



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**

Hunting Consultants ♦ Butte, Montana

GENERAL HUNTING

INFORMATION

To hunt good trophies is admirable; but to have an unrealistic ego problem is something else. This is hunting, not buying animals off the shelf. If you take an observer, expect to lose some opportunities. If you share a guide, you may lose some opportunities, but you might save some money and it might bring you happiness to be with your friend. We do not want your friend to suddenly become your enemy and ruin everybody's hunt.

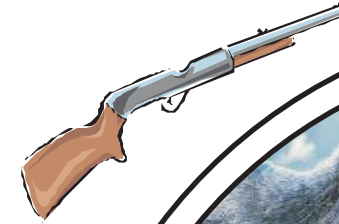


If anyone is difficult and hard to get along with, do not send us a deposit.

This is not Disney World with a controlled environment. Hunting is an adventure in the unknown.

If you want to hunt and to be pleasant, we have a place for you. If not, don't come. If booze makes you mean, leave it behind. If you are not tough, don't book a tough hunt.

It is amazing what a smile and an honest effort can do. Sulking people can't see game on the mountain if they are staring at their shoes. Smiling people look up and around. They see more. Their guide works harder too.



Worldwide Hunting Since 1955

☒ **More On Equipment** – If you are staying in a lodge, the food and beds are usually excellent. This can vary as to the client’s taste and how experienced or durable the client is. Opinions vary. The quality of food and bed seems to be directly related to weather, game taken, and who shot the game. Digestive systems are peculiar. Take a good supply of candy, junk food snacks, and a pint plastic canteen to take Tang or juices with you for lunch. Lunch usually consists of sandwiches, cookies, and fresh or canned fruit. Spike camps are spartan. You absolutely must have proper shoes, rain gear, and sleeping gear. Ask your outfitter what his plans are. If you are not the outdoor type, or are fussy, you should look into this more in-depth. Don’t buy cheap equipment. We might caution you – if you are trying to dry out clothes, don’t place them too near the stove. Some fabrics, particularly some of the new synthetics, seem to catch fire and a few tents are burned down every year. Countless gloves and socks are burned. If you are hunting an area that is quite brushy, you should wear wool or fleece as much as possible. Sometimes sound carries great distances when you rub up against branches. Quiet rain gear is a must.

You must have quality rain gear. **Wet hunters are unhappy hunters.**

If you forgot your raincoat, you can actually improvise with a large garbage bag or chunk of plastic draped over your shoulders for a parka-like effect. We want to emphasize again that getting wet is easy. Drying out is sometimes very difficult in cold weather. If you are wet and cold, stop to build a fire. There is something about a fire that makes people feel secure. It almost seems to give hunters new hope. It is comforting – a friend. It also gives a hunter time to sit down and relax, or toast a sandwich on a stick over the coals. Fires are also ideal for burning the fingers off your gloves or melting the rubber from the soles of your boots. Be careful. We don’t think that natural wood smoke affects wildlife to any degree, but smoke is always a good topic of conversation. Cigarette smoke may smell different to wild game, but smokers usually huff and puff a lot and are out of shape.

☒ **What’s To Eat In Hunting Camp?** – Generally speaking, you eat about the same food in any hunting camp worldwide as you would at home. There seems to be only so many types of food available in this world, and it seems like we all eat about the same things. The average morning starts out with hotcakes, eggs, bacon or ham, fresh toast, various types of cereal, milk, and fruit. Coffee, tea, and fruit juices are popular worldwide. The important thing is to ask your outfitter about meals if you are particular. But remember, in most cases, you are not eating in a restaurant; it is a hunting camp. We don’t get many complaints on camp cooks. The dinner meals are generally the same everywhere. You can expect to have pork, chicken, beef, spaghetti, stew, vegetables, and dessert, and probably some of the wild game that has been shot on previous hunts. Fresh vegetables are a problem unless you are in a camp with some type of refrigeration. On some African safaris, vegetables are grown in camp. Obviously there are not many refrigerators when you are using horses or staying in a remote cabin in Alaska or British Columbia, and certainly not in any spike camps any place. But the outfitters do try. If you are out in a spike camp, you can expect to eat a lot of canned or dehydrated foods in some cases. For lunches, if you are in a base camp, you will probably have hot soups and sandwiches.

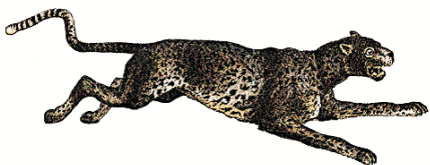
☒ **Traveling with Prescription Drugs** - Do not risk having your prescription drugs confiscated at customs. Bring a letter from your doctor stating the reason you are taking the medication, type of illness the medication is prescribed for, and the prescription. All medications **MUST** be in the original bottle from the pharmacy with the information on the front of the bottle. If you are diabetic, bring a letter from your doctor stating the type of diabetic, insulin prescription, and method of injection. Plan ahead.

Smile!
Life is too short to waste!



If you are an older person, have physical or weight problems; if you are inexperienced, or if you are a marathon runner, come along. We welcome you. We will work with you. If you have a spouse or other companion observer who wants to accompany you on this hunt, that is fine also.

Remember - Our Hunts Are Fair Chase Hunts



The people who go want a challenge; they do not expect guaranteed game. They expect an adventure that can include mountains, rocks, trees, fog, snow, wind, rain, droughts, flat tires, possible danger, lost horses, etc., as well as a good time. About 95% have a wonderful outdoor adventure, get their game, and want to go again. However, a few of the observers or hunters are obstinate, unrealistic individuals who have a history of problems. They bring all of their business problems and personal problems with them, making everyone in camp miserable whether they get game or not. If someone gets a bigger buck, they sulk.

We do not want our valued clients to be unhappy. We do not want to be unhappy. Therefore, if you have a party member who is likely to be difficult, do us all a favor and do not take them. We do not want people who are known to be difficult to take any of our hunts.
Life is too short to put up with this kind of baloney.

Take extra batteries. If any game is taken on a dull day, brighten it up with a flash photo, even if you don't think a flash is necessary. Take one or two just to be sure. Spend some time looking for opportunities to take good shots. Be sure the sunlight is behind you with the best light on the subject. Cut down some bushes and some grass to make the picture look better. Try to stay out of the shade; sunlight is important, but not always necessary. Take pictures not only of the game and the horses, but lots of scenery. Take more than you think you will ever need. Only one picture out of 20 comes out worth a darn. It is not wrong to shoot animals to manage or harvest the surplus. Sometimes it is a crime the way pictures are taken. The animal deserves great respect. Posing is important. The people in the picture are important. It looks terrible to see someone over a magnificent lion or bear wearing a t-shirt advertising some bar and grill in Reno, Nevada. They look more like bums than professionals. It is time to return to tradition. All of these pictures can only be taken once. One picture is worth a thousand words.

❑ **Insurance** - Check insurance possibilities on all facets of your hunting trip. For instance, if you leave the U.S. and travel to Canada, or any other foreign country, is your health insurance valid? You may need to contact your insurance company and obtain a rider in case you are injured abroad.

❑ **Personal Belongings** - Personal belongings such as rifles, hunting equipment, etc., can be expensive. If they are lost or stolen on an airline, airlines rarely offer their true dollar value. Obtain a rider on your expensive optics, rifles, etc. Call your insurance agent.

❑ **Shipment of Hunting Trophies** - So, you have taken your trophies and you are ready to have them shipped home. Be certain that you insure the trophies for the replacement cost of the hunting trip. The insurance is inexpensive. Trophies are rarely lost, but take precautions. Make certain that your taxidermist, outfitter, airline, and any shipping company also insures your trophies. Skins can be damaged by moisture, mice, insects or the rigors of transportation. Insurance is your only course of action and is **YOUR** responsibility.



Now days, down payments on most hunts are non refundable, as are hunting licenses, commercial flights, hotels, etc.

Note to Hunters Traveling with Firearms!

- ❑ Obtain a passport. You CANNOT travel without one!
- ❑ You must register your firearms with U.S. Customs. This gives you proof of ownership and is required to bring your firearms back into the U.S. Failure to do this could result in delay and frustration, and possible seizure of your firearms.
- ❑ Canada requires two locks on the gun case. This is defined as a gun case that is locked, plus a trigger lock on the firearm. A trigger lock is not a bad idea for sportsmen traveling anywhere. The less an airline can find fault with, the better!
- ❑ Ammunition must be packed in a lockable box with key and placed in the checked luggage. Ammo found in checked luggage in a manufacturers box or just thrown in may be taken out and put into a plastic bag and sent to the next destination. New restrictions allow only 11 pounds of ammo to be shipped by each passenger.

If you are in the field, you will probably have cold sandwiches, unless you decide to build a fire. The outfitter usually provides candy bars, an apple or orange, or perhaps a small can of fruit juice. Take your canteen on all hunting trips and a 2 quart is a MUST! If you are a "muncher", take extra snacks or candy with you. Don't plan on drinking much alcohol. You are there to hunt.

❑ **Confusion** – What appears to be confusion to the client is not really confusion at all to the outfitter. It is just the way things are done or the way things happen in the hunting world. Be patient.

❑ **Safety** – Very, very few people ever get hurt on these hunts, but be careful. Think before you do anything. The outfitter cannot warn you of everything. Common sense prevails.

❑ **Walk** – If you plan to hunt, any hunt can become vigorous without notice. The unexpected is fairly normal, but it seems most people survive and re-book. Most doctors agree that regular, repeated exercise throughout life is important to sound muscles, efficient lungs, and a strong heart. Combined with rest and proper diet, exercise can slow the gradual descent into physical deterioration that begins for most people around age 25. Get in shape or you may not get any game. Not being able to get people to walk even short distances is a major problem.

❑ **Tipping** – Hard to make suggestions about, but we are constantly asked. It is not required, but Americans usually tip the guide, cook, and helper. Each client usually leaves 5 to 10% of the hunt cost for the guide; \$100 to \$200 for the cook; and \$100 or more for most other camp helpers. This is for a 7 to 10 day hunt. If you are there longer, or extra satisfied, you might want to leave more. It is up to you. If you are not satisfied at all, leave nothing. In Africa, the staff expects tipping. In fact, tipping helps keep down poaching. The professional hunter usually gets \$100 to \$150 per day. The staff, five to seven people at each camp you visit, get about \$100 per day split between them total. Discuss the tips to the professional hunter, who will allocate the tips. We can tell you that a good guide works hard for the client. Most guides are underpaid for the hours they work. The costs to run most hunting camps are immense. Most outfitters never get rich; they love their work. They must, or else they would give up guiding for something more profitable. Be kind to your guide.



❑ **Above Average** – If you want or expect more equipment, more guides, better accommodations, something more than the outfitter would normally furnish, you had better tell the outfitter before the hunt begins. If you are expecting more trophies, bigger trophies, rare trophies, animals of unusual size or color, big elk, big grizzly, big lion, big leopard, big buck deer, etc., more time and effort may be required. In fact, you may have to book more than one hunt to even get your chance. I have never met an animal yet that cared how much you spent to hunt him.

❑ **Observers, Spouses & Children** – Any hunting companions who go with a hunter will probably find that it is not quite the same as a guided tour of Hawaii. In some cases there is really not much to do for a non-hunter on certain trips. Inquire before you go. If you take children with you, you are totally responsible for their care. Most guides and outfitters are not set up as guardians or babysitters. If you cannot control your children, leave them at home.



Before you take any observer with you on a hunting trip, be sure you know the observer. Some people are not the outdoor type, while others are only the outdoor type as long as the weather is good, or there are a lot of fun things to do. Sometimes there is a little fishing or someone to talk to in the hunting camp; sometimes not. Sometimes things change from day to day. These are not dude ranches, or are they really prepared for non-hunting guests. Children and spouses can enjoy these outdoor experiences if they are the outdoor type, but sometimes they can become very bored, particularly if the weather is bad. There are various hazards that spouses and children may not be familiar with and there is not always someone around to explain this. However, this does vary from person to person. I have seen some pretty tough observers in my time; some of them were a lot tougher than the hunter. There is a great possibility that you will lose some hunting time because of observers. On the other hand, I know a great many people, including myself, who would rather give up some of their hunting time just to enjoy the experience of having the family with them.

❑ **Allergies** – If you have any allergies, be sure the outfitter knows about it, and that you have given notice in your wallet or other identification band.

❑ **Air Charter** – In many cases, some hunting areas are impossible to reach without the use of charter aircraft. In many remote areas worldwide, you fly by commercial aircraft to the nearest large airport. Your outfitter, who may be a pilot, will pick you up and fly you to the area, or a charter company may be necessary. The cost of this charter depends on the type of aircraft and the number of people sharing the plane. It also depends on how much baggage is being transported. Some people take an awful lot of baggage. Try to limit the weight of your baggage to 75 pounds or less. In all areas, if you are flying meat, horns, or souvenirs at the end of the trip, it may require a second flight at your expense. Weather conditions and high mountains are also influencing factors in what type of plane takes you out and back. Cool air in the morning is usually less turbulent. Be sure to verify the cost before you fly. Take nothing for granted.



❑ **Trophy Preparation & Shipment** – Call your taxidermist. They should provide you with instructions on their preferred trophy shipment recommendations in the field. It is a good idea to keep an eye on what is going on. Be sure the trophies are skinned right, fleshed right, and heavily salted, and put out of the way of hungry predators and rodents. They will salt and dry your trophy and saw off the horns. If the trophies are very large or record class, crates will be built and they can be shipped to your taxidermist or your home. All crating, expediting and shipping is at your expense. You need to discuss this with your taxidermist well in advance. Many outfitters do not ship until the end of the season, so some months may go by before your trophies are received. Your outfitter, or his expeditor, usually takes care of getting the necessary export papers that may be required if you are taking trophies home with you. Remember that all species require some sort of license and an import or export permit. Inquire to the local game department. Some remote areas, like parts of Africa, can be a little confusing, but invariably your outfitter will handle this.

❑ **Airline Tickets** - We can recommend Gracy Travel International, Inc. (800-299-8558) for air transportation, hotel arrangements, and car rentals, whatever you might need to get to and from the hunting area. We do not care who books your transportation, if they are qualified. But past experience has shown that many local travel agencies make a horrible mess out of an itinerary for clients going into remote areas. Your local agent may be great for arranging tickets between New York and Los Angeles, something that does not require too much thought. But if you are going to book out-of-the way airline tickets, you have to be a bit worldly and know something about the customs of the land you are going to. Travel is a combination of great adventure, confusion, and hassles. Be careful of the discount tickets. They are not very flexible. You may have to pay considerably more if, for some reason, you do not make your return flight on the original dates booked. With weather conditions and, again remembering the remoteness of the areas, it is fairly common to miss flights.

❑ **A Satellite Telephone** company can be contacted for satellite telephone rental. This company can be reached by telephone 800-503-3433; or e-mail Tmerrill@daywireless.com. OR www.daywireless.com



❑ **How To Make An Outfitter Happy!**-- Take newspapers, three or four kinds. Take magazines like Newsweek, Time, and a variety of women's magazines. Fresh news is always welcome. Do some walking and practice shooting before you get there. Leave troublesome friends at home. Leave a tip for the staff and your guide. Don't rely too much on suggestions from people who have little real experience. Listen to your guide, he/she might know what they are talking about. Talk to references. Don't take too much equipment. We find people take three times more than what they can possibly use. Understand that wild animals are just that, and weather can make one person's hunt and ruin another, even in the same camp on the same day. Respect the animal you hunt. Take enough time. Real life is not a dress rehearsal.

❑ **Out of Touch With The World** - When you leave your home for a remote area, don't be surprised to find it remote. There are few telephones, and radio communications can be intermittent. You should leave a name and address where your family can reach you in case of an emergency. Ask your outfitter. However, it is always possible to find anyone in a worst-case situation. Helicopters can be sent to most areas in case of accident or to deliver emergency messages. This can be expensive, but if the situation warrants, it can be done. If someone cannot stand the thought of being out of touch, they had best not go.

❑ **Cameras** - Most hunters take along a lot of junk equipment on hunting trips and some of the worst junk of all is the camera. People save for years to go hunting and preserve the memory, yet take along a third-rate camera and maybe only take one or two pictures. Digital cameras using non-rechargeable, disposable batteries are best.

