

Simone Castagna

Reykjavík, 13. August 2024
UST202408-041/I.M.B.
09.04.00

Subject: Application for a permit to use a drone within Fjallabak and Háifoss and Granni

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Simone Castagna, dated on the 6th of August 2024, for a permit to use a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Háifoss and Granni natural monument.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. 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.

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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for using a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Háifoss natural monument on the 23rd - 26th of August 2024. The flights will be performed only on one of those days depending on the weather. Each flight session will be composed by two approx. 30 min flights and two approx. 10 min or a total of maximum 80 min of flight time per location. The flightpath will be maximum of 500m from take-off and landing.

Location 1: Kirkjufell at Fjallabak at 5-10 am and 5-10 pm

Location 2: Bláhnúkur hiking trail at Fjallabak at 9-12 am and 4-8pm

Location 3: Bláhnúkur hiking trail at Fjallabak at 9-12 am and 4-8pm

Location 4: Háifoss at 9-12 am and 4-8pm

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the nature and the conservation value of the areas. The flights might have negative impact on other visitors but if conditions are followed the impact can be reduced. Drones

should never be flown above or in the direct vicinity of other guests or wildlife in the areas and flight time should be kept at minimum.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Simone Castagna permission on its behalf to use a drone within Fjallabak and Háifoss as described above on one day during the period of the 23rd - 26th of August 2024 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Always stay on authorized paths.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 close 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.
- 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 of 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 the conditions 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 droneflight for recreational flight in up to two protected areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 29. c. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Sincerely

Daníel Freyr Jónsson

advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir

advisor