

France TV Studio

Garðabær, 16. October 2025
202509-0152/Á.G.
10.02.01

Subject: Permission for filming and helicopter landing within Vatnajökull National Park

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from France TV Studio, dated 24. September for drone flights at Fellsfjara and at the edge of Breiðamerkurjökull and shootings in Ice Caves.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007. According to art 38 in regulation no. 300/2020 on Vatnajökull National Park, permission must be obtained from the park manager for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment within the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research. Permission must be obtained from the park manager for landing aircraft and for the use of drones within the national park.

Jökulsárlón and Fellsfjara – Drone flying is only permitted before 11:00 or after 15:00.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for filming within the national park. The project will take place on October 25th and 26th 2025. The team will visit three distinct ice caves within Vatnajökull National Park: Sparkle Ice Cave and ABC ice caves in Breiðarmerkurjökull, and Súlutindar ice cave in Skeiðarárjökull. To ensure safe and efficient access to Súlutindar, a helicopter (from Atlantsflug) will be used. Drone will be used at Fellsfjara and near the calving front of Breiðarmerkurjökull glacier. The on-site team includes the presenter, the editor, two cameramen equipped with shoulder-mounted cameras and a drone, as well as local tour guides.

To support the aerial operations, maps and coordinates have been submitted detailing the estimated drone flight paths and designated helicopter landing zone.

Impact assessment:

The project is not expected to negatively impact the area or compromise its protected status. However, the proposed drone flights over Fellsfjara and near Jökulsárlón are considered to have a negative effect on the experience of other visitors. These impacts can be minimized if applicants adhere to the designated flight time restrictions: between October 22nd and November 21st, drone flights should only occur before 11:00 or after 15:00.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants France TV Studio permission on its behalf for filming project within the Vatnajökull National Park as described above on 25th and 26th of October 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- 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 Nature Conservation shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- The project's staff are 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- The helicopter flight is only to access the ice cave at Súlutindar in Skeiðarárjökull according to the landing zone in the application. Other flight paths within the national park are prohibited.
- The helicopter flight shall be conducted in such a way as it will not affect the park visitors.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precautions not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day, which is at this time of year, before 11:00 and 15:00.
- 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 for 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.
- Unmanned aircraft should take off and land at a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation [no 1360/2024](#) on unmanned aircrafts.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Permission fee:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland charges ISK 50.000 for processing applications for permits within Vatnajökull National Park based on regulation no. 324/2025 on rates and tariffs in the national park.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the agency.

Þórhallur Jóhannsson

park manager

Ármann Guðmundsson

advisor