



**Maral hunt in Kazakhstan 2020**  
**Top area: Alakol**

At 2,717,300 km<sup>2</sup>, Kazakhstan is more than a quarter of the size of the whole of Europe.

Kazakhstan means rolling plains, steppes, semi-deserts and high mountain ranges. It is also the home of the strongest Marals in the world, and therefore it is an essential destination for hunters all over the world.

Kazakhstan - a rare and unique hunting ground.



Twenty years ago, people were impressed with Maral trophies from Mongolia. They were awestruck by animals weighing in at 9 or 10 kg from this remote hunting ground. But the world changes very quickly. With the downfall of the Soviet Union and the founding of the neighbouring nations, new opportunities arose to travel to hunting grounds the like of which hunters had only previously dreamed about. One of the countries that opened its doors to guest hunters very early on was Kazakhstan. Immediately WESTFALIA staff started to search for the best outfitters in the country. We had the great luck to come across Sergej Stepanchenko. Although he sadly suffered an untimely death a few years ago, he is to be thanked that Kazakhstan can take its place as the greatest place in the world for hunting Maral and Ibex. Together with Sergej's company (ASIA SAFARIS, today KOLYASU International ), we have

invested a great deal of time and money into the hunt. We arranged the training of the professional hunters, the fitting out of the camps, the horses, off-road vehicles, and much else. This investment paid off, and we have long been recognised as the market leaders as organisers of hunts in Kazakhstan. In hunting circles you will hear it said that we have the best hunting areas along the Alatau mountains. Our guest list is full of satisfied customers, and this is something that we are very proud of. With our support, and partly with the aid of our material, numerous reports of Maral hunting in Kazakhstan have been published in the German-language hunting magazines over the last few years. We and our guests also had active involvement in the production of several JAGEN WELTWEIT (Hunting Worldwide) videos about the Maral hunt in Kazakhstan.



Next to the Karaganda-Argali and Siberian Ibex, the Maral (*cervus elaphus songaricus*) is a favourite for Kazakhstan. A mighty deer, the Maral is similar to the American Wapiti. With a live weight of up to 400 kg and a shoulder height of 155 cm, he is a true monarch of the mountains. Even the weight of the antlers pushes back the boundaries. Specimens of 14 kg, 15 kg, even up to 20 kg have been documented, and reflect the strength of this family of deer. The structure of the antlers is somewhat different to that of the antlers of the red deer. The first thing you notice is the strong central branch, which can grow to lengths of more than 1.50 metres. As a rule they are also not as dark as those from other top class deer countries such as Rumania, Poland or Hungary. The beading is quite faint and the Pericles

are similar to those of the elk. Above the brow and bez tines, towers the powerful main beam (examples of which have been measured up to 50 cm). The Maral does not develop a crown in the classical sense, but what is truly arresting is the size of the individual tines and ends. They are truly unbelievable. Even the Carpathian Deer doesn't achieve such dimensions. As a trophy, it will stand out on any trophy wall. This is why people go to such lengths to take a Maral. In Autumn and Winter the coat is light grey to brown in colour, and, as a rule, shows cinnamon-coloured markings on the head, neck, stomach and legs. The rut falls in the month of September, and is the high point of the year for the hunter in Kazakhstan.

Western hunters know the cry of the red deer which rings through the forests during the rut. The Maral is slightly different. If you were expecting a deep voice, you will be surprised. Typical for the Maral is a long, drawn out cry, which is unusually high in pitch. The cry of the Maral echoing off the mountainsides in Kazakhstan is an experience without comparison. The Maral stags live in high, mountainous areas, around

and above the tree line (up to approx 2500 m). Despite their size, Marals are, surprisingly, very hard to spot. Thanks to the markings of their coat they are perfectly camouflaged. The hunt with calls for Maral is one of the most fascinating that can be offered to a deer hunter. Even the scenery defies description. You will be hunting in the Alatau region, one of the most beautiful and remote mountain ranges in the world.





The name Alatau originates from Kazakhstani and means 'colourful mountains'. According to experts, these mountains in Eastern Kazakhstan are the home of the densest population of Ibex in the world. Despite their height, the going on the mountains is easy (with help from small but strong horses), even for hunters unused to mountainous terrain. It isn't necessary to be an athlete to be a successful Maral hunter, but it is always worth preparing beforehand. The Alatau range is approx. 400 km long, up to 80 km wide, and inhabited only by a few farmers and nomads. As a habitat, the mountains have little to offer humans, but they are a hunter's paradise. Imagine yourself on a high plateau in the Alataus. Beneath you lay

the mountains, clothed in forests of elm. The valleys are only sparsely wooded, however, and you have an amazing view of the snow-covered five and six thousand metre high summits of the mountains of China. Believe us; you will not forget a day like this. Just because this is the best Maral area in the world, we have secured exclusive hunting rights. Of course, such a hunt has its price. But back to the hunt. Week-long preparations precede the Maral hunt. The professional hunters, raised in the mountains and familiar with the wild animals, have learnt their trade from early childhood. They are highly trained, experienced in dealing with western guests and they are master hunters.



Let's pick a typical hunting day to describe at this point: You will wake up when it's still dark and after a quick spit-wash there is hot tea to raise the spirit. The horses are quickly saddled, provisions and equipment stowed and the hunt begins. We leave the fly camp behind, and on our horse we follow the professional hunter. Trust the professional hunter - he has one aim, to ensure that you

have a good shot. Only then will he will earn a little tip. The distinctive call of the Maral. Now the capability and experience of the professional hunter comes to the fore. He will decide whether the conditions are right, and whether it is worth luring the animal. Marals inhabit the sparsely wooded mountain slopes on the edges of the forest.



This impenetrable terrain is the best rutting ground, and access is not always easy. This means that high physical demands will be placed upon you. You must be fit and able to shoot. Weapons and calibre:

You should choose a higher power calibre. Cartridges such as 8 x 68 S, .300 Winchester or Weatherby Magnum, .30-378 or the .300 Pegasus are ideally suited. Our normal domestic calibres for cloven game such as 7 x 64 or .30-06 are best left at home. Additionally, we recommend a range-finder and binoculars. From a long

range, it is handy to be able to observe details of antlers. Shooting range is normally between about 200 and 250 m, and you can imagine that the shot must have enough energy to dispatch the animal quickly and cleanly. There are no trained retriever dogs, and a search for a hit animal is often strenuous and not always successful. As for the itinerary: From Europe you fly 7 h to Almaty and in to a totally different world. You will see and meet another culture. What does time mean and how about stress and hectic pace of the western world. Please forget about our World of up to the minute planning. Try to relax and you





will wonder how smooth all the entry formalities and the gun import will be handled, even so there is lots of discussions between your interpreter and the officials. As most of the other former Russian countries the officials do like to stamp every document and you will be amazed how many stamps and important signatures

from high ranking officials are needed and find a place on the documents. And finally everything is done. From Almaty you will go to the dschungarian Alatau by car. The road leads straight ahead. You should try to find some sleep as there are strenuous days ahead of you. After a few hours you will stop over and get the chance to





taste for the first time some original kazak delicacies. In the afternoon you will reach the main camp and find some time to acclimate. These main camps in Kazakhstan are due to our help especially well built and provisioned Until a few years ago the foreign hunters had to stay in yurts, but by now we have most of them replaced by stable and comfortable log cabins. In the main camp you have the log cabins, a kitchen tent as well as showers and a sauna. The meals, prepared by cooks, are taken traditionally in yurts. Power is supplied by generators. While out there hunting

your guides take care of cooking. Venison, potatoes, soup, noodles and some cans everything quite simple but really tasty. If you wish you can bring some food for yourself like trail mix, dried fruits, chocolate, power bars or beef jerky. You should bring your sleeping bag comfort temperature at least  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and self-inflating mattress with you. In the high mountain range above 2.500 m the temperatures are in winter as well as in summer quite cold, the hunter should bring warm clothes, gloves and a cap. In Autumn you can expect rain, so rain gear should be brought as







well. After a good night's rest you will have to get up early in the morning. Your guides are up already and have saddled the horses. For the upcoming days this will be your hunting „family”. You leave base camp and ride in to the hunting area. Somewhere along the way the tents will be erected and you will have to rely on the experience and the professionalism of your guides. For sure you will not be disappointed the guides are very experienced. For

By our standards their salary is quite low but they do know if the hunter is satisfied they will receive a generous tip after the successful bag of a maral stag. With good weather you will see Marals every day and when you have taken your stag you can be proud of yourself. You have accomplished a good hunt and can take your trophy with you back home as a reminder of your hunting days in Kazakhstan





**Personal preparation:**

Please plan your maral hunt meticulously, these are mountain hunts which are strenuous and personal fitness is mandatory for the hunting success. The rutting spots of the marals are often in very hard terrain and it is difficult to reach them. Most of the hunt you will be on horseback. If you haven't been on a horse before make sure to visit

your local riding school and get some hints from the experts, it is furthermore quite helpful to take some riding lessons. Even more important before such a trip is to train practice shooting on long distances. Even so, as mentioned above, Marals are huge, but they are quite hard to the shot. The trophy is far too valuable, the hunt too strenuous and it would really be a pity to have only a



wounded maral noted in the hunting protocol. You have the chance to make a control shot in the main camp, use it. After you have taken your stag please tell the guide if you would like to have a shoulder mount or only the skull with antlers, so he can take the cape as well or leave it behind. To avoid any problems with the exportation

of your trophy out of Kazakhstan and into your home country the skull will be boiled and cleaned with Peroxyde. The cape will be salted and dried. Everything will be packed to European standards and so you won't have any problems importing the trophy into the European Union.





## Standard Maral hunt

13 days approx. 9 hunting days, Meet and greet in Almaty, necessary documentation for customs and gun import, Transport to the hunting area and back, full board accommodation during the hunt, all transport in the hunting area (Horses, Jeeps), Hunting guides, camp personal and translator, field preparation

Per Hunter € 5.790,00

## Trophy fee Maral

Up to 12 kg	€	4.700,00	15,01 - 16 kg	€	7.700,00
12,01 - 13 kg	€	5.200,00	16,01 - 17 kg	€	9.700,00
13,01 - 14 kg	€	5.700,00	17,01 - 18 kg	€	11.700,00
14,01 - 15 kg	€	6.700,00	Above 18 kg	€	14.700,00



## Combined Maral and Ibex hunt

18 trip days approx. 14 hunting days, meet and greet in Almaty, necessary documentation for customs and gun import, transport to the hunting area and back, full board accommodation during the hunt, all transport in the hunting area (Horses, Jeeps), hunting guides, camp personal and translator, field preparation

Per Hunter € **6.690,00**

### Trophy fee Maral

Up to 12 kg	€	4.500,00	15,01 - 16 kg	€	7.500,00
12,01 - 13 kg	€	5.000,00	16,01 - 17 kg	€	9.500,00
13,01 - 14 kg	€	5.500,00	17,01 - 18 kg	€	11.500,00
14,01 - 15 kg	€	6.500,00	Above 18 kg	€	14.500,00



### Trophy fee Ibex

Up to 115 cm	€	3.400,00	125,01 - 130 cm	€	4.600,00
115,01 - 120 cm	€	3.900,00	130,01 - 135 cm	€	5.100,00
120,01 - 125 cm	€	4.300,00	Above 135 cm	€	5.900,00

### Additional culls:

Second Maral	€	9.500,00	Wolf	€	2.100,00
Wildboars up to 20 cm	€	2.100,00	Cites Wolf	€	300,00
Wildboars above 20 cm	€	2.300,00			



### Not included in the price:

• International flights approx.	€	830,00
• Gun import and booking fee	€	300,00
• Registration fee (payable on arrival), approx.	€	30,00
• Kazak. hunting license (payable on arrival), approx.	€	60,00
• Non hunting companion (per day)	€	300,00
• Veterinary certificate (per trophy)	€	100,00
• Visa (if necessary)		
• Extra hotel-nights in Almaty, delivery of the trophies, excess luggage etc.		



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