

# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

This section of THE HUNTING REPORT features first-hand reports from our subscribers. It is intended to provide accurate, reliable, current information on what's actually happening in the field. THE HUNTING REPORT is not endorsing any outfitter, agent or guide by printing a positive report. And it goes without saying that the existence of a negative report or conflict is not necessarily reason to avoid an agent, outfitter or guide. We believe that informed hunters are capable of making wise choices, and we make every attempt to provide accurate, timely information to help our subscribers decide where to hunt and with whom to hunt. Our detailed editorial policy regarding controversies is posted on our website: [www.huntingreport.com](http://www.huntingreport.com). For a hard copy, please contact us (see page 2 for contact details).

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we hunted from were 'hunting houses' built by the former Romanian dictator. This hunt would be great for a hunter who is physically handicapped. I am going back to hunt with George again this fall, and hope to bring home a nice stag and another bear.

"Possibly one of the most outstanding things about hunting in Romania is that it is extremely



Ken Allen with his European Brown Bear.

affordable when compared to other destinations. Including airfare and all other expenses, my five-day bear hunt cost about \$14,000; less than some five-day Colorado hunts.

"The Romanian economy still lags behind many of the other European countries. This makes it a very economical place to travel, and the Romanian people are very gracious. There are a number of sites to visit, including several amazingly well preserved castles. It would be a great place to take family and let them visit some of the sites while you hunt. It is possible to arrange for a personal tour guide at a very affordable price."

Finally, Allen offers two cautions on this hunt and on travel to Romania. "The best connections to Romania are through Amsterdam. However, make sure you have your transit permit for your rifle. It's very easy to get, but Dutch authorities will not let your rifle pass through unless you have it. I did

not, and the Dutch authorities held my rifle until I picked it up on the way back."

In his initial report, Allen rated trophy care as poor: "I left my bearskin in Romania; it was supposed to be taken to the taxidermist and made into a rug, but that never happened. In fact, I had a problem getting my trophy at all and eventually received what I believe is a different, smaller bear skin. I'm certain that George was not directly at fault, and ultimately, everything has been resolved to my complete satisfaction. But I would advise you to get your CITES certificate in advance and either take your trophy with you or ship it home yourself before you leave."

*Postscript:* See photos of the shooting houses used for bear hunts and that Number Five CIC bear in the Website Uploads section of our website.

There's more to this story. Want to read it? Go EXTRA!



■ Subscriber Tony McLeod hunted in the Gospic area of **Croatia** in March of this year with Tomo Svetic of Artemis Hunting ([www.artemis-hunting.com](http://www.artemis-hunting.com)) and reports taking a bronze-medal mouflon sheep (Report 9117). "This was a spot-and-stalk hunt involving a lot of climbing," he told us in a follow-up phone call.

He also was looking for a brown bear, which they hunted at night, from insulated blinds over bait, but says that plan was foiled by unusually deep snow. "This was beyond anyone's control; the bears just weren't out of their dens yet."

Of his overall experience, McLeod

says, "This is an excellent outfitter with excellent local guides. All worked extremely hard to make the hunt successful and enjoyable. I used Tomo's rifle. You'll be so impressed by the high quality, you'll leave yours behind next time.

"I brought my wife and three daughters to travel Europe following the hunt. During the day, when we were not hunting for bear, Tomo personally took us to local sights and restaurants we would have missed otherwise. We stayed at a local hotel (Hotel Ana) in Gospic suggested by Tomo and where the food and service were beyond outstanding.

"Not only do I recommend hunting with Artemis, we are already thinking about when to go again. Hunting in Croatia with Tomo is an experience one should not miss." McLeod lists his actual hunting costs as \$4,500.

*Postscript:* We have seven other positive reports on Svetic and Artemis, dating back to 2007. Countries covered in those reports include Croatia, Slovenia and Ireland.

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■ Back in January, (Article 3015 in our Email Extra database) Correspondent Michael Bodenchuk dug deep into the current status of grizzly bears in the lower 48, Canada and Alaska. One of the most interesting details he uncovered is that hunts which target grizzly bears specifically tend to be notably more successful than hunts in which the grizzly is part of a combo or an add-on target of opportunity.

Enter subscriber Mark Almgren who filed a report (9008) on a successful October grizzly hunt in the **Yukon** with Jim Fink's Blackstone Outfitters (306-236-2131; [www.blackstoneoutfitters.com](http://www.blackstoneoutfitters.com)). His personal guide was Fink's 20-year-old son Logan. Almgren took

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