

Digitalkunst und design
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Reykjavík, 12. september 2019
UST201909-057/H.H.
09.06.01

Subject: permit to fly drone in protected areas

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Digitalkunst und design, dated 5th September 2019, for flying drone in few protected areas.

Geysir is listed on the Nature Conservation Register and is under the supervision of the Environment Agency.

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

Hraunfossar and Barnafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. no. 410/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. 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.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. no. 568/2001. All commercial filming projects within the national park are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 17 in the Regulation.

Description of the project:

The project is to fly drone in areas mentioned above from 6th – 10th October 2019. The flights will be short 15-20 minutes each. Handheld gimbals and quadrocopter will be used, in altitude between 30-200 meters, depends on weather and location. Two people will take part in this project. There will be avoidance of wildlife and no disturbance to the nature. Flight plan in each location followed with application.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the areas. Flying a drone can have negative effect on birdlife and visitor in the area. To reduce the negative impact on birdlife it's important to pay attention to the birds and stop or move the drone away if disturbance is noticeable. By following the conditions of the permit, the effects on guests will be short term.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Digitalkunst und design permission on its behalf to fly drone within Geysir, Gullfoss, Hraunfossar and Snæfellsjökull National park as described above on 6th – 10th October 2019 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 Environment Agency 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.
- 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. During early morning and late afternoon, there are less people visiting 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.
- 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 over Strokkur in altitudes below 50 meters.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.



- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Crew members should stay on marked paths the whole time.

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.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Hildur Hafbergssel
adviser

René Biasone
adviser