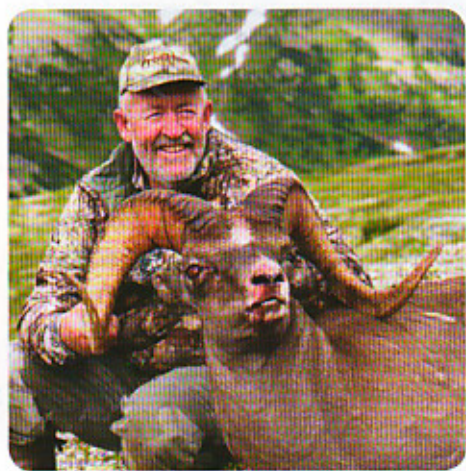


Archie Joe Smith (AZ) first hunted on the Kamchatka Peninsula, and then in the Russian Caucasus Mountains, during August 2018 and was able to collect four separate species on this whirlwind trip. Here is what Joe had to report:

*At the 2017 Slam Quest Convention, I booked a crazy hunt in Russia with **ProfiHunt** for Kamchatka snow sheep, mid-Caucasian tur, Kuban (Western) tur, and Caucasian chamois. This was to be a 35-day trip, by far my biggest, hardest hunting adventure. I like **Tom Miranda's** term of "Adventure hunting," because these trips are sure all of that!*

I did as much preparation as I could by adding a weekly five, then eight-mile hike with a weighted pack to my elliptical and weightlifting but didn't lose the 30 pounds that would've made those steep slopes easier, so I arrived weighing a svelte 260 pounds.

I traveled through Anchorage from Tucson to Petropavlovsk; however,



Archie Joe Smith (AZ) took this Kamchatka snow sheep from Russia in August 2018. Joe was hunting with ProfiHunt.

my suitcase didn't, so I started my trip with the set of clothes in my backpack, binoculars, and a 300 WSM without any bullets. I won't be recommending **Sun Country Airlines** anytime soon. It took them two weeks to find the bag with my wife bird-dogging them on a daily basis.

ProfiHunt was working with Constantine for this hunt and he loaned me a great Blaser 300 Mag, and we were off in a Soviet tracked personnel carrier about 60 km northeast of Petropavlovsk. We stayed in his base camp on the way there and arrived at a spike camp location by an ice pond in glassing distance of sheep. He had two guides horsebacking for a couple of days, but they had only seen ewes and a few young rams. However, the guide who had traveled with us glassed up four rams about two km across a canyon we couldn't cross. So, a plan was hatched to make a downhill 10 km circle around the canyon and up the mountain to the sheep. I was on horseback and amazed at how those four guys traveled. We got to the mountain about 11 a.m., ate a bite and went up the mountain and the sheep were still there when I got there to a knoll at 600 yards. We watched them for a couple of hours while they worked uphill slowly, and the guides figured a route to cut the distance in half. We got set up under a bush in a great spot and when he turned I took him with two shots. My first shot wasn't exactly sniper worthy. **Alexey Budin**, my ProfiHunt guide, was a great guide, interpreter, problem solver, motivator, and friend on this odyssey. He took pictures and we started the long haul back to camp.

Five days later and a hundred calls changing flights and flipping the mid-Caucasian tur hunt into the week we gained with my first day success in Kamchatka, along with another two lost days due to rain, and we were riding up a steep drainage to hunt tur. We spiked in a high bowl where they apparently routinely hunt the opposite side of the ridge, and that is what we did the next day. If I understood the situation, they have a camp on each side of this large,



This mid-Caucasian tur was taken by Archie Joe Smith (AZ) in Kabardino-Balkariya, Russia, August 2018. Joe was hunting with ProfiHunt.

deep canyon and they work both sides as they move the tur around hunting them. We started with the short side but found only young and females. So, we went down through camp, got on the horses and rode three-quarters of the way up the big side and then hiked up to a saddle that the tur tended to funnel past. The guide, Kareem, went to look around the hill while assistant, Alson, Alexey and I looked at about 50 head of ewes and lambs about a mile away.

After about 15 minutes we heard rocks rolling down slope from us and about 50-60 head of various sized rams rolled around the cliffs and into the next zip code, taking the ewes with them. We watched them leave and then Kareem showed back up and told us they busted him before he knew they were there. So, we went back to camp and ate and then went back up the shorter hill and further around it. Kareem found a couple of tur way down in a hold and we were watching to see if they might come uphill when Kareem spotted one across on a ridge 500 yards away. I said no because I couldn't make this long shot. Then Mohammed the skinner came down the ridge and he had found one on a point in the canyon to look at. It was what I was hoping for and was at 280 yards. I got set up and took the shot and he half-stepped, slid off the rock, then the ledge and out of sight. Kareem and Alson went down and came back up in an hour and said they had seen it dead off the next cliff in the

canyon bottom. They said that this had happened before, and we would have to go down the way we came up and then they had a day trip up that canyon past two waterfalls to retrieve my trophy. The next morning, we started the process and Alexey told me we should go back to Mineral'nyye Vody to meet two Italian hunters who would be joining us in the Kuban (Western) tur camp and to let the guides take care of the sheep. So, we did just that.

A town shower day, a travel day, a day up the mountain and the next morning **Andrea Coppo** of Italy and I were hunting Kuban (Western) tur with Ivan, Ali and Alexey. Man, that place is a rock pile. It looks like the mines after a major shot has been set off set on a 3:1 angle and then everything else is a 1:1! The two-plus miles to the top really drained me and while the next four hours let me recuperate some, I was slow and whipped going to the next ridge where Ali said there were tur. I had told Andrea he could have his choice since he would complete his Capra World Slam with this tur. Ivan did a slow bump of the herd over the hill to us and there was one mature ram, which promptly went behind a rock at 300 yards and lay down. After about 30 minutes and the light clock ticking, Ali went around the point and up on top like a tur and threw a couple of rocks off, which jumped the ram out running. Unfortunately, Andrea didn't



Archie Joe Smith (AZ) took this Kuban (Western) tur in Karachayevo-Cherkessiya, Russia in August 2018. Joe was hunting with ProfiHunt.

see the ram come out and I watched it pause at 350, 425 and 475 yards before Andrea stood up saying he never saw the ram come out. I could still see the sheep going around the bowl and away and this is where I let my fatigue and frustration get the better of me. I got back in my scope and guessing the distance at 600 yards I held 3-4 feet ahead of the ram's retreat and squeezed. I lost sight of the tur and no one else had been watching, so Ivan and Ali went to check for blood while Alexey, Andrea and I headed back to camp while it got dark. I was feeling pretty dumb for my recklessness and regretting my actions, and this got worse when I got back to camp, and they told me they found blood but not the ram and they would look some more the next day as they hunted for another ram for Andrea. A very long day of contemplation had them coming in at dark with a nice ram Andrea had taken off a cliff, but no sign of my ram in a busy day. The next day it was cloudy, and I was told a storm was coming



This Caucasian chamois was taken from Karachayevo-Cherkesiya, Russia by Archie Joe Smith (AZ) in August 2018 with ProfiHunt.

in and we were going back down the mountain to take care of Andrea's ram and the chamois John had taken down lower. Ali and his cousin would come back up and find my ram.

We did this and then changed valleys to look for chamois for Andrea and me. This was very frustrating to me, but it was pointed out that Ali was the game manager for the area and half tur himself and he didn't need our help. Four days later we got word he had found it the next day. A huge weight was lifted off my shoulders.