



This Kuban (Western) tur from Russia was taken by Debby Smit (Netherlands) in August 2018. She booked with ProfiHunt to get this fine tur.

**Kuban (Western) tur/Caucasian Chamois (August 2018):** *We traveled to Russia with ProfiHunt for the Kuban tur and Caucasian chamois. For me this was a big trip and real mountain hunt, sleeping in tents, horseback riding and hard work. After arriving, we drove to the place where we would continue on with horses. We checked our rifles and Connie's shot was perfect but mine was 10 cm low. Then we packed our gear and headed for base camp. After arriving, we had a quick meal and headed up the mountain. Our guides Ali, Ivan and Husein were great. Ali knew exactly where the tur were. On top of the mountain we saw a group with a good male, but the fog made it difficult. One moment we saw them, then they were gone. We had to find them over and over again and make sure we did not lose them. After a while we were running out of time but then found tur through the fog below us and decided that I would take the first opportunity. I rested my rifle on my backpack and got ready for the 280-meter shot. I took a shot with my Blaser R8 300 Win Mag. It was a good shot, but the tur ran away. They are such tough animals. I*

took another shot on the *running tur* at almost 400 meters and it was *another* hit. He dropped down but *still* needed a third shot to finish him. We walked down to the tur. He was a beautiful 12-year-old. Suddenly Ali spotted another good tur on the other side of the mountain for Connie. We made a fast stalk and Connie shot his Kuban tur the same evening. The hike back was very difficult with heavy packs and I was clearly out of energy. What a great hunt!

After the tur, the Caucasian chamois would be my sixth animal for the Capra World Slam. The first day Connie shot his chamois. The second day we went out, but the weather was terrible and getting worse. It was a very hard day and because of the steep terrain my feet were killing me. I was able to dry my clothes that night. The third day after taking care of my feet we went up with horses. Wow, that was great. It was hard work for those horses who are

incredibly strong. The sun came up and there was no fog. We found a group of chamois and I took a shot at a female from 230 meters. She fell more than 100 meters. It was hard work to get her, but it was worth it.

My guide's oldest son Rasul and I drove down with the horses and the chamois while Ivan and the other guide

walked down the mountain. On the way down, I enjoyed the different berries and tried to learn about the edible plants. We saw some bears and it was very nice to see them in the daylight. The night before we had heard them fighting with the dogs in the herds of cows, sheep and horses for the family. Further down the mountain a car was waiting to take me to camp, but I preferred horseback. We had a great ride home. Not speaking the same language is not a problem at all when your state of mind is the same. This is hunting! For me this was the best hunt ever. Lovely people, beautiful area and a great hunt! Thank you, ProfiHunt, Ivan and the Batchav family.



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