

Alexandre Ortiz Mantecon

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Application for a permit to use a drone within Goðafoss, Gullfoss and Skógafoss natural monuments and at Snæfellsjökull national park

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Alexandre Ortiz Mantecon, dated on the 20th of June 2024, for a permit to use a drone within protected area during the period of the 10th to 20th of July 2024.

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 Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Lóndrangar lie within Snæfellsjökull National Park that 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 Environment 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 Environment Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is to fly a drone within the Goðafoss, Gullfoss and Skógafoss natural monuments and Snæfellsjökull national park. Maps with the flightpaths for each area followed the application. Each flight with the drone will take maximum 30 minutes. It is not needed to go off paths.

The dates for each flight are as follows:

Lóndrangar: 10th of July

Goðafoss: 14th of July

Gullfoss: 20th of July

Skógafoss: 19th of July

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation values of the sites if conditions of the permit are followed. The drone flight might have negative impact on birdlife in Snæfellsjökull national park but if the area requested to fly at is approached from the west the impact can be reduced. The drone flight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in all sites but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact is likely to be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Alexandre Ortiz Mantecon permission on its behalf to fly a drone within the above-mentioned protected areas as described 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 Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the areas.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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 Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- 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.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown close 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 drone pilot 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.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones between Púfubjarg and Lóndrangar in Snæfellsjökull national park. The drone flight shall be done from the west side of Lóndrangar, and it is forbidden to fly drone closer than proximity 200 meters from the cliffs.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the developer causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment 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 Environment 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 Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. [990/2017](#) on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft. Take off and landing shall be in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation. Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Permission fee:

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits within protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Protection. The fee for processing a permit to use a drone is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisors will be rangers from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir
advisor

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir
advisor