

Otto Gunkel

Garðabær, 6. mars 2025
202502-0159/P.V.B.
10.02.01

Efni: Umsókn fyrir ljósmynda- og kvikmyndatökur á friðlýstum svæðum

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Otto Gunkel, dated February 24th 2025, for permit to fly a drone within Búrfell, Búrfellsgjá and Selgjá, Dverghamra, Dyrhólaey, Geysi, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Skógafoss, Snæfellsjökull and areas in Þjórsárdalur.

Búrfell, Búrfellsgjá and Selgjá is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 687/2020. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Dverghamrar are protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 446/1987. According to the management plan regulations permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland for operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

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.

Hólmanes is protected as a nature reserve and country park, cf. regulation no. 393/1973. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Náttúruverndarstofnun

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.

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 in the period of March 10th - 31st 2025 within Búrfell, Búrfellsgjá and Selgjá, Dverghamra, Dyrhólaey, Geysi, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Skógafoss, Snæfellsjökull and areas in Þjórsárdalur for recreational use. It depends on road conditions which areas in Þjórsárdalur will be visited. Flight time would not exceed 40 minutes per flight, usually shorter. Preferred time for flights would be shortly before or after sunrise and sunset, weather conditions allowing. If weather allow the flights would occasionally occur during night time in case of northern lights. Information about estimated dates for the flights were included in the application. There would be no need to go off paths.

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 other visitors experience in the sites but the impact 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 within Snæfellsjökull national park since the nesting season has not started in the period requested to fly the drone.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Otto Gunkel permission on its behalf to fly the drone within Búrfell, Búrfellsgjá and Selgjá, Dverghamra, Dyrhólaey, Geysi, Goðafoss, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Skógafoss and areas in Þjórsárdalur as described above in the period of March 10th -31st 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the flights.
- The licensee 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.
- Licensee should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

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.
- 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.**
- **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 falcons or eagles are seen in the areas, 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.

Náttúruverndarstofnun

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.

Ragnheiður Björk Sigurðardóttir
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor