

Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf.
Brekkgata
Akureyri

Reykjavík, 5. June 2023
UST202304-136/S.V.
09.07.01

Subject: Permit to operate an annually Marathon - Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf, dated April 14th 2023, for a permit to operate a Marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall.

Dimmuborgir is protected as a natural monument, cf. [regulation no. 1262/2011](#). Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Events and commercial filming is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Hverfjall is also protected as a natural monument, cf. [regulation no. 1261/2011](#). Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. Guests must follow marked paths at any given time.

Description of the project:

Nonni travel, on behalf of Albatros Adventure, has requested permit to have marathon within the protected areas Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall the 12th August and there after annually at Saturdays in week 34. Distances available would be marathon of 42,195 km, half marathon of 21,097 km, and quarter marathon of 10,55 km, all run at the same day. The Marathon would start at Hverfjall and end at Vogar travel service. Use of motorized machinery will only be used on roads that are already at place. Map with draft of the route and locations of 6 drinking stations for the Marathon was included in the application. The marathons would take place on roads and paths that are already at place in the areas. The route would be marked with small trail marking flags (wire flags). Kilometer and arrow signs would be attached to thin fence poles of 110cm in height that would be knocked into the ground. All markings would be removed as soon as the marathons finishes. There would be no markings on top of Hverfjall, only at the base. Maximum number of participants would be 500 persons as agreed with landowners. Fewer are though expected to participate in 2023, or 150. Number of staff would be 6 persons from Albatross, 2 from Nonni Travel and 4 photographers. Local person from Vogar would also join the team. In 2023 the marathon is scheduled to take place on August 12th. 2023. The marathons would start at 7:30 and have

a 7 hour time limit so any runner still on the course at 14:30 would be picked up and taken back to the finish.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the sites if conditions of the permit are followed. That decision is taken according to estimated number of participants in 2023.

Permit to hold a competition

The Environment Agency is not ready to grant indefinite leave and therefore declines Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf application for a permit to annually have a Marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall. As organizers expect the event to grow rapidly if it will be held next years, the agency recommends that the applicant applies for a permit to have a marathon in the area every year until number of participants have reached to maximum.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf. permit on its behalf to have a marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall as described above on August 12th 2023 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.
- At least week before the event starts, the organizers must send a plan how the race will be implemented. The number of participants must appear in the plan along with information about how participants and employees will be transferred to the place and how the finishing touches will be done after the event. Organized bus trips are recommended
- At least 3 days before the marathon will take place, signs must be placed at the start and end of the race routes so visitors to the area are informed about the planned race.
- The Environment Agency must be notified, as soon as possible, of all deviations from previously published project description, as well as there will be change in planned schedule.
- It is desirable to control running in such a way that runners are neither in Dimmuborgir nor at Hverfjall after 12:00. If it is not possible, the Environment Agency shall be informed.
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- Potential locations of temporary toilets should be decided with the site manager for Mývatn, or his deputy, and landowner.
- It is important that participants will be informed about the area, i.e. that part of the route will take place within nature reserves
- The managers of the race shall inform rangers when preparation in the area starts and when all signs have been removed and the area cleaned up.
- Organizers must inform participants on the importance of staying on marked race routes to prevent damage to fauna and geological formations.

- Organizers must inform photographers, as well as guests that arrive at the area to watch the run, that it is forbidden to go outside paths and consult with the rangers, where the best spots for shooting/photographing are.
- Organizers of the event must guarantee that no litter will not be left behind at site, on race routes or at drinking stations. All markings of the route must be removed as soon as the event is over and repair possible damages to vegetation.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited. It also applies to staff members of the race
- Participants should show consideration to other guests at the area and notice that all disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited

If the developer 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, 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 or if the conditions of the permit are not complied to.

The Environment Agency wants to point out that according to art. 90 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 a person is subject to fines or imprisonment for up to two years if: a. he carries out or acts without authorization what is required of a permit or exemption under this Act or government directives issued on the basis thereof; b. he violates the provisions of the first paragraph. Article 28, Article 31, paragraph 4 Article 38, Article 62, Article 71 or Article 72 or government decisions issued on the basis thereof. A permission from the landowners and the municipality is needed for the project.

Permission fee:

The 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 activities is 57.000ISK according to art. 29. a. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

The project will be supervised by a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely,

Sigrún Ágústsdóttir
General director

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir

Advisor

