

ASU Media

Reykjavík, 6th of August 2024
UST202408-004/S.K.V.
09.04.00

Subject: Application for permission to fly a drone within several protected areas

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from ASU Media, dated 31st of July 2024, for photographing with a drone within Gullfoss, Háifoss, Rauðaskál, Ljótípollur, Bláhylur (Hnausapollur), Austurbjallavatn, Landmannalaugar, Skógafoss, Dynjandi and Látrabjarg.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1971. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct, operating an unmanned aircraft/drone from May 1st – September 15th, within the protected area, is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Rauðaskál, Ljótípollur, Bláhylur (Hnausapollur), Austurbjallavatn and Landmannalaugar are all within **Fjallabak** Nature Reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th – September 15th is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, **Háifoss** and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency for organized events and projects that pose a risk of disturbance to geological formations, wildlife or guests in the area. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. Regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and

ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

Látrabjarg is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 300/2021. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Overnight stay or camping is not allowed within the nature reserve. Nature studies conducted by other than the Icelandic Institute of Natural History or the Marine and freshwater research institute. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited both on land and in the sea. Disturbance to geological formation is prohibited except with permission. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant wishes to use a drone to photograph within the protected areas listed above, between 18th and 30th of August 2024. The applicant is alone, without props or sets. Will stay within paths and no interruption to landscape, flora or fauna.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the environment. The droneflight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in the sites but if conditions of the permit are followed, the impact can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants ASU Media permission on its behalf to use a drone to photograph within the protected sites listed above as described between 18th and 30th of August 2024 on the following conditions:

Vistors permit for using drone

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the areas about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering each area and again before leaving it.

- If the project dates or description changes, the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Applicant shall always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The applicant is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- The applicant shall be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.
- It is forbidden to fly drones along the shore in Dynjandisvogur, along Dynjandisá river below the bridge and around the river estuary.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season (15th of May until 15th of September).
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Permission fee:

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Sincerely

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advisor

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