





HUNT ID: AK-CARIBOU-DIY-EBUEKOTZ-AR-EILASH

Would you like to shoot a Caribou in Northern Alaska? How about in a place so densely populated with Caribou that you can be self-guided and shoot 1 instead of 2 Caribou. Why is the area so densely populated? Because we put you where they are densely populated and select it before we touch down to land at the best location. We put you in the area right in front of the migrating herd. How do we know? We fly the area every day. We “leap frog” in front of a migrating herd of 350,000 head of caribou coming your way. You can shoot any two that you want. This is the largest caribou herd in Alaska and the US. No increase in price for a second Caribou although you must purchase a second Caribou license from the state for \$325 each. We do recommend you have a wolf license \$ 30, because with the caribou come the predators that live on the caribou, the wolves, of course no extra charge to shoot a wolf either.

Think of this a 7 day Caribou hunt in Alaska, not Canada flight in and out, camp needs and meals \$ 6300 for 1 hunter or reduced down to only \$3495 per person if 2 or more hunters. There are lower 48 states deer hunts at that price and you can only take 1 deer, this is 2 caribou for each person!

Alaska is known for its flying insects so we wait until the first freeze to take them out of the picture. Our Velvet hunt is the last week in August. Then we have hard horn hunts through the end of August. The hunts are a 7 day drop off hunt. We provide all of the gear for your camp. You will be flown into the bush with up to 70 pounds of your personal gear along with your camp gear and food. Before landing you will be shown from the air the mass of caribou coming toward the location that you will make camp. The place is decided on not because historically it is a good spot but because it is where the caribou must migrate through.

Returning with your antlers you can have them shipped in a special crate for \$ 250-\$400 depending on the size and weight. You can also cut across the skull cap, so the antlers are separated, and then pack one on top of the other. Take them up and they can go as baggage or shipped for about ½ price. The taxidermist can reconnect them when they are being mounted. If you want to cape out the head you can do so to take the cape home. The days and nights are cool enough that it will quickly cool out. It can then be packed with the antlers or separate for the flight home. If you want to take the meat it can be shipped on your plane for \$75 per 100 pounds. You need to bone the meat out and let it cool in camp until the pickup date. If you don't want to take all of the meat home we are required by Alaska Game and Fish to bring back any eatable portion. If you don't want to fly it home we have a donation program.

What is the cost ? It is \$ 6300 for 1 hunter or reduced down to only \$3495 per person if 2 or more hunters. This is \$ 1800 per caribou a price that can be beat nowhere. Today this is one of the very few location that have so many caribou that hunters are able to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> caribou , and that includes Canada which currently is having lack of caribou population problems making a single caribou the standard on their hunts. This is a medium exertion hunt because it is a walking hunt you will be where no one has ever driven a truck or car in history. You are just north of the Arctic Circle for 7 days somewhat near a town called Kotzebue, Alaska. Out here there is a lot of land between towns so there is a lot of everything called around Kotzebue. More important than where you are where the migrating herd is located.

This hunt is much like a lower 48 states antelope hunt. You climb to the highest ground with Binoculars and a spotting scope. From there you will see the mass of caribou coming toward you. Then with the spotting scope decide which caribou you want and put a stalk on them for a shot.

Our job, as your transporter, is to keep track of the caribou, allowing us to situate you in the best place for a successful hunt.

Our Alaska caribou hunt season gets started the end of August and runs through the end of September for a couple of reasons:

- - Antlers have shed their velvet and have turned hard.
- - The animals haven't gone into their rut yet, so the meat is still good.
- - The migration south from the North Slope is in full force, so the odds of seeing larger numbers of animals while you're in the field are higher!

## HUNTING SEASON

Caribou season begins in mid-August; our hunts begin with drop-offs in late August, with the potential for the season to last through the end of September. Within this time frame the caribou have begun shedding their velvet, their huge antlers are hard, and the migration is working its way through the drop zones that are best for our clients. As a bonus, the infamous bugs that Alaska is known for are all but non-existent since the season is cooler than the summer months, thus making your unguided Alaska caribou hunt that much better!

As an experienced hunter, you know we cannot guarantee a successful harvest, but we will give you the best opportunity to secure a set of antlers. However, your trip is less about the trophy and more about the experience of sharing in the wonder and exhilaration of the hunt. Caribou hunting in Alaska has a long history, going back to the Ice Age. The caribou is an animal that has been a major resource for humans in a large geographic area and across a time span of tens of thousands of years. Our work with you continues that ancient caribou hunting tradition.

Alaska holds 13 caribou herds; a combined population total of 600,000. They remain a continuous source of meat for Eskimos, Indians, and other dwellers north of the Yukon. However, the expansion of industrial developments and inhabitancy has threatened the future status of this big-game species. Because of this, it's important to understand the migration patterns of the caribou so they may be better protected.

Throughout the year, caribou remain in constant motion. Though they visit a wide variety of areas, a certain rhythm and pattern is apparent in their movements. These primary movements seemed to be ruled by the seasonal energy needs of the species. Dietary requirements are at its peak during the spring/summer when caribou must fulfill the demands of antler development, calving, lactation, and shedding. The movement patterns reflect this, as caribou progress to areas containing a high abundance of quality vegetation. September marks the species drift towards winter ranges. During the winter months, caribou enter a state of dormancy where there's a diminished food, growth, and metabolic rate. The four largest herds are described in detail below.

You will be hunting Alaska's northwestern caribou are known as the arctic herd. They occupy a range of 140,000 square miles north of the Arctic Circle. The primary winter range of the arctic herd of caribou, is south of Brooks Range. If the snow conditions aren't particularly harsh, then the herd will go deep into the forest zone. If the conditions are severe, then the herd will remain within the mountain of the Arctic Slope. In March, when spring movement begins, the herd will move to their respective calving grounds up north. This area is located along the waters of Colville, Ketik, Meade, and Utukok. The summer distribution is rather random, with caribou being found anywhere west of the Sagavanirktok River.

Your unguided caribou hunt in Alaska begins when you touch down in Kotzebue, after your flight from Anchorage. Kotzebue is the gateway to the Arctic and before nightfall your camp will be set up in one of the most remote areas of the world, the arctic tundra. The stark landscape is home to the large and majestic caribou. Also during the hunting season you will most likely see the famous "northern lights."

The caribou migration is one of the great marvels of North American wildlife. Because of their large size, it's a fact that caribou are fast; they can run up to 50 miles per hour. They often have been known to go as far as 35 miles a day. Though there are a wide range of Alaskan caribou, our focus is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the largest caribou herd in Alaska, with estimates of 350,000 members. They are primarily known as the barren-ground subspecies, the largest antlered subspecies of Caribou and are prized for the large antlers of the bull. Herd numbers are cyclical and the total estimates affect each year's harvest quota. Very often people still confuse these animals as their counterpart, the reindeer.

Although in Alaska, that name "Reindeer" is used for a more domesticated variety that is often herded by native peoples or more popularly known as "Rudolf, Dancer, Prancer & Vixon"! On average, hunters harvest about 16,000 caribou in Alaska each year and our work is to help you in this harvest.

#### QUICK CARIBOU FACTS

- - The Western Arctic Caribou Herd is made up of over 350,000 caribou – The largest herd in Alaska
- - Caribou can run up to 50 mph and can travel up to 35 miles a day
- - Adult males weigh up to 500 pounds, yielding up to 150 pounds of meat
- - Antlers can grow up to 4 feet long from left to right – an excellent trophy!

#### THE CARIBOU HERD

An adult male can weigh as much as 500 pounds and be over five feet tall at the shoulder – Keep in mind: Once you have them down and have dressed them, you should only be dealing with approximately 125 – 150 pounds of meat. They are also known for their unique antlers, which can grow 3-1/2 feet long and over 4 feet from left to right. They are second in size only to moose antlers. Unusual, but true; female caribou also have antlers, unlike most other deer.

The caribou herd ranges over approximately 140,000 square miles of northwestern Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game provide caribou hunting maps along with their hunting numbers and units. In the spring, they travel north toward their caribou calving grounds, including the Brooks Range and its northern foothills. Each herd uses its own unique calving area, but different herds may mix together while on their winter ranges. Many herds winter in the boreal forest, but during the remainder of the year caribou prefer treeless tundra and mountains. During summer, the herd moves westward toward the Lisburne Hills and then switches eastward back through the Brooks Range. The mountainous Brooks Range has more shelter and is a better feeding ground during the winter. The caribou use their large hooves to scoop through loose snow to find plants to eat. Throughout the year, caribou tend to favor the leaves of willows, sedges, flowering tundra plants, and mushrooms, but subsist mainly on lichens in the winter months. By fall, the herd splits and travels in groups that number in the hundreds, moving to their wintering areas.

You are an experienced hunter, but you are ready for the next challenge. You want to visit the remote Arctic and test your hunting skills, away from your daily routine. When you are taking an Alaskan hunting trip it demands a lot of preparation by the hunter to make the trip as enjoyable as possible. Your success not only depends on the location of the hunt but also your physical, mental and logistical planning. The worst thing that most hunters do before taking their Alaska hunting trip is underestimating how much walking/hiking they will do. Sometimes in order to find the perfect trophy you have to walk through dense alder thickets, muskegs and even cross creeks not to mention maybe even hiking up a mountain each day. But even if you get lucky and find your trophy bull near your camp, the real work will begin after you've taken your shot and now have to clean and pack up your kill. Starting a physical regiment 4 to 6 months before your trip will have you better prepared for the Alaskan tundra.

Your time here is the opportunity of a lifetime; to continue the tradition of caribou hunting that has existed for eons. Your adventure requires nerve, skill, and even some guidance. We are here to help make your experience as successful as possible. We have satellite Phones available for rental during your hunt.

On these Alaskan caribou hunts, we have been taking hunters into the wild from Kotzebue longer than anyone else. We learned our trade working with some of the legendary bush pilots years ago. In the same tradition, many of the other transporters in the area learned the trade working with us, but we are still your best source for guidance in this challenging environment.

When you are out in the arctic you have to be prepared for anything. Our experience is essential to your trip. As a path to preparation, we have brought together some of the things we have learned and made them available on this website. Browse this website, follow the links, view the images, and download the "Welcome Pack." Your Alaska caribou hunting adventure begins with proper planning and now is the time to get started! When you're ready, we'll be waiting.

**GAME MEAT CARE IN THE FIELD**

Alaska regulations stipulate that you must salvage all caribou meat, moose meat and all other edible meat from your big game animals, with only a few exceptions. Before you head into the field, make sure you have all the proper tools for meat and trophy care and know both the regulations on how to field dress and care for meat. The basic tenants of meat care are to keep meat cool, clean, and dry. The greatest threat to meat is heat. Remove the hide quickly and get the meat away from internal organs. Rinse off any rumen, bile, or urine that gets on the meat. As you work, keep the meat out of the sun; use tarps to create shade. If necessary, you can bag the meat in plastic bags and put in cool water for less than an hour to cool the meat. In all cases, thoroughly dry the meat, and put it into cotton game bags that allow air to circulate to the meat. Bag all of your meat before you take your first load back to camp. Once you are back at your camp, hang the bagged meat off the ground in a tree or on a rack. This helps keep the meat cool and clean. Hang the meat close enough to your camp to keep an eye on it, but far enough away to be safe from aggressive bears. Once all the meat is hung, remove the meat bags and spray the meat generously with a citric acid/water mixture. The citric acid will slow down bacteria growth that spoils meat and helps to deter flies from laying their eggs on the meat. The mixture will dry quickly. Once meat is dry, reinsert it into meat bags. Check on the meat daily and be sure it's all kept cool and dry. Prepared properly, your Alaskan caribou meat or game meat will keep for a week or more in the field. Make sure to keep up and read the official Department of Fish and Game website for regular updates and changes.

To know more about hunting Alaska caribou, moose or bear make sure to check the Federal wildlife regulations site.

#### UNGUIDED CARIBOU HUNTS IN ALASKA CAN BE RIFLE OR BOW HUNTS

Some bow hunting tips for when you take your Alaska Hunting Adventure!

Don't forget to pack your bow and arrows and catch a bull while going Caribou bow hunting on your unguided Alaska hunting trip. Be prepared to train your hand eye coordination and pack up the right equipment for the hunt.

Each DIY hunt group is required to bring a satellite phone in the field with them. They can rent them from where they live and/or in Anchorage before they arrive in Kotzebue. We do not have any reason to call them on the phone; this is simply from a safety perspective. They can call our number anytime they are in the field and get an answer on the phone. Also, we like to have them call in the morning they are scheduled to come out of the field so we know what the weather is doing where they are and how many animals they have down – for planning purposes.

No, we book our hunts as either Guided or "Do It Yourself" – due to the State of Alaska Rules and Regulations surrounding the Guide Use Areas, etc. If hunters are avid hunters who hunt Deer and Elk in the lower 48's and they do these hunts on their own .... They won't have ANY issues with an Alaskan Caribou Hunt. They are a great introduction to the Alaskan hunts. It is much easier than lower 48 states deer and elk hunts because it is very visual. You will fly over the migrating herd of Caribou and where you land is selected by the caribou's location not historical camps. You can't hunt the same day as you fly so you have plenty of time to get your camp set up we provide everything except for your personal

gear. The 1<sup>st</sup> morning hike to the highest local point and set up with binoculars and spotting scopes and start watching caribou. There will be bulls, cows and calves. Ideally if you get some idea on how to judge caribou racks on the hoof you will be well ahead of the game. You want to look for good uppers and double shovels. Most caribou seem to have 1 or the other but not both. You may see a good single shovel and good uppers that is a great animal; you can have 2 licenses so you can shoot 1 and always have a second to go. The wolves travel with their food source, the caribou so it is not unusual to see a wolf while you are on the hunt. In Alaska you can shoot a wolf, black bear or a wolverine instead of a caribou on your caribou license because they are “lesser” animals, see the regulations for details. The wolves are common the black bears and Wolverines are not, but we do see a few each year. You can also get a wolf license so that your two caribou licenses can be used for caribou. License prices are very reasonable with the Caribou license being only \$ 325 and all of the others are less. 50% of the time we put you close to a stream so grayling and other fish are possible, but our primary location for your camp is to be right in the migration path of the caribou.

If this sounds like a lower 48 antelope hunt it is very much like it. If you have never hunted antelope but sit on a point waiting for deer to point it is much like that. Good binoculars are essential because you will be looking at a lot of caribou trying to determine which is the biggest before leaving your hill for the stalk. It is not unusual for a bunch of 5 or so bulls to all be the same ages so if you decide on a big one watch the company he keeps also, as birds of a feather.

Prepare for the weather and depending on the time of the season you hunt, it can vary from 40's to 50's during the day at the beginning of the season, dropping into the 30's at night – to 30's and 40's during the day, dropping into the high teens/low 20's at night later in the season.

This is not unlike hunting weather in the lower 48. More so like the eastern US where rain can occur during the deer season, bring rain gear because it might rain during your hunt but most of the time it is blue skies.

Kotzebue is considered an Arid Desert and only gets about 11” of rain in one year. Generally speaking, they don't get it all during the month of September. So, although they should be prepared for rain/snow (it is Alaska), they should be overwhelmed with rain and/or snow.

The commercial and the shuttle flight from the main US cities to Kotzebue usually run around \$800. If you book early sometimes you can chisel away at this price.

#### ALASKA HUNTING TRIP INFO OPTIONS

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Downloadable Forms and more from
- Air Travel for Hunters - TSA Info
- Satellite Phone Rentals



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**We accept**



*Or ask us about our "Hunt Now, Pay Later Program" valid for all hunters booking our hunts you just need credit approval. We realize the hunt of your dreams will not be a reality because you will never be in better physical condition than you are today. Instead of planning the hunt when you can afford it, hunt now while you are physically able. This program is a must for a hunter filling his bucket list!*