

The Empire Expeditions ehf
Suðurgata 6
580 Siglufjörður
Iceland

Reykjavík, 25. maí 2023
UST202304-074/P.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: permit to fly a drone at Geysir area

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from The Empire Expeditions ehf, dated April 11th 2023, for permit to fly a drone within Geysir area.

Geysir is protected as 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. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. 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 droneflight will take place every night between 2 am and 10 am in the period of June 2nd-5th 2023 when the area is not crowded. There will be multiple flights up and down near Strokkur, each lasting no more than two or three minutes. There is no need to go off paths. Tent would be placed on the parking lot east of the site where the crew can charge and change camera equipment. Only silent / eco battery generators will be used. Potentially requesting short periods (10-15mins) of closure of the area from where the drone will operate for safety point of view for take off and landing. Number of employee would be four persons.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value of the site if conditions of the permit are followed. The project might have negative effect on other visitors experience of the site but if conditions of the permit are followed the Environment Agency considers that the effect can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants The Empire Expeditions ehf permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Geysir area as described above in the period of June 2nd-5th 2023 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 Environment Agency 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.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- 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 Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- 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.
- **For safety reasons, it is prohibited to fly a drone below 50m above Strokkur and Geysir.**

If the applicant 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.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

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 in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for cinematography and droneflight is 76.000 ISK according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson

advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

advisor