

Touhidul Alam

Reykjavík, föstudagur, 13. ágúst 2024
UST202408-022/F.P.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit for drone flight within Fjallabak and Skógafoss

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Touhidul Alam, dated föstudagur, 9. ágúst 2024, for flying a drone within Skógafoss and Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a 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.

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 subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant requests to photograph with a drone within the two protected areas specified above during the period of 15-16th of August 2024. The flight time is 2-3 hours in Fjallabak (Landmannalaugar) and 1 hour in Skógafoss.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation. The flight 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 area and flight time should be kept to a minimum. Flying drones is not allowed in direct vicinity of the hut areas in Landmannalaugar and campsites within the nature reserves. No-fly zones can be seen on the maps included with the permit.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Touhidul Alam permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak (Landmannalaugar) and Skógafoss as described above on 15-16th 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.
- The applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads and 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.
- The crew should 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.
- **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 next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- 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.
- Note that within Fjallabak and Skógafoss there are some areas where drone flight is prohibited. Please familiarize yourself with this information (see email attachment).

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 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 aircraft.

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

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 drone flight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Sincerely

Daníel Freyr Jónsson
advisor

Freyja Pétursdóttir
advisor