

Jonathan Henderson
3990 Starr Creek Road

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09.06.01

Subject: permit to fly a drone at Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Gullfoss and Skógafoss

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Jonathan Henderson, dated November 8th 2021, for a permit to fly a drone within Dyrhólaey, Gullfoss, Reynisdrangar and Skógafoss.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers.

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.

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.

Reynisdrangar is not a protected area. Permission might be needed from landowner.

Description of the project:

It is requested to fly a drone at Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Gullfoss and Skógafoss in the period of November 21st- November 26th 2021. Detailed description of the flight was included in the application and a map with the flight path in each site, take of and landings stites. In Dyrhólaey the drone would take of from Háey near the lighthouse. One flight will extend approximately parallel to the cliff, never getting closer than 60 meters to cliff. Altitude will not exceed 100 meters. Flight will also take place directly above the beach at approximately 30 meters altitude. At Geysi the drone will fly around Strokkur no closer than 35 m at an altitude about 50. When the drone will fly over Strokkur the altitude will be more than 50 meters. The flight will not exceed 20 min. Flight time will not exceed 40 minutes at Gullfoss and altitude will never exceed 100 meters. At Skógfoss the the drone would fly over the waterfall at 90 and approximately 45 degrees with another 150 degree circle in front of the falls. The flight will

not exceed 30 minutes. Areas with large numbers of birds will be avoided. If there are crowds in the areas the flight will not occur. There is only one employee involved in the project.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the area. It might temporarily disturb other guests. To minimise disturbance, it's important to keep flight time to a minimum, keep the drone away from guests and wildlife and avoid flying during the area's the busiest time of day

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Jonathan Henderson permission on its behalf to fly a drone at Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Gullfoss and Skógafoss as described above in the period of November 21st- November 26th 2021 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.
- The applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant 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 applicant 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss if birds are in the cliffs. Ranger will need to evaluate the area before the flight will take place.**
- **Due to security reasons, it is prohibited to fly drone less than 50m above Strokkur and Geysir.**
- 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 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.

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.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

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/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor