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UMHVERFISSTOFNUN

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UST201705-050/J.S.J.

Application for permit for Photography and cinematography within Hornstrandir Nature Reserve

Environmental Agency of Iceland has received an application for Photography and cinematography from Rafael Ruiz on behalf of 1080 Líneas in Hornstrandir nature reserve, scheduled between the 11th and 16th of June 2017.

The nature reserve of Hornstrandir is a protected area, established in 1975. The main purpose for establishing it as a nature reserve was for the protection of its ecosystems, wildlife and undisturbed landscape. To maintain its current state, it is very important that every visitor aims to minimise their impact on the area, so it can retain its value and provide visitors with an enjoyable experience.

The nature reserve is classified as a category 1b area by the IUCN, i.e. a wilderness area, but generally larger and protected in a slightly less stringent manner. The area is a protected domain in which biodiversity and ecosystem processes can flourish or experience restoration if previously disturbed by human activity. Human visitation is often limited in cat 1b areas to a minimum, often allowing only those who are willing to travel of their own devices (by foot, by ski, or by boat), but this offers a unique opportunity to experience wilderness that has not been interfered with.

It's required to report any travel plans to the Environmental Agency of Iceland if the plan is to enter the area before the 15th of June, because of the fragile state of the area and the impact visitors might cause on trails during that time.

Description of the project:

The purpose of the project is to film and photograph the landscape and the wildlife at Hesteyri in Hesteyrarfjörður within the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

Guidelines from the Environment Agency:

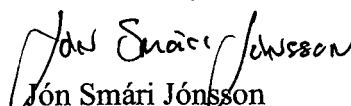
- It is important that the staff show good conduct while visiting the protected areas. Flora and landscape should not be disturbed in any way and paths should be followed.
- The crew should also be conscious of other guests of the areas and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.

Please keep the following in mind when using a drone:

- An unmanned aircraft, such as a drone, should never be flown near people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas filmed.
- 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.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes responsibility so that people, fauna and nature is unharmed because of the aircraft's use and that no permanent mark be left on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- A special permission from the Transport Authority is needed if the unmanned aircraft is over 5 kg. The Environment Agency expects the licensee to comply with rules that apply to unmanned aircrafts.
- Liability for the use of unmanned airplanes goes by Act no. 60/1998.

The Environmental Agency of Iceland does not consider the project to need a permit for photography and cinematography, based on the information in the application.

Sincerely


Jón Smári Jónsson
Advisor

Travelling in Hornstrandir Nature Reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to point out the following

Hornstrandir nature reserve was established in 1975. The main purpose for establishing it as a nature reserve was for the protection of its ecosystems, wildlife and undisturbed landscape. To maintain its current state, it is very important that every visitor aims to minimise their impact on the area, so it can retain its value and provide visitors with an enjoyable experience.

It is required to report your travel plans to the Environmental Agency at hornstrandir@umhverfisstofnun.is if you plan on visiting the nature reserve between **April 15th and June 15th**, because of the fragile state at that time.

Traveling in the area early season

Traveling in the area early season poses a few obstacles, mainly in relation to the fact that large part of the nature reserve is in transition between winter and spring. During the winter, the prevailing wind deposits great amount of snow in mountain passes, some of which are often impassable early in the season. The river crossing points can easily change over the winter time and the state of the trails is unknown. In addition, it is not recommended for large groups to travel in the area during this time of year, due to the impact they might cause. The Ranger visits the nature reserve early May. It is recommended to visit the area after the Ranger has visited the area and is in a better position to give correct information about its status.

Camping

Camp only at designated campsites. **Wild camping is prohibited** in the nature reserve. All campsites have dry latrines. Latrine doors are weighed down with heavy timber for a reason. Make sure the timber is replaced and the door is secured after use. Otherwise the risk of damage due to wind is near certain. **Campfires are prohibited**. Cooking equipment and disposable barbecues should be used with care.

Leave no lasting signs of your visit

Leave no lasting signs of your visit. Remove all rubbish from the area when you leave. Burying, burning or leaving it behind, placing it in latrines is **prohibited**, because it affects the biological processes in the compost. Do not engrave on rocks or buildings and do not build cairns, rearrange stones or in any other way leave visible signs of your visit. In addition, we also ask you to watch where you set foot in order to protect the vegetation and avoid path-making. Please remember that you are a guest. Respect the flora, fauna, cultural remains and the privacy of house owners in the nature reserve.

Do not pick flowers

The vegetation in the nature reserve is very fragile and has limited time each year to grow. We ask you not to pick flowers or other plant and avoid stepping on flowers or plant beds if at all possible. It is permitted to pick berries, mushrooms, mountain lichens and herbs for consumption on the spot, but have in mind the vegetation has only few weeks each year to grow. Please be aware that some plant species growing in the wild in Iceland are protected, and may not be cut or otherwise disturbed.

Do not take anything with you

We encourage you to leave the nature reserve as it is. Cultural remains are protected. Watch where you walk and stand. Walk around and not in between objects. Do not take anything with you and do not attempt to rearrange objects. In addition, we ask you to leave stones, bones, driftwood and other items where they are.

Do not disturb the wildlife

It is important to show caution when in vicinity of nesting birds or fox dens. Arctic Fox Dens are protected by law, so don't approach them, or dwell around them. The wildlife is very sensitive and can easily be disturbed and frightened. Do not feed the foxes, it is not beneficial for them to be fed by humans. Pets are best left at home. However, if they come along, keep them on leash and under control. Ensure you remove their droppings. Take notice, bringing a dog into the nature reserve will affect the experience of others visitors, dogs are not a part of the natural fauna, so the Arctic foxes will not be present in the same area as a dog will be. Please help us preserve the wildlife and be respectful towards it.

Polar bear

Polar bears might have entered the area early spring, having arrived on drift ice from Greenland. Be aware of this, check the surrounding and look for any indications of bear tracks. If you notice there is a polar bear in the area please report it as soon as you can, and keep your distance.

Be safe

Travel in the nature reserve may involve various risks. Be well prepared and take seriously that the elements in the area require that you **bring 4-season equipment!** Notice there is limited cellular coverage in the area, but VHF-Radios can be found in most emergency shelters. Only use the shelters if you truly need to. Leave the shelter as you found it. It is a good habit to sign your name in the emergency shelter guestbook, including your travel plans when you leave. We encourage you to register at www.safetravel.is and leave a travel plan behind, as well as seeking further information regarding traveling in Iceland.

