Caspian Sea mostly known for good populations of Eastern or Dagestan Tur (*Capra cylindronicornis*). There are also brown bear, Caucasian chamois, roebuck and wild boar present in varying densities however the main attraction in Azerbaijan is Tur. The horns of the Tur resemble the Himalayan blue sheep however they are a member of the Capra (goat) genus. Big males can weigh up to 100 kg and most of the year they are found in large bachelor groups until the onset of the rut in winter. The horns of a mature Tur come up from the skull and then sweep back behind the neck with the tips turning inward and upward in a classic fashion.



Seasons

From June 1st to November 30th the optimum time for quality skins is October/ November but you may encounter snow in November.



Hunting

Tur hunting in Azerbaijan is considered around the world as the most physically demanding hunt of all and you will need to be in good shape. As with all our mountain hunt we advise our clients to start and fitness regime at least 6 months prior to your hunt. I have done this hunt and personally believe it's no harder than a public land hunt for thar in New Zealand. The hard part is hiking to altitude of 2,700- 3,000 metres where you will set up a fly camp then it's not uncommon to spot Tur right from camp. There are usually 2 guides per hunter and it's a traditional spot and stalk hunt, once you have spotted a good trophy quality Tur you will plan a stalk with your guides who will try to get you in range of the animal. Good optics are essential and you may need to shoot out to 400 metres so it's a good idea to practice at this range prior to your hunt.

Accommodation

At base camp there are comfortable houses and cabins with kitchens and showers, there is a full time cook in camp preparing meals which are of a very high standard especially Tur meat which is delicious especially when prepared as Azeri shaslik, basically skewered meat cooked over an open fire. When you are hunting your guides will provide you with meals and snacks to sustain you on big days in the mountains.



Getting there

The best way is to transit via Istanbul with Turkish airlines, it's only a 2 hour flight to the capital Baku. Turkey can be reached with Qantas/Emirates via Dubai and depending on your flight schedule you can overnight in Istanbul if you wish as this airport is firearms friendly and they will store your rifle until your ongoing flight.



Weather

It's normally sunny and fine during the season but early on there can be problems with fog and rain showers. Later in the best part of the season daytime temps are around 10 – 15 degrees Celsius and night time temps are -8 to -5 degrees Celsius.

Hunt cost

1 hunter in group	US\$7,500
2 hunters in group	US\$6,200
3 hunters in group	US\$5,700
4 hunters in group	US\$5,300
5-6 hunters in group	US\$5,000
Non hunter	US\$2,000
Additional Tur	US\$2,000
Brown bear	US\$3,000 + CITES
Chamois	US\$1,800
Roebuck	US\$1,000
Wild boar	US\$500



Included in the hunt cost

Meeting and customs clearance at Baku airport

Import/export permits for rifles

All transfers and ground transport during the hunt

All meals and accommodation during the hunt

Camp cook

Professional guides 2 per hunter

Export and vet certificates

Field preparation of trophies



Not included in hunt cost

Flights to and from Baku

Visa service fee US\$150 per person

Accommodation and meals prior to and after the hunt

Insurance and personal items

Tips to guides and camp staff.



Summary

This hunt is one of the best value for money mountain hunts in the world for a unique trophy animal in a great and friendly location. I have done this hunt and would do it again in a heartbeat, this hunt scores 10 out of 10 for me.

