

Antelope Hunt Information and Booking Packet

Thanks for booking with Compass West Outfitters. We are honored that you are trusting us with what we hope will be one of many great hunts with us. We hope you are as excited about this hunting season as we are!

Call or text Chris on his cell at 505-860-3197 or call our office at 505-801-7500 anytime you have a question. Our email address is info@compasswestoutfitters.com if you prefer to email us. Our home and mailing address is:

Compass West Outfitters, LLC
5123 Rock House Rd, Las Cruces, NM

*Please note: When looking at driving directions/airports, this is our office, not necessarily the location closest to your hunt. We will supply driving directions closer to your hunt date.

Please **always leave a name and a phone number in your message** as we don't always have your personal information with us. We are very good about returning phone calls, but please remember that during hunting season, we are in very remote areas and may only be able to retrieve our messages every couple of days, as many of the areas we hunt still lack cell phone service. Please call the office in hunting season first!

The following is information we hope you find helpful when preparing for your hunt:

Deposits: Your deposit is due within 14 days of booking or the draw. We accept checks, personal checks, cashier's checks, or money orders. Checks can be made payable to "Compass West Outfitters, LLC".

Cancellation policy: **Your deposit (less a 15% handling fee of the total cost) is refunded only if you can fill your spot with a new hunter. No-shows will be charged the full amount. We HIGHLY recommend that our hunters carry trip insurance.** You can consult your insurance agent to learn how to obtain trip insurance. You can also check out this link <https://globalrescue.com/compasswestoutfitters/index.html>

All disputes over billing will be handled by the Otero County court in New Mexico between March 1st and August 15th.

Final Payments: **Final payment is due no later than 60 days before your hunt date.** If you are less than 60 days out, please call us to arrange your payment. If you still have a balance due when you arrive in New Mexico, it **MUST BE PAID IN CASH BEFORE YOU HUNT.** **No checks will be accepted in camp; have cash.**

The package price includes 3 days of guided hunting on firearm hunts and 5 days of guided hunting on archery hunts.

1x1 or 2x1 guided hunt, beverages in the field. *Lodging and meals are not included on any antelope hunts.*

Not Included in Package Price: Lodging or meals, travel to and from home to local hotel meeting location. New Mexico license fee, habitat and HMAV stamps, and NM sales tax. Tips for guide, meat processing, meat storage (area meat lockers charge \$20-30/day for storage), shipping of cape, meat, or taxidermy.

We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors/taxidermy shops and transport meat to the closest butcher for you.

Gratuity:

Tipping your guides based on your overall satisfaction with their service is customary. This is a very special hunt; the hunts take an incredible amount of fuel and time to get ready. The cost of scouting and quality gear is increasing yearly; this is where the guides recoup the money they spent looking for your dream bull or cow. Gratuity should not reflect the number of days in the field or harvest but rather the experience you enjoyed. For antelope hunts, \$1000 is the normal range.

Our Wounded Animal Policy on Public Land Hunts:

A wounded animal is an animal that a bullet or arrow has hit, and a single drop of blood has been found. Should you wound an animal, you and your guide will cease hunting and will spend the next **48 hours** looking for that wounded animal. If you cannot find this wounded animal, you may continue to hunt.

If a second animal is wounded, the hunt will end. You will spend the remainder of your hunt looking for both wounded animals until the end of your hunt or until you depart.

Gun policy: Guns must always have a clear chamber (including vehicle travel). Your guide will let you know when to chamber your weapon in the field.

An empty chamber applies to the night as well. If you have a gun chambered in camp, you will be asked to leave immediately; no refunds will be given. We prefer all guns to be left in the guide's truck or your vehicle in camp.

Accidental discharge of a weapon AT ANY TIME will result in you leaving camp immediately. No questions asked. Your hunt is over. No refunds will be given.

Drug/alcohol policy: It is unlawful in NM to hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, including medical/recreational marijuana.

Cell Phones:

There is NOT ALWAYS CELL PHONE SERVICE. If you must have cell service during your hunt, talk with us about your location, and we can give you a heads-up about the service quality/location available.

After Hours Emergencies:

For emergencies, our best number to call is the office number **505-801-7500**. Karin mans the office while Chris is in the field during the hunting season. Should you find yourself lost on your way at night or your family needs to reach you, you can call this number, and she will do her best to reach Chris, your guide, or the camp manager.

Should anyone need to reach you in camp, they may call/text Chris' cell at 505-860-3197 (however, he does NOT always have service every day). Should they call this number after hours, a voice messaging system is in place, and we will give you the message when we hear it. Texting is the very best way to reach Chris the fastest.

After your harvest: In the Field: Once you have killed an animal, guides will help you as little or as much as you like in dealing with the downed animal. If we are in an area that we can drive to, we'll load it in the truck or help pack it out on our backs.

Your hunt is concluded at this point, and your guide will be done once your meat and cape are dropped off at the meat processor/taxidermist.

Mandatory Harvest Report after your hunt – the state of NM requires ALL hunters to fill out their mandatory harvest report **whether you were successful or not**. After the hunt, you will want to log on to your NM Game and Fish account to complete this step. If you don't complete this step, you will not be eligible for the NM draw next year. You can also call NM Game and Fish at (888) 248-6866 to complete your harvest report over the phone.

If you have any questions, please **do not hesitate** to call us any time: **505-801-7500 (office) or 505-860-3197 (Chris's cell phone)**

E-mail info@compasswestoutfitters.com

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR HUNT:

GET IN SHAPE AND PRACTICE WITH YOUR WEAPON! You will get out of a hunt what you put into it ahead of time!

You will be hunting at an elevation of about 4500' or higher. Many of you come from 500' or less, and you're not used to the thin air like we are. Do what you can to help get your lungs ready! Even just walking for an hour a day will benefit you. Use a backpack with sand or other weight when you walk to get ready. If you can ride a bike or stair stepper, you'll be happy you did!

It's your hunt - guides will let you set the pace, but they will push you as they want to see you have a successful hunt. For what you are paying per day, spend some time getting ready! YOU are the one that will pay for it with a sub-par hunt, blistered feet and a crappy time overall if you don't shoot on sticks and get some exercise before you get here. Anything you can do to get ready is going to help you.

Please be sure to talk with your guide about the quality of animal that you're looking for. In the field, your guide can help advise you on the quality of animals you are seeing, but remember that ultimately you make the call whether you shoot or don't shoot. We want you to harvest the largest animals possible, but every animal you let walk is a risk of not tagging out. Remember that opportunities are not unlimited on fair chase hunts.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have over 90% harvest and 100% shot for the last 10 years. We like to walk, hike, and glass for animals along the way. We are not trying to kill you; we just want you to harvest as badly as you do! If you need a break, you will have to tell us when YOU need to sit at waterholes and feeding areas to take a break and recharge. It's your hunt, you need to set the pace!

Rifle Hunters: PLEASE learn to shoot standing, sitting on sticks, and sitting. You will be sitting 50-75% of the time on shots here. It's not something you should do for the first time once here. Cross-canyon or over brush is almost always the way you are going to get a shot. We try for sitting shots whenever we can, but prone will work well here as well.

Once you have your rifle ZERO AT 200 YDS, start practicing shooting off sticks. Most guides like and will carry the BogPod tripod with the red foam grips. Primos also makes a nice trigger stick TRIPOD that is super easy to use and find. **Or get some other cheap off-brand to practice, as you don't have to bring them with you;** guides will carry their own. But please, get ready to use sticks and shoot a bunch before the hunt starts. You'll be glad you did!

You will not need to travel with your sticks; guides will always have some with them in the field.

Zero your rifle at 200, and be ready for 100-450+ yard shots. Most shots will be 300-500 yards. Learn to shoot at 100-500+, and you'll be happy you did!

Take a shooting class, do anything you can to get ready. Every year, I hear that you can't shoot over 300 yards where you live. Just Google long-range shooting in your area and USE WHAT YOU FIND. You might have to join a club or travel 1-2-3-4 hours to do so. You are traveling 1000+ miles and spending a great deal of money on a three-day hunt. It's a small investment to be ready.

When practicing 300+ shots, we recommend never shooting paper. What we like to do when practicing long distances (300+ yards) is to shoot at balloons. It gives instant feedback, and if you're popping a balloon that is the same size as the kill zone on an antelope, guess what—you're killing any antelope you are shooting at! It builds confidence at longer ranges! Don't discourage yourself by shooting and evaluating paper.

Packing List - Antelope

This list should help you get a better idea of what to bring. This is a GUIDELINE ONLY.

Carcass Tag/Horn Tag—NMG&F should have mailed it to you. Check to be sure it includes the game hunting license, HMAV, and Habitat Stamp. If it doesn't, you will need to carry a paper copy of the stamps.

GAME BAGS

Gun

Ammo—Bring enough to sight in once here and for hunting. We like to see people bring 3 boxes. Area shops carry a limited choice of ammo, and if you sight in with 180 gr. and can't find them in the area, we have to start over with sighting in again!

Game Bags

Bow 2 dozen arrows/extra release

Quiet camouflage outer gear—There is no hunter orange law in NM (except on on-range hunts), so we like to hunt in full camo.

Boots—**Solid leather boots are best. Our area has lots of cactus and sharp rocks.** Be sure to break them in before your hunt!

Moleskin – great on blisters in case your boots aren't completely broken in.

Camera

Day pack with waist belt—one that will hold water, camera, binoculars, GPS, snacks, and a warm jacket. Any brand will do, but it needs to have a waist belt and be large enough to carry your gear. It should be around 3000 cubic inches.

Socks: Smart wool socks are all great choices. NO cotton.

Rain gear—you'll be happy you have it if it's a wet week! Camo, packable, and lightweight is ideal, but overall, it must be quiet, or your guides will likely not want you to wear it!

Dopp kit- unscented everything like soap and shampoo

Medications- Be sure to pack Ibuprofen or another pain killer and any meds you need.

Long johns- (depending upon time of year) you never know! Check the weather report before travel.

Warm gear- (depending upon time of year) wool and fleece with light weight layers under. The weather can change fast; you might sit still on a hillside, gazing for hours. You can't have too much warm gear; the worst thing that can happen is you go home with clean unused gear!

Butt pad- Little foam gardening pads from Lowe's or Home Depot are perfect! Something small. Don't get the big ones that don't fit in your packs. If it's not small enough to fit inside your pack, don't bring it.

Knee pads and leather gloves

Binoculars- 10x42 for glassing. Talk to us more about the best choices!

Spotting Scopes are nice if you have one on antelope hunts. Guides will have one; you don't need to buy one.

Spending cash—There are no ATMs for miles, so if you want some cash, bring it.

Hats—Baseball and beanie. Bring a baseball cap with a bill that you can fit a beanie cap over.

Camp shoes- Something that fits you like a glove. Boots get heavy after a day in the field. Nothing beats that favorite pair of slippers or Crocs around camp after a long day in the field!

Favorite Snacks and Food- **No food will be provided on antelope hunts. Your guide will have a cooler with ice and water.**

Meat cooler I recommend 1 120qt cooler FULL of ice the day before the hunt starts

Game bags for this hunt for sure.