

Rusty Blyler (PA) hunted in the Caucasus Mountains during August 2017 and took all three turs and the Caucasian chamois. We know that Rusty took the first of the four species on August 3 and the last was taken on August 17. Rusty submitted the following report along with his photos:

*I booked this hunt at the 2017 GSCO convention with **ProfiHunt** with the intention to hunt the three species of tur and the one chamois that call the Caucasus Mountain Range home. So, July 30, 2017, I was on my way to Moscow. The folks from ProfiHunt did a great job all around, from the pre-trip planning, to picking me up at the airport and providing a great Caucasus Mountain experience for me.*

Another short flight and two days later,



Rusty Blyler (PA) took this Dagestan (Eastern) tur from Azerbaijan in August 2017. Rusty was hunting with ProfiHunt.

I was making my first climb in the rocky mountain range. It was as rugged as I had been told, and I quickly learned to use the traditional wood stick that the locals use



This Kuban (Western) tur was taken from Karachayevo-Cherkesiya, Russia in August 8, 2017 by Rusty Blyler (PA). He hunted with ProfiHunt.



In Karachayevo-Cherkesiya in the western Caucasus Mountains, Rusty Blyler (PA) took this Caucasian chamois in August 2017.



Rusty Blyler (PA) took this mid-Caucasian tur from Kabardino-Balkariya, Russia, August 2017, hunting with ProfiHunt.

to help keep balance on the steep slopes. We climbed all day and into the night. After taking a short nap on the rocks, the sun began to come over the horizon, and I was able to take a nice Dagestan (Eastern) tur about one hour after daybreak.

After field dressing the animal, we made our descent off the mountain. It was not until then that I realized how far we climbed the day before: it took us six hours to get off the mountain. After a good dinner that evening and a much-needed good night's sleep on a comfortable bed, we traveled the next day to the Kuban (Western) tur area. It was there that we met some local guides

with horses to help with the next climb. We slept in tents that night and headed up the mountain the next morning with the help of our new best friends, the horses. We spent the next four days living and hunting in the tops of the mountain range where I was able to harvest a nice Kuban (Western) tur.

After our descent from this hunting area, we again traveled for some distance by car and met a shepherd family that had horses we would use to help us hunt the Caucasian chamois. They also invited us into their humble home for a delicious and much appreciated lunch. I always enjoy listening and seeing how the local people live in these remote locations of the world.

Two days later I was able to harvest a very good chamois. We then traveled again by car to another area to hunt the mid-Caucasian tur. On this hunt we again used horses supplied to us by the local shepherds. Like before, the horses did most of the work and carried our gear and us into the peaks of the Caucasus Mountains. Three days later we were descending the mountains after I was able to harvest my mid-Caucasian tur.

Make no mistake, hunting all four of the Caucasus Mountain animals on a single trip is no small undertaking. But with some serious pre-trip training, completing a hike at the Grand Canyon - from south rim to the Colorado River and back up to the south rim in one day - and a good attitude, it is possible and rewarding. I would recommend anyone to do this and ProfiHunt is the place to start. If you're working towards an Ovis and Capra World Slam, these three turs register in both, so it is like harvesting seven animals on one trip. Plan to allot 3½ to 4 weeks to complete this trip.