

Ekaterina Soloveva

Garðabær, 21. ágúst 2025
202506-0114/P.V.B.
10.01.01

Efni: Leyfi til dróna á friðlýstum svæðum - Landmannalaugar og fleiri svæði

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ekaterina Soloveva, dated June 21st 2025, for permit to fly a drone within Dettifoss, Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Fjallabak, Goðafoss, Látrabjarg, Reykjanes country park, Skógafoss, Snæfellsjökull national park and Vatnajökuls national park.

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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1986. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan regulations permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency for operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. It is prohibited to disturb vegetation or geological formation within the protected area. A permit from the Nature Conservation Agency must be obtained for planned events and projects that may cause disruption or require facilities, personnel, or the use of equipment within the protected area, such as for film production, art events, and gatherings.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th – September 15th is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 647/2020. 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Látrabjarg is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 300/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited both on land and in the sea. Disturbance to geological formation is prohibited except with permission. Permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

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. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the Regulation during nesting season. Permit from the Nature Conservation Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 15 in the Regulation.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007.

Drone flying is generally prohibited in Skaftafell. An exception is made for flying drones in front of Skaftafellsjökull, but only early in the morning or in the evening, before 09:00 or after 18:00.

Dettifoss – Drone flying is only permitted in the evening or at night, before 08:00 or after 18:00 in the period of May 1st – August 31st. In the period of September 1st – October 31st it is only permitted to fly before 10:00 or after 16:00.

Description of the project:

Map showing where the droneflight would take place was included with the application. At Dynjandi the flight would take place at the top of the waterfall. At Dyrhólaey the flight would take place at Háey. At Fjallabak the flights would take place at Brennisteinsalda, Jökulgil and over Jökulgilskvísl south of Norðurnámshraun. At Snæfellsjökull national park the flight would take place at Djúpalónssandur. At Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður the flights would take place at

Dettifoss and Skaftafell. Estimated flight time at each location would be less than 40 mín. The flights would take place in the period of August 23rd – September 3rd 2025.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on birdlife at Dyrhólaey, Látrabjarg, Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökull national park but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed. The project is not considered to have negative impact on conservation value and nature at Dettifoss, Dynjandi, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Fjallabak, Goðafoss, Reykjanes country park and Vatnajökuls national park. The Agency considers the flights likely to have negative impact on other visitors of the sites but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact can 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 from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland to fly the drone at Dettifoss from the east side, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Reykjanes country park in the period requested if the project does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Ekaterina Soloveva permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Fjallabak, Goðafoss, Látrabjarg, Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökull national park as described above on August 23rd – September 3rd 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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 Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- The applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that the droneflight causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.

- 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.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs at Dyrhólaey, Látrabjarg, Skógafoss and Djúpálónssandur in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs. The drones needs to take off at least 50 meters inland and reach maximum flight height before he starts to fly over the cliff edge.**
- **No droneflight is allowed at Dettifoss at between 8:00 and 18:00 (between 10:00 and 16:00 after september 1st) and at Skaftafell between 9:00 and 18:0)**
- **If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.**

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation 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 **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

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

Jón Björnsson

advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

advisor