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## Recommended Free Range Aoudad Hunt Equipment List

### General Considerations

Use all your gear before your trip. This especially applies to boots. New, not-worn-in boots can ruin a trip. Making sure your day pack fits well will make your trip more enjoyable.

The weather in January through March in West/North Texas is usually mild with daytime highs around 45-65 degrees and lows near freezing. However, you should be prepared for colder temps with a couple extra layers. Particularly in February and March we can get cold snaps in the 20's and 30's. Also, consider the wind that is prevalent almost every day.

**Stay away from cotton**, i.e. Carhartt, blue jeans, cotton socks, etc... When cotton gets wet it is useless and it will exacerbate suboptimal weather's effect on your body. Focus on wool and synthetics. There is a lot of newer technology clothing that is lightweight, packable, warm and dries quickly.

We recommend brands and models of specific gear in our lists. Do not construe these recommendations as the only option. We use these items personally. Because we do this for a living, our choices are on the more expensive end of the spectrum. There is always a range of prices on gear that will get the job done.

Don't hesitate to give us a call about any specific gear questions.



### **A Note on Rifle Marksmanship**

It is imperative that you shoot your rifle at the distances and angles you plan on hunting within, on the type of rest (shooting sticks, backpack, etc...) you plan on using. Do not consider yourself the exception. Beyond zeroing your rifle, flat 100 yard bench shooting is worthless for prepping for our hunting conditions. In the past few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in misses and poor shot placement on our hunts. Please practice before arrival. Marksmanship is a variable that you can control.

Most of our shots will be 150-450 yards. A proficient 350-yard-shooter can hold a 4" group at that range, in an angled environment, while shooting off a field rest (backpack, shooting, sticks, etc...). To achieve this takes dedicated practice.

If you want recommendations on shooting courses that are geared towards the mountain environment, give Cliff a call.



## **Boots and Footwear**

1 Primary pair of hiking boots.

- You can get away with a Merrel-type hiking boot but for some of the more rugged canyons it is nice to have a more serious boot.
- We use Hanwag Alaskas, Kenetrek Mountain Extremes, Scarpa Fuego or Wrangell, Lowa Tibets, and Meindle Alaska Hunters.
- As a less expensive option, many hunters are happy with Danner boots.
- Try to visit a retail location where you can try on different boot models. Fit is essential.
- In steep terrain, the rigidity of the sole is more important than the boot height. Wearing boots that are uncomfortably high can cause “shin bump”, an uncomfortable sore spot on your shins.

4-5 Pair primary socks

- Best option is wool. Mid-weight socks like Darn Tough are perfect.

Gators (Optional)

- Great in snow and/or rain. Also great when dealing with high, frosty or dewy vegetation
- Keep your boots and feet dryer
- Protects your pants from burrs/thorns that Texas is known for

Snake Boots (Optional)

- We don't run into snakes until late March. If your hunt is in that timeframe, snake boots are added protection.

## **Base Clothing**

**Bring quiet gear. If it goes “swoosh” when you move, don't bring it.**

## **Daily Layers**

1-2 Mid-weight hunting shirts

2 Pair mid-weight hunting pants

- Sitka, Kuiu, Kryptek and other brands produce great pants. Focus on mid-weight pants.
- Texas vegetation, below the knees, is brutal on pants. Consider durable pants or make sure you have some gaiters/brushguards.



### **3 Layer Outerwear System**

1 Lightweight fleece or soft-shell jacket

- Wind resistance is important

1 PrimaLoft or similar insulating layer

- Down and PrimaLoft will keep you the warmest. Other synthetic insulations by Kuiu and Sitka work well.
- Pantagonia Nano Puff, Mountain Hardware Compressor, Kuiu insulation layers, and Sitka insulation layers are good options

1 Heavy hunting jacket for cold weather

- Wool or wool/synthetic is best.
- Cabelas Outfitter's Woolmite/Windshear Jacket is a good option. Kuiu Guide Jacket
- Needs to have wind stopping attributes.

### **Other Clothing**

Pair of gloves

- We prefer glommits because they allow us to use our fingers. Cabelas Big Game Glommits are a good choice.
- Learn to quickly/safely remove or shoot your gun with your chosen gloves. Sometimes this means removing the trigger finger part of your glove and/or glove liner.

1 Warm hat and/or baclava



## Hunting Gear

### Rifle and all accessories

- Your scope is more important than your rifle.
  - Fog proof, waterproof and lowlight performance are important
  - Adjustable 3x-9x-40 or similar optics work fine. Don't skimp on low light capability for a huge zoom. Extreme zooms with small objectives are worthless.
  - Use high quality mounts. Getting into these areas can be a rough ride and your gun/scope will probably take some bumps.
- .270 is the minimum caliber we like to see people shoot.
  - The most important thing is that you are comfortable and accurate with your gun.
  - In our experience, large calibers cause more inaccuracy because people train themselves to flinch.
  - If you can't sit down and comfortably shoot 15 rounds, you are using too large of a caliber for you.
  - If you are not a trained long range shooter, sight your gun in at 2 inches high at 100 yards. On flat shooting calibers this means you can hold right on for any distance between 100-300 yards.
  - If you plan to shoot further than 350 yards, you need to have experience in mountain conditions at longer ranges. Wind is a considerable variable at these distances.

20 Rounds of ammo

Wind indicator

Do not bring a pistol. It is just added weight and will not protect you any better than your rifle.

## Tool Gear

### Binoculars

- Your optics are the second most important piece of gear, right behind boots.
- We have had good luck with the top models from Nikon. Swarovski and other euro glass optics are worth the money if you plan to use them for years of hunting.
- Low-light performance is important.
- Nikon Trailblazer 10x50s that are waterproof and Leupold Compacts are good mid-range options. SLC and EL Swaros are good high-end optics.
- Cliff guides using 8x42 ELs because he prefers the light gathering of a 5mm+ exit pupil.

One of the best high-end optics dealers on the planet is Jaret Owens in Ojai, CA. Jaret has a lifetime of guiding under his belt, has unbeatable pricing and treats people well. Give him a call at 805-551-6815 and tell him Colorado Cliff sent you.

### Binocular Harness

### Shooting Sticks

- Practice shooting on them
- Great for stabilizing binoculars while glassing

### Rangefinder (optional)

- Vortex makes an economical, high-quality range finder. Several of the European glass brands have nice range finding binoculars.

### Day pack

- A comfortable pack for short hikes

### Camera/Smartphone

- Bring your charger and/or spare batteries

### Water bottle and/or hydration bladder



## Personal Gear

### Personal Hygiene and Medication Items

- Make sure you have enough of any prescriptions
- If you have had anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) to bees or other insects, please carry an Epi-Pen at all times.
- Pepto-Bismol and other routine medications can be helpful

### Chapstick and Sunscreen

An extra pair of eye glasses or contacts if you wear them

### Sun Glasses

Texas Special Hunting License – Covers exotics

Any remaining payment for your trip

- **We will not start the hunt until you have completely paid for their trip.**
- Cash preferred. Cashier's checks are OK. **We do not accept personal checks or credit cards for the remaining balance at the start of the hunt.**