

Náttúruverndarstofnun

Drone GVA
12b route de Covéry
1207 Geneva

Garðabær, 26. febrúar 2025
202502-0076/P.V.B.
10.02.01

Efni: permit to fly a drone in protected areas

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Drone GVA, dated February 14th 2025, for permit to fly a drone and film within Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Látrabjarg, Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökull.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1986. 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. According to the management plan regulations permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency for operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 647/2020. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. 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. 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.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Náttúruverndarstofnun

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.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to fly a drone and film within the protected areas Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Látrabjarg, Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökull in the period of February 28th and March 9th 2025. For Dyrhólaey and Látrabjarg droneflight would take place around the cliffs where the lighthouses are located. Maps showing flight areas were included in the application. Number of employees would be five persons, four of them would be possible pilots. Number of drones would be four and one ground camera. Maximum number of drones flying at the same time would be three. It is estimated that flight time in each area would be 1-2 hours. There would be no need to go off paths or restrict other visitors access.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on nature and conservation value of the sites at the time requested. Droneflight might have negative impact on birdlife at Dyrhólaey, Látrabjarg and Skógafoss if birds are in the cliffs. Droneflight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in the sites. Negative impact on bird life and visitors can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

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 in Snæfellsjökull national park in the period requested if the project does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Drone GVA permission on its behalf to fly a drone and film within Dynjandi, Dyrhólaey, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Látrabjarg and Skógafoss as described above in the period of February 28th and March 9th 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 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.

Náttúruverndarstofnun

- 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 Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- **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 Strokki.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in 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 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.

Náttúruverndarstofnun

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. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Supervision:

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

Daníel Freyr Jónsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor