

Mychal Murray (TX) had this to say about his hunt in the Caucasus Mountains:

I hunted with ProfiHunt in



Mychal Murray (TX) took this Kuban (Western) tur from Karachayevo-Cherkesiya in September 2012. Mychal was hunting with ProfiHunt.

August/September 2012 for Kuban (Western) tur in Karachayevo-Cherkesiya and Dagestan (Eastern) tur and Caucasian chamois in North Ossetia. This was my second trip to the Caucasus Mountains for Dagestan (Eastern) tur. Bad weather in Azerbaijan a few years ago sent me



This Dagestan (Eastern) tur was taken in North Ossetia by Mychal Murray (TX) in September 2012. Mychal hunted with ProfiHunt.

home empty-handed, but with a desire to return and try again. This trip started with perfect weather for the Kuban (Western) tur hunt. My main guide, Ivan, was well organized and things went very smoothly.

*Our second day in the mountains
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Mychal Murray (TX) got this Caucasian chamois in North Ossetia during September 2012. Mychal's hunt was conducted through ProfiHunt.

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found us watching a bedded group of rams in an open bowl for five hours before they finally started to feed in our direction. After five hours wedged into an uncomfortable position, my patience switch suddenly turned off. Instead of waiting just a few seconds longer, I fired a shot at the largest tur before he turned broadside and missed cleanly. I thought our day was over and was trying to mentally recover from the missed opportunity and prepare myself for the climb facing me in the morning. Just a short while later, Ivan spotted another group and we raced to get in position before dark. I can't blame the borrowed rifle for my earlier miss, because the second shot was dead-on. This tur was not as large as the one I missed but I was just as happy. We saw lots of tur in the area I hunted and logistics and organization were perfect.

After getting off the mountain and prepping my tur for transport, I drove from Karachayevo-Cherkesiya to North Ossetia for the second leg of the hunt for Dagestan (Eastern) tur and chamois. I was surprised to stay in a comfortable hunting lodge where the hospitality and food were very good. The weather took a turn for the worse and we battled fog for the next few days. We spent an uncomfortable night in the truck hoping for a break in the weather.

The next morning we started climbing and were looking over some bedded tur a few hours later. I was with another hunter and I told him earlier that he could have the first shot. We determined the best tur in the group was average and he decided to pass. I decided to take the opportunity and after another tough climb to get in position, some poor shooting on my part, and some miscommunication with the guide, I ended up shooting the wrong tur. It was a younger animal

than I had hoped to take and I had to remind myself of a toast our host and director of the wildlife department for the region had given a few nights before. He said that as tough as the Caucasus Mountains are, any tur is a true trophy. I agree, but also think I might return one day and try again. Third time's the charm right?

After another day spent in camp with bad weather, we drove to another area for chamois. Though we were at a lower elevation, my observation was that the climbing was every bit as difficult as for tur. Instead of rocks, we had to contend with grass clumps that could just as easily roll your ankle and it is just as steep. We climbed halfway and fog rolled in yet again. We spent a long cold night on the mountain with no tent, just our sleeping bags, and every hour or so I would have to move myself 5-10 feet back into position after sliding down the hill.

The next morning was clear and we continued climbing. We spotted five chamois near the top and once in position, I had an opportunity at 100 yards at a very steep angle. I could only see three chamois but at the shot, the mountain erupted with chamois hidden from view. There must have been 20 or more. The five-hour climb down the mountain was one of the more difficult and painful descents I've made. All of the guides worked hard and were a fun group to hunt with. ProfiHunt did a great job organizing the logistics. Unfortunately, the best planning doesn't make the Caucasus Mountains any easier to climb... this is a tough hunt!