



Northern Air Trophy
Matt & Julie Owen
Box 753
Kasilof, Alaska 99610
907-262-1091
www.northernairtrophy.com

Guided Dall Sheep Hunt Pre-Trip Planning

Meeting Your Expectations

At Northern Air Trophy, we make every effort to meet our clients' expectations. We want to understand your requirements fully before you book your hunt with us. So, please make sure you have a discussion with us early in your planning so that we can make every effort to please you.

This pre-trip planning guide is an extremely helpful tool. It sets the stage for those things that cannot be changed such as weather, limited services in Northway, etc. Please read this document thoroughly and a couple of times.

Lastly, make sure you identify your priorities for a successful hunt and let us know before you book with Northern Air Trophy.

Budget Planning

Use this section as your worksheet to help you anticipate the costs associated with a guided sheep hunt to Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve.

Estimated Air Fare to/from Anchorage:	\$600	Actual: _____
Estimated Air Fare to/from Fairbanks:	\$420	Actual: _____
Fees to Northern Air Trophy	\$12,500	Actual: \$12,500
Hotel (one-night) in Anchorage	\$110	Actual: _____
Meals (one night) in Anchorage	\$20	Actual: _____
Meals (per day) in Fairbanks	\$50	Actual: _____
Car Rental	\$400	Actual: _____
Tip to Guide (\$100/day/person)	\$500	Actual: _____
Alaska Hunting License	\$85	Actual: _____



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Sheep Tags	\$425	Actual: _____
Shipping Meat Home (\$2/pound)	\$160	Actual: _____
Taxidermy	\$700	Actual: _____
Extra cash if delays due to weather	<u>\$1,000</u>	Actual: _____
Estimated Total:	\$16,970	Actual:

Schedule Your Hunt

Call Northern Air Trophy as soon as possible to schedule your preferred dates to hunt. Make sure to ask for Julie. Ideally, this should be done by January or February; however, openings may exist as late as March. The sheep hunting season generally runs the first few weeks of August.

Julie will ask you to sign an agreement and make a deposit of 50 percent as soon as the agreement is signed.

Obtain Licenses

Visit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Web site and purchase your resident or non-resident Alaska hunting license and sheep tag. Do not wait to purchase your licenses for your arrival in Alaska. Although the ADF&G Web site states that these are available at many retail locations, our hunters have experienced problems finding available tags once the season has started. You will be purchasing your licenses with credit card.

Although we either see several or none at all, Alaska is the only state where you may purchase a tag to take a wolf. The wolf tag is \$30 and it's recommended that you have a couple in your camp. This is something you may wish to consider.

Schedule Your Flights

You may go directly to your travel agent or to the web site for the airline of your choice; however, other good resources are Travelocity and Orbitz. Often, the sooner you schedule your flight the better your pricing will be. Also, waiting a while can cause prices to improve, just don't wait too long so that you end up paying a premium for one of the last seats available.



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For the flight to/from Fairbanks, you'll arrange this on the Web site for Alaska Airlines. Pricing generally stays consistent so you're not likely to find a better rate by waiting or scheduling early. Just schedule the flight as soon as you are able.

PLEASE NOTE: "Flex" tickets are available with Alaska Airlines and are a great option in the event that your return trip is delayed for any reason. In advance of your trip, you may pay an additional \$70 for the "Flex" ticket option. At the counter, when in Alaska, you will pay \$100 for the "Flex" option; however, please note that it is often not available. If you use the Flex option, you're likely to save yourself several hundred dollars, should there be any delays for any reason. Please consider this option when booking your flights.

Rent Your Car

You will want to make advance arrangements to rent a car that you will drive from Fairbanks to Northway and back again. Make sure to take care of this in advance of your trip so that you can negotiate your best prices.

Preparing Yourself for Northway

Your cell phone is not likely to work in Northway and certainly will not work in the surrounding area. Northern Air Trophy has satellite phones for guided camps so that the guide can be in touch with the base camp.

Hone Your Skills & Be Prepared

Choose a firearm that you are comfortable with and practice, practice, practice. Many shots are going to be in the 100-150 yard range; however, it will benefit you to be able to be comfortable at 200 yards shots and 300 yard shots. Even if you're already in incredible marksman, it will be wise to set your scope sights to 150 and run no less than 50 rounds through your gun at 100 yards, 50 rounds at 200 yards and 50 rounds at 300 yards.

Some of our hunters take the time to load their own ammunition to come up with a recipe that improves their accuracy and consistency. Just find what works well for you so that you can always hit a paper plate at 150 yards.



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Be physically ready to handle the terrain. If you walk 3-4 miles per day (at least 4 days a week) in May, 5-6 miles a day in June and 7-8 miles a day in July, you will certainly be ready for anything this terrain has to offer. If you have access to a treadmill, use the incline feature to be prepared for uphill walking.

Keep your gear selection to a minimum but choose gear that is going to be 100 percent reliable and keep you comfortable and happy. Ask a lot of questions of other hunters and rely on their advice when choosing the gear you will take with you. Other hunters will be far more helpful than any clerk at a retail store. Review various gear selections over time and buy items at appropriate times so you can test and try each. Do not wait for the last minute to buy any gear that you may need. For example, if you're going to bring shooting sticks (bi-pod or monopod), buy this item in June and practice with it. It will make a huge difference in your success rate when you are finally in the field.

Although with a guided hunt you will not need maps, consider picking up the DeLorme Alaska Atlas and Gazetteer. This will help you get to know the details of the area and key mountain ranges and other village locations.

If you really want detailed maps, you can find the link to TopoZone maps on our Web site and you'll be pleased with the detailed maps they have to offer you.

Guided Hunt Equipment Checklist

Please know that most major airlines allow up to two bags per person that may not exceed 100 pounds total. No one bag may weigh more than 70 pounds. You may break these rules, however, and pay an extra fee to the airlines when you check in at the gate. Be sure to weigh your gear before you get to the airport.

Please check your airlines Web site for properly carrying firearms into an airport. It is not difficult, but you will want to make sure you follow their guidelines closely to prevent any problems.

Once you arrive in Northway, you will want to have smaller bags inside your bags to be able to pack your gear into. The storage spaces in our planes are too small for many of the larger style bags you may be carrying with you on your way to Fairbanks. Make sure these smaller bags are lightweight and waterproof to protect your gear. Having these smaller bags makes things so much easier for you and for us as we prepare to take you into the field.

You will want to leave one bag behind with Northern Air Trophy that includes a clean pair of clothes. Northern Air Trophy allows no more than **70 pounds of gear per person** for the guided sheep hunts. Please respect this policy and help us help you get into the field quickly and efficiently.

Here's a great checklist for the Guided Dall Sheep Hunt:



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Sleeping

- One Sleeping bag (good to -10F, DO NOT BRING DOWN SLEEPING BAGS)
- One sleeping pad (provided)
- Cots (provided)
- Tent (provided)

Clothing

- Two pair glove liners
- One pair water/windproof glove shells
- One water/windproof camo hat with brim
- One balaclava or stocking hat
- One water/windproof camo pants or bibs
- One water/windproof jacket with hood
- One wool or fleece light jacket
- One wool or fleece pants
- Two wool or fleece shirts
- One wool or acrylic sweater
- One flannel shirt
- One pair jeans
- One pair waterproof hiking boots
- One pair camp shoes
- 10 pairs of socks (at least four pair are wool)
- One set of lightweight, wicking long underwear
- Five pair of undershirts and underwear (non-cotton is best)
- One personal hygiene kit (toothbrush and paste, deodorant, aspirin, band-aids, towel)

Hunting Gear

- One hard-sided gun case for airport travel
- One rifle (.270 caliber or larger)
- 40 rounds of ammunition
- One rifle scope with rain cover
- Binoculars or spotting scope (guided hunts will have spotting scope)
- One diamond hone knife sharpener
- One skinning knife
- One utility knife
- One Wyoming (bone) saw
- One Mag-lite with extra batteries
- One handheld GPS (guided hunts will have) with back-up compass
- One camera or video recorder with spare batteries
- One day pack
- One Nalgene water bottle
- One space blanket



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- One bottle Deet insect repellent
- One head net
- One pair sunglasses
- Game bags for meat and cape (on guided hunts, game bags will be provided)
- Extra roll of toilet paper
- One butane lighter (purchased in Fairbanks)
- Gun cleaning patches (oiled patches)
- Hunting license and tags

Optional Gear

- Range finder
- Shooting sticks (monopod or bi-pod)
- Maps of the area
- One roll of duct tape (you just never know)

Food

- Meals and snacks are provided

Cooking Utensils

- All are provided

Caring for Your Sheep Meat and Trophy

In the field, your guide will take great precautions to properly cut all your meat and make sure to follow the ADF&G guidelines to ensure there is no waste. Meat must come out of the field "ON THE BONE." New regulations are very stringent so as to prevent wanton waste.

Upon your return to Northway, you will probably want to further bone and process your meat for ease in shipping. There are no businesses in Northway that will do this work for you. On a guided hunt, you may ask your guide to help you with the meat for a fee. We have waxed corrugated boxes that we will sell to you. The meat will need to be inserted into plastic to prevent leakage before being inserted into the boxes. We have bags available as well.

You will want to cool your sheep meat as soon as possible. Your guide or Northern Air Trophy will offer you assistance if you end up delayed in Northway for a few days.

Caring for Your Trophy

You may package and ship your cape and horns back home (about \$175-225) or you may ask for a referral for the taxidermy. Shipping from Alaska plus the taxidermy will generally be about \$800. Your



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cape will be stored in a freezer at our base on the tarmac and your horns will be stored outside until the trophies from the entire season are shipped at one time to the taxidermist.

If you prefer to bring your trophy to your own taxidermist, we will help you obtain appropriate boxes and packing materials. Please note: capes must be carefully packaged so as not to leak blood and horns must be carefully wrapped so as not to protrude through the side of the box.

Airport & Airlines Considerations

Before your trip (and possibly before you book your flight), you will want to familiarize yourself with airport/airlines requirements for baggage weight and size, packaging firearms, packing ammunition, etc.

We've done some research to help you quickly and easily find the proper pages within the Web sites of each of the most common airlines that people use to travel here.

Baggage weight, size limitations, additional pricing:

Alaska Airlines: <http://www.alaskaair.com/as/www2/help/faqs/CheckedBaggage.asp>

Northwest Airlines: <http://www.nwa.com/travel/luggage/checked.html>

United Airlines:
<http://www.united.com/page/middlepage/0,6823,1031,00.html?navSource=Dropdown07&linkTitle=baggage>

American Airlines:
<http://www.aa.com/aa/i18nForward.do?p=/travelInformation/baggage/baggageAllowance.jsp&anchorEvent=false>

Sun Country: <http://www.suncountry.com/hometools/helpBaggage.shtml>

Firearms and ammunition:

Alaska Airlines: <http://www.alaskaair.com/as/www2/help/faqs/SportRelatedItems.asp>

Northwest Airlines: <http://www.nwa.com/travel/luggage/specialitems.html>

United Airlines: <http://www.united.com/page/article/0,6722,1035,00.html>

American Airlines:
<http://www.aa.com/aa/i18nForward.do?p=/travelInformation/baggage/firearms.jsp>



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Sun Country: <http://www.suncountry.com/hometools/helpBaggage.shtml#firearms>

Answering Questions

Should there be a question or two that is not answered here, you can always call Julie at Northern Air Trophy for assistance.

We appreciate your business and want to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.