

## Trophies

- The honouring of trophies is as old of a tradition as hunting itself. It is a sign of a high hunting culture.
- The evaluation of trophies in Estonia is highly developed. Since 1968, trophy exhibitions have been held nationwide.
- Several Estonia's hunting trophies are world class, especially those of big predators.
- In Estonia, the hunting trophies of wolf, elk, brown bear, red deer, roe deer, lynx, wild boar, fox, beaver, raccoon dog, badger and golden jackal are evaluated by international trophy measurement rules.
- Estonian trophy exhibitions and trophy experts are approved by the CIC (*Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Giber*).

### Top trophies of Estonia

Species	Owner	CIC points	Bagging year
Elk	Elmur Kuusik	342.10	1969
Red deer	Juho Ojasoo	233.84	2014
Roe deer	Mati Koger	196.58	2016
Wild boar	Sandro Tiisler	140.03	2016
Bear skin	Aivar Savelli	492.59	2004
Bear skull	Ants Pehk	67.46	1993
Lynx skin	Andrus Teemant	214.84	1988
Lynx skull	Jaan Liiv	28.99	1987
Wolf skin	Andrus Teemant	149.78	1987
Wolf skull	Ivar Kanter	44.78	1994
Golden jackal skull	Tarmo Mängel	26.83	2015
Fox skull	Vahur Sepp	25.74	1988
Raccoon dog skull	Jüri Kaju	21.69	2012
Badger skull	Kalev Männiste	24.58	1995
Beaver skull	Peeter Viil	28.15	2016

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## The Estonian Hunters' Society (EHS)

The Estonian Hunters' Society (founded in 1967) is the biggest organisation that unites Estonian hunters (around 11,000 hunters of Estonia are our members). The EHS has over 90 member organisations. They manage the game and hunt on about 70% of Estonian hunting territory.

### The Estonian Hunters' Society:

- defends the interests of Estonian hunters,
- participates in developing laws regarding hunting and makes proposals for legislation,
- deals with game management and hunting documents,
- promotes co-operation between the state and local government and deals with public relations,
- participates in research concerning hunting,
- takes care of hunters' training,
- helps to develop hunting shooting,
- organises events regarding hunting (the most popular is the annual hunters' summer days with around 5,000 participants),
- participates in nature conservation activities,
- publishes the only hunting magazine in Estonia – the Estonian Hunter (*Eesti Jahimees*), which comes out 6 times per year.

### The EHS is also represented in international organisations.

Since 1992, the EHS is a member of the CIC, the biggest organisation that unites the hunters all over the world. The CIC is a politically independent advisory body which aims to preserve wild game and hunting. To achieve this goal, the CIC promotes the sustainable use of wildlife resources.

The EHS is also a member of the FACE (*Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU*) since 1999. The FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters. The FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-related matters, from international conservation agreements to local implementation issues with the aim of sustainable hunting across Europe.

All Estonian hunting news and announcements are available on our website: [www.ejs.ee](http://www.ejs.ee)

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# HUNTING IN ESTONIA



## Estonian Hunters' Society

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## Welcome to Estonia!

— Border of hunting area  
— Border of county



- Estonia is a unique hunting land. Our game fauna is versatile and rich.
- The area of Estonia is 45,339 m<sup>2</sup>, the population is 1.3 million.
- The forest covers 50% of the territory, swamps and reservoirs cover 10%.
- In other European countries it is forbidden to hunt many of the game species that are allowed to be hunted here, or they are extinct. Such species include brown bear, wolf, lynx, beaver and elk.
- Estonia is located by the Baltic Sea, which brings here plenty of water fowls and migratory birds. This is the reason why Estonia is also a popular bird hunting destination.
- There are about 330 hunting areas in the country. One hunting area is approximately 10,000–12,000 hectares in size.

## Hunting regulations for foreigners in Estonia

- Hunting in Estonia is regulated by two basic documents: the Hunting Act and the Hunting Regulation.
- The Estonian legislation states that a citizen of a foreign country may hunt in Estonia, if he/she has a valid hunting license and a permit to hunt on the given hunting territory.
- The Estonian Hunters' Society issues temporary licenses to foreigners. The licenses are valid for one year.
- A member of the EU may bring his/her own weapon to Estonia, if he/she has a EU firearms pass issued by his/her own country's respective institution.
- In the case of hunting big game, Estonia accepts foreign hunters' big game shooting tests if these were passed in the previous two years or the hunter has to pass the test in Estonia.
- Big game hunting is based on hunting permits and on the principle: one permit per game.
- Since 2018, there is an additional requirement for foreign hunters to pass additional training before hunting water fowl.

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## Come hunting!

If you want to come hunting in Estonia, you can apply for the documents from the Estonian Hunters' Society. If you were invited, the inviter can apply for these for you. It takes up to **10 working days**.

The Estonian hunting license is valid for 1 year provided that you bring your original hunting license as well.

**A hunting license proves an individual's right to hunt, but they also need to carry documents that prove that they have paid the hunting fee. The fee is charged for one year, i.e. 365 days.**

### To apply:

- Send the form and copies to [ej@ej.ee](mailto:ej@ej.ee).
- Add a copy of your big game shooting test (only if you are planning to hunt big game).
- Add a copy of your hunting license.
- Fill in the form (you can find the form here: <http://www.ejs.ee/blanketid/>).
- Pay the fee – for the hunting license 20 euros, for the big game shooting test 3 euros.

### Renewing the license:

- If you have previously applied for the hunting license and still have free space at the back of the card, you can renew the same license!
- Fill in the application again and bring copies of your valid hunting documents.
- Pay the fee – for renewing the hunting license 20 euros, for the big game shooting test 3 euros.

**Remember that when you hunt, you need to consider the "Best practices of Estonian hunting" that state:**

- Be respectful towards game, property and nature!**
- As a hunter be correct!**
- Wounded game shall not be left in the forest!**

NB! The full document of best practices can be found on the website of the EHS: [www.ejs.ee/hunting-in-estonia](http://www.ejs.ee/hunting-in-estonia).

## Hunting season

Elk	15 Sept–15 Dec
Red deer	1 Sept–31 Jan
Roebuck	1 June–31 Jan
Roe deer, kid	1 Sept–31 Jan
Wildboar*	All year
Wild boar (hunt with dogs)	1 Oct–31 March
Lynx (except female with cubs)	1 Dec–31 Feb
Wolf*	1 Nov–31 Feb
Golden jackal*	1 Sept–31 Feb
Bear (except female bear with cubs)	1 Aug–31 Oct
Beaver*	1 Aug–15 April
Badger*	1 Sept–31 Feb
Muskrat, hare	1 Oct–31 Feb
Woodcock, cormorant	1 Aug–30 Nov
Geese and Branta	20 Sept–30 Nov
Wood pigeon	1 Aug–31 Oct
Pheasant	1 Oct–31 Feb

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Water and mire fowl, hazel grouse	20 Aug–31 Oct
Water and mire fowl at sea (in Peipsi, Pihka, Võrtsjärv and Narva catchment)	20 Aug–30 Nov
Partridge	1 Sept–31 Oct
Hooded crow, dove	1 July–31 March
Rook, common raven, fieldfare*	1 Aug–31 March
Fox*	1 Aug–31 Mar
Raccoon dog, mink, Pine marten, polecat*	1 Oct–31 Mar

NB! During the nesting season of birds, fowl hunting is forbidden.

\*NB! This table is not complete! Additional rules are set in the Hunting Regulation.

## Interesting facts

- The average Estonian hunter is 40–60 years old and the huntress 26–40 years old.
- Around 3,000–4,000 foreign hunters come to hunt in Estonia every year.
- The brown bear is the biggest predator in the Estonian forests. A brown bear can weigh 90–340 kg.
- The beaver is one of the biggest rodents in Estonia. This indigenous animal was extinct in the 19th century due to overhunting, but it re-appeared in 1957. Now it has spread countrywide, even to the islands. The beaver causes much damage in the forests and fields.
- The wild boar first appeared in Estonia in the 1920s. The weight of wild boars caught in Estonia ranges 50–150 kg. The biggest bagged boar weighed 350 kg, the biggest sow 300 kg. In 2014, the African swine fever spread in Estonia and since then the population has drastically decreased.
- The lynx is the only local wild cat in Estonia. Its average weight is 20–25 kg.
- The elk, the most majestic wild animal in our forests, has been the most valued species of game in Estonia throughout time. Bulls weighing more than half a tonne have been bagged here.
- The most feared predator in the Estonian forests is the wolf. The biggest wolf caught weighed almost 70 kg.

