



# Aoudad in Africa

by Scott Duhamel

As I sat on a 50 foot rock outcrop at 6000 feet, it finally sank in that I was hunting Aoudad on their native soil. We were in the Stormberg mountains of the Eastern Cape in South Africa. The air was still thick as the moisture was burning off in the morning sun. The fog had finally lifted and the diverse geography was almost unbelievable.

During a visit to Edmonton from Raymond Kemp and Edward Wilson (Lalapa Safaris) in January 2016, I was fortunate enough to book my second safari to South Africa with Darcy Knight from Vantage

Point Hunting. If anybody ever tells you that Africa doesn't get in the blood, don't listen. There's just something about the sounds, the geography, the people and the endless opportunity that Africa offers that constantly draws people back.

The Stormberg mountains have a unique "moon" like appearance. This area is known for arid climate, sparse shrubs and snow-capped peaks during the winter months. It was about 2 hours into the morning hunt when first life was spotted. A heard of Cape Mountain Zebra grazed in the bottom of the valley and seeing this unique animal made this a successful hunt, sheep or no sheep!

At about 10 am, Ray spotted two separate groups of sheep. Unfortunately the location of the sheep was not favourable. They were about 2500 feet below us and downwind across a steep valley that was a little over a mile away. Ed maneuvered back to my position and told me to grab my bag and rifle. It was game on!

After a quick game plan, we began our stalk. In order to sneak into position on these cagey sheep we had to make a couple steep ascents and descents to stay out of sight. We managed to get to about 410 yards with a deep valley and a 40 km wind separating us. Glassing the sheep over and over revealed that there were multiple mature, dark coat rams. It was a fantastic sight watching them maneuver between rock out-crops. About 1 hour into the sit, the herd began to move. The two groups eventually joined together with about 50-60 animals and were heading in the right direction for a potential shot. At this point I was snuggled into a rock with my 270 WSM resting on

my pack. The excitement was building up. Ed continued to provide me with yardages as the group moved along the ridge and we had settled on a ram at about 370 yards. I wasn't quite comfortable at

this distance with the strong wind, but the chance was slipping away. I pushed the safety forward and took the first shot. I missed high over the rams back. I maintained composure, reloaded and the second shot hit him slightly low. These sheep are known to be tough and



the ram headed over the crest. We quickly gathered ourselves and began tracking. Once we got to the top of the crest we spotted where the ram was bedded down. A short walk and I was able to seal the deal. Approaching this animal was a full adrenaline rush. The dark coat, sweeping horns and the excitement of the events was overwhelming. This hunt did not disappoint! It was everything and more.

I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to harvest 23 African Species and this Aoudad hunt ranks among the top. The unsurpassed value and unique landscape this hunt offers is among the best Africa can produce. Give Darcy Knight a call with Vantage Point to take advantage of this truly exclusive adventure.



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