

Skylight Italia

Garðabær, 12. September 2025
202508-0010/Á.G.
10.02.01

Permit for filming project within protected areas in Iceland

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Skylight Italia, dated 6.8.2025, for a permit for filmmaking within the protected areas of Þjórsárdalur, Vatnajökull national park, Geysir and Skógafoss. Other areas listed in the application were either outside protected zones or located in areas where filmmaking does not require permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Geysir is protected as a 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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency for organized events and projects that pose a risk of disturbance to geological formations, wildlife or guests in the area. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

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.

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

According to art 15(b) of act no. 60/2007, permission must be obtained from the park ranger for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment in the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research. The park ranger is authorized to set any conditions for the granting of permits that are deemed necessary, as per paragraph 2.

Jökulsárlón and Fellsfjara is protected sites within Vatnajökull National Park and drone flying is only permitted early in the morning or in the evening, before 10:00 or after 17:00.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for using a drone, for commercial use, within the above-mentioned protected areas during the period of the 22nd to the 27th of September 2025.

The crew consists of seven employees with compact mirrorless camera, tripods and two drones. Aerial photographs showing the flight paths were submitted with the application. The flight in each location will not be for longer than 20-40 minutes. Only one drone will be used in each location and the altitude will be up to 120 m. No props or sets will be needed for the project and no need to go off paths.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has assessed the project and determined that it will not negatively affect the nature conservation value of the protected areas. However, it is likely to have some adverse impact on local wildlife, particularly birds—and may cause temporary disruption to the experience of other visitors.

Provided that the conditions set by the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland and the general regulations of the Icelandic Transport Authority are strictly followed, these impacts should be minimized.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Skylight Italia permission on its behalf to permit to use drones within the above- mentioned areas and as described above from 22nd to 27th of September 2025 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland shall be notified as soon as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site and limit the size of the construction/filming site.
- The project's staff are required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precautions 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 for 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.
- The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. [1360/2024](#) on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.**
- For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are on the cliffs.

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 to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land at a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

Filming with drones on Svínafellsjökull glacier does not require a permit. However, the surrounding area is privately owned, and separate permission from the landowner may be required for filming activities outside the glacier

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 construction, drone flights, 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 of Iceland will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Agency.

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson

advisor

Ármann Guðmundsson

advisor