

PEAKS and VALLEYS

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Women *in the* Outdoors

MY DREAM CAME TRUE! (Yes! It really did!)

By Peg Hammer

I woke up one morning, jumped out of bed and ran out to the kitchen to tell Todd about a dream I just had. I described to him my dream, about a hunt for a very bizarre animal. He looked at me and said “That sounds just like a Nilgai”.

I grabbed my computer & googled Nilgai. Low & behold, there it was – the animal in my dream. Just a note—at this point my hunting experience was limited to chukers and pheasants.

For the next 18 months, we talked off and on about a trip to Texas for a Nilgai hunt. Late in 2017 we were able to contact Greg Simons at Wildlife Systems Inc. (www.wildlifesystems.com, 325.655.0877) and set up a hunt for January of 2018.

In the middle of January, my dream hunt got postponed due to work commitments. We were able to reschedule for the end of February, but this limited our hunting to just the Nilgai. We were disappointed, as we were doing the 3 day drive to Texas in order to return home with the top notch, lean venison from the Nilgai and we had been hoping to also do a pig hunt.

I researched Nilgai hunting prior to our trip and am glad I did! With their keen senses, they can present a difficult animal to hunt. With the minimum of 30 caliber rifle recommended, I opted for a .338 mag with Barnes TSX.

After a hearty breakfast, we set out early on the first day of our hunt. With rain all morning keeping our scent and noise level to a minimum, I was still unable to get close enough for a shot. We regrouped over a Tex-Mex lunch



and came up with Plan B for the afternoon. Off we went again, to spot and stalk Nilgai.

We were ready to call it a day when the opportunity for a final stalk presented itself. Off we went, through the brush to get within shooting range. With very little light left, we cut the distance to about 100 yards so I could make a clean shot from sticks. I was instructed to keep shooting until he dropped, but my first shot double lunged him.

My guide Don headed back to get Todd and the truck, and that’s when the work really started. Some quick pictures in the fading light and then loading 700 plus pounds of Nilgai into the truck. My dream come true!

If you’re looking for some exceptional hunting opportunities, along with comfortable accommodations and authentic Tex-Mex “cuisine”, you can’t go wrong booking a hunt here.