

Tiwari Mrityunjai

Reykjavík, July 15th, 2024
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09.04.00

Application for a permit to film with a drone at Geysir, Gullfoss, Skógafoss, Dimmuborgir, Goðafoss and Snæfellsjökull National Park (Dritvík, Djúpalónssandur, Lóndrangar).

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Tiwari Mrityunjai, dated 3rd of July 2024, for a permit to film with a drone within protected areas during the period of 14th – 21st of July 2024.

Dimmuborgir is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1262/2011. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Events and filming are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

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

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. 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.

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. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. 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.

Dritvík, Djúpalónssandur and Lóndrangar lie within Snæfellsjökull National park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. During nesting season the use of drones is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland within bird habitat areas.

Krafla crater, Hellissandur and Kirkjufell are not protected areas. Using a drone in those area is not subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for using a drone within protected areas during the period of 14th – 21st of July 2024. Maps showing the flightpaths were attached to the application. At Skógafoss and Snæfellsjökull national park there will be two flights but one in the other areas. Each flight will take 15 minutes.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation values on sites other than Dimmuborgir, if conditions of the permit are followed. 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. 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.

In Dimmuborgir the project is considered to have severe negative impacts on wildlife. This is due to the very recent sighting of nesting eagles in the area. Drones (UAV's) should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season, or any other seasonal period when animal or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.

Conclusions and conditions:

Dimmuborgir

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Tiwari Mrityunjai request to fly a drone within Dimmuborgir.

Geysir, Gullfoss, Skógafoss, Goðafoss and Snæfellsjökull National Park

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Tiwari Mrityunjai permission on its behalf to film with a drone within Geysir, Gullfoss, Skógafoss, Goðafoss and Snæfellsjökull national park as described above during the period of 14th – 21st of July 2024 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.
- **You must 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 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.
- 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 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 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.**
- **For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones between Þúfubjarg 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.**
- **If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, stop the flight immediately. it is prohibited to fly a drone anywhere near falcons or eagles.**
- **Permission cannot be granted for drone flights from Þúfubjarg as it may disturb the birds nesting in the cliff. However, it is permitted to launch drones from**

Malarrif and fly along the cliff, but no closer than 200 meters to it, and return the same way.

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

Sincerely

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir
advisor

Freyja Pétursdóttir
advisor