

Hite AS  
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Norway

Reykjavík, 8. desember 2023  
UST202311-324/P.V.B.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit to film with a drone at Goðafoss, Hverfjall, Mývatn, Skógafoss and Vatnajökull**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Hite AS, dated November 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, for a permit to film and fly a drone within Goðafoss, Hverfjall, Mývatn, Skógafoss and Vatnajökull.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife and geological formation is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area 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. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

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.

Skúturstaðargígar is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 399/1973. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Vatnajökull is not under the supervision of Environment Agency. The applicant needs to apply directly to Vatnajökull national park.

***Description of the project:***

Map showing where within the areas the applicant wishes to fly the drone was included in the application. At lake Mývatn the flight would take place at Skútustaðargígar and around them. Flight radius is 1 km and flight time will be limited to max 60 minutes at each location. No people would be in the shots. There would be no flying close to people and would avoid flying/filming at busy periods during the day. No flying would take place close to animals, birds nests or cliffs. Number of employee would be 6 persons. The drone flight would take place in the period of Desember 10<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> 2023.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on conservation value and nature of the sites at the time requested to film. Other visitors might be affected but if the flight takes place when few persons are in the area the impact will be reduced.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

After revision of the application, regulations for the sites and management plans it is concluded that no permission is needed to fly the drone at Hverfjall, Mývatn and Skútustaðargígar in the period requested if the flight does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Hite AS permission on its behalf to film and fly a drone Goðafoss and Skógafoss as described above on Desember 10<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The project's staff is 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 Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.**
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the areas, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

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, 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 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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **76.000 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

***Supervision:***

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

Sincerely

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir  
*advisor*

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
*advisor*