

SKULL



AN OUTFITTER'S JOURNAL



TAKE YOUR
BEST
SHEEP

SPECIAL EDITION

SHHC
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Aoudad *in* *style*



Aoudad (Barbary Sheep) haven't been one of my all-time, must-do hunts, in fact, until I lost a dear friend and mentor it just wasn't on my mind. Fortunately, his son and a few close hunting buddies decided we needed to take a trip in honor of our lost comrade and suddenly a trip to hunt aoudad and javelina would materialize. In mid-January of 2021 we set course for West Texas to hunt a 30,000 acre ranch where a friend was looking to take a ranch manager position. He would interview and then the group would embark on a 3 day/4 night hunt for aoudad and javelina.

We all decided to meet in a small town not far from the Mexican border and then caravan to the ranch. After a short 30 min drive we arrived at "camp", which was 5-star accommodations tucked deep into the West Texas landscape. We never really discussed the details of the lodging, it was just mentioned that they had a place for us to stay....I figured, good enough for me. To our surprise, the lodging was incredible, the area rich with history, and even though we were arriving on the tail-end of season there were still some very big rams still roaming. This place was incredible!





Over the next 3 days we all tagged out. Opening day I chased a big ram with my bow, but couldn't get off a shot at 50 yards. The rest of the group went on a tour to look for more rams and ended up finding two shooters and the other aoudad hunter ended up shooting an awesome 29" ram. While I waited to be picked up a group of javelina fed out into an opening just a few hundred yards from me. I quickly grabbed my gear and hurried to get into position. After weaving through some of the desert tangle, I closed the distance to 35 yards. I sent an arrow at the largest boar and after he dropped the group scattered. To my surprise, the group calmed down and numerous javelina returned to investigate. At 45 yards I pancaked the second largest boar. Two javelina down back-to-back and I was tagged out! Shortly after, my ride showed up, we loaded the two boars, and then headed to the downed ram to assist with retrieval. Not a bad first day!

On day two we searched for a big ram the ranch manager had seen the night before, but with no luck. We left the area and went to the more mountainous side of the ranch to look for additional rams. We quickly found three rams that were right around the 28-29" mark. I gave them a hard look but elected to pass. Shortly after, one of the guys connected on a javelina while we glassed for sheep. Over the next ridge we stopped briefly to take in the view when one of the guys spotted a group of sheep. We all threw up optics and almost simultaneously said, "That's a shooter!" I made a crawl to the crest of a ridge and soon connected on my first Barbary Sheep! The ram broke 30" on one side and 31" on the other. Not bad for day two!

On day three one of the guys doubled up on javelina and another connected on an Barbary ewe. We were never short on action. Aside





from great hunting, we had countless laughs at the lodge each night and lived like kings. I'm grateful for the trip and certainly have new respect for Barbary Sheep. I already have plans for a trio of big rams in the trophy room. Looking forward to 2022!

At Sandy Hills we're always looking to extend opportunities. The challenge is finding quality places that offer quality animals and experiences. After hunting this ranch I was eager to discuss the possibility of leasing a portion of the aoudad and javelina hunting for our clients. I called Jeremy and

after some discussion with the ranch manager we were able to secure a limited number of hunts each year for our clients and potential clients. This place is special and if you're looking for a quality aoudad and javelina hunt, it's worth giving us a call. There's certainly opportunities to hunt many other species as well.

The ranch and accommodations are also family-friendly. They offer horseback riding, mountain biking, guided tours, and skeet shooting among other things. It certainly has something for everyone!

