

THE  
SPORTSMAN'S GUIDE

KASHMIR & LADAK; &c.,

BY  
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II

*BENGAL STAFF CORPS.*

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THIRD AND REVISED EDITION.

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*Galutia:*

PUBLISHED BY THE CALCUTTA CENTRAL PRESS CO., LTD.,  
5, COUNCIL HOUSE STREET.

1887.

To aid his bag the sportsmen will meet with Pea Fowl, the Red Jungle Fowl, Spur Fowl, a variety of Red-legged Partridge, confined chiefly to the eastern side of the hills, a few Quail and Wild Fowl. Woodcock are occasionally killed in the hills. Hares are also found.

As Ceylon is often visited by tourists who would doubtless be glad to get some sport, I would mention that the low country is the best part to visit. The shooting in the hills is but limited, and is chiefly in the hands of private individuals.

The low country presents a large field for enterprise, and on the east, north-east and north-west of the island good sport is to be found.

A close season for deer is in force, and extends from April to September. A license to shoot elephant or buffalo is required, and can be obtained from the district officials.

As regards a base of operations : for a prolonged trip, say from December to March inclusive, the visitor might find his way to Hambantota by coasting steamer *via* Galle, and thence work his way east.

The country is thinly populated ; part of the best land is called the " park country " ; it is thickly covered with lemon grass, wooded nullahs and clumps of trees ; the park commences about 40 miles from the given starting place.

The best bear country is said to be at Trincomalee. The bear is *Ursus labiatus*.

For a shorter trip, combining a visit to Anarajpoora Ruins, go to Kandy, and then strike northwards on the north road.

These scraps of information are very vague, but there is not scope in a small guide book to deal with so large a country, or rather a collection of countries, as our eastern dependencies, and I have only given the habitat of the various kinds of game in order to give a slight aid to the sportsman who is anxious to obtain specimens of all the different animals.

From personal knowledge, and also from the latest information I can gather, I would suggest to the sporting tourist who has ample time at his command to try as follows :—

For Elephants probably Ceylon presents the least difficulty, but the chances of getting tusks is small. I should endeavour to get a " permit " from Travancore or Mysore. With very few exceptions Elephants are strictly preserved throughout India.

For Rhinoceros, the Darjeeling Terai; or if possible enlist the aid of some Indian Potentate, who can show the visitor sport. Even with a pass to shoot in Nepal it is very difficult to get a Rhinoceros. To get the assistance of friends in Assam or Bhootan may not be difficult to some of my readers, and, if so, it should be easy to shoot the greater Rhinoceros.

In Burmah there are great difficulties in the way of sport owing to the denseness of the jungle. I am not certain whether the vicinity of Calcutta and the Sunderbunds would supply *R. sondaicus* or the lesser Rhinoceros.

Bison are still to be obtained in the Central Provinces, and a start could be made from many of the civil stations or even from Jubbulpore.

From all I can gather Buffalo are very easily obtained in Ceylon. It is possible but unlikely that the traveller might obtain a good bull when after Bison in the Central Provinces. Assam also presents a field for this game which might be taken in connection with the Rhinoceros.

*Ursus labiatus* is an easy animal to get, and could be shot during a trip in the Siwaliks, the Terai, or the Central Provinces, or in Mysore,—in fact this Bear is found throughout India. The skin is not much of a trophy, being seldom in good fur.

The Swamp Deer (*Rucervus Duvancellii*), the Goen of Central India, the Barasingha of other districts can also be obtained on a trip to the Central Provinces, Assam, or Nepal. The sportsman should be content with horns of 34 to 36 inches. Out of a large number of Stags I have seen no horns were over 37 inches in length and 5 inches in girth.

The Neilgherry Ibex is, as its name denotes, from Madras. It is found on the Neilgherries, the Anamallies, and other hills. I think 17 inches is the length of the longest horn on record.

This animal is invariably called an Ibex, but is, as most people are aware, more strictly speaking a Ther.

The Spotted Deer or Chital (*Axis maculatus*) is the commonest of Indian or Ceylon game, and will be obtained without real difficulty. Horns, if massive, and of a length of 34 inches, should satisfy the collector of trophies; but I have seen and shot a good many exceeding this length, and have measured horns of  $37\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The Central Provinces will probably give the best chance for a large head, although very good specimens can be shot in the Terai.

The Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*) is also very generally distributed throughout India. It is often put up in large numbers