

Light & Shadow GmbH
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Reykjavík, 10. mars 2023
UST202303-014/Þ.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: permit to fly a drone

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Light & Shadow GmbH, dated March 2nd 2023, for a permit to fly a drone and film within Dettifoss, Geysir area and Goðafoss.

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 457/1996. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations, interference with water flow in the river is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

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.

West side of Dettifoss is not under the supervision of Environment Agency. The applicant needs to apply directly to Vatnajökull national park if he wishes to use the drone there.

Description of the project:

Map showing where the drone will take off was attached to the application. At Dettifoss the drone will fly from the east bank. At Geysir it will take off northwest of Strokkur and from the east bank at Goðafoss. The altitude will not exceed 120m. Each flight would take between 10-20 minutes. The flight would take place in early morning and golden hour/evening light. There will be no flights during midday. Number of employees is two persons. The flight would take place in the period of March 20th -31st 2023.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value of the sites if conditions of the permit are followed. The project might have negative effect on other visitors' experience of the site but if conditions of the permit are followed the Environment Agency considers that the effect can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

After revision of the application and regulations for the sites and it is concluded that no permission is needed to fly the drone at the east site of Dettifoss if it does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Light & Shadow GmbH permission on its behalf to fly a drone at Geysir and Goðafoss as described above on March 20th -31st 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 crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors. 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.
- Off-road driving in Iceland 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.
- **Due to security reasons, it is prohibited to fly drone less than 50m above Strokkur and Geysir.**

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.

Road F864 that leads to Dettifoss viewpoint from the east site is impassable and according to information from the website of the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration it is expected to open again in June.

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

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor