

Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf.
Brekkugata 5
Akureyri
Iceland

Reykjavík, 1. júní 2022
UST202204-224/P.V.B.
09.07.01

Subject: permit to operate a Marathon -Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf., dated April 26th 2022, 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 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 protected areas Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall for few years. Distances available will 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 ferðapjónusta. Use of motorized machinery will only be used on roads that are already at place. Map with draft of the route and locations of drinking stations for the Marathon was included in the application. The marathon will take place on roads and paths that are already at place in the areas. The route will be marked with small trail marking flags (wire flags). Kilometer and arrow signs will be attached to thin fence poles of 110cm in height that will be knocked into the ground. All markings will be removed as soon as the marathon finishes. There will be no markings on top of Hverfjall, only at the base. Maximum number of participants would be 500 persons as agreed with landowners. It is estimated that it will take 3-5 years before this number will be reached. Number of staff would be 10 persons from Albatross, six photographers. Group of volunteers will also assist. In 2022 the marathon is scheduled to take place on September 10th. From 2023 the aim is to keep the race fixed annually on the Saturday of week 32. In 2022 the marathon will start at 8:30 and has a 7 hour time limit so any runner still on the course at 15:30 will be picked up and taken back to the finish. From 2023 the marathon will start at 7:30 and also have a 7 hour time limit.

Impact assessment:

Marathons of this size have not been in this area before in that time of the year. Therefore it is not clear what impact increased number of participants in the marathon will have on the sites. In order to evaluate what impact the marathon has the Environment Agency considers it necessary to evaluate the sites after each year and if there are any complications to address them when the next application is submitted. For 2022 The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the sites if conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency hereby declines Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf application for a permit to have a marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall for couple of 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. permission on its behalf to have a marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall as described above on on September 10th 2022 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.
- Participants and crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew and participants must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Organizer of the event must fill in a report at least one week prior to the marathon starts with a schedule on how the marathon will take place. Information that needs to be in the report is for example final number of contestants and how clean up of the event will take place.
- Organizers of the event must guarantee that no litter will be left behind at site and on race routes. All markings of the route must be removed as soon as the event is over.
- It is not allowed to run off road/off paths
- Participants should show consideration to other guests.
- 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.
- Final running path should be submitted to the Environment Agency site manager, or his deputy, and landowner.
- Organizers must inform participants on the importance of staying on marked race routes to prevent damage to fauna and geological formations.
- Photographers and participants should stay within designated areas where the event takes place and stay away from closed areas.
- 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.

- At least 24 hours before the marathon takes place the organizers will need to place information signs at the route and at the main tourist information centres nearby to inform guests about the marathon and possible effect on other traffic in the area
- Locations of temporary toilets should be decided with the site manager for Mývatn, or his deputy, and landowner.

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 39.400ISK 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

Inga Dóra Hrólfsdóttir
director

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir
advisor