

Nonni Travel
Brekkgata 5
600 Akureyri

Garðabær, 4. apríl 2025
202503-0230/p.V.B.
10.03.01

Efni: Permit to operate an anual Marathon – Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Nonni Travel, dated March 18th 2025, for a permit to operate a Marathon within the protected areas Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall.

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 commercial filming is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1391/2024. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time. Permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

Description of the project:

Nonni travel, on behalf of Albatros Adventure, has requested permit to hold a marathon within the protected areas Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall 28th of June, 2025. Three distances will be offered, marathon , half marathon and quarter marathon at the same day. All distances will go through Hverfjall but only the marathon and the half marathon will go through Dimmuborgir. Map with draft of the routes and locations of drinking stations for the Marathon was included in the application. All runners will be taken by bus to the start line at the foot of Hverfjall. Local runners will be instructed to park at Vogafjós Farm Resort and take the bus from there. The races finishes at Vogar travel service. Use of motorized machinery will only be used on roads that are already at place. According to the plan, the races will take place on roads and paths that are already at place in the areas. The routs will be marked with small trail marking flags (wire flags) and kilometer and arrow signs attached to thin fence poles of 110cm in height that will be knocked into the ground. All markings will be removed as soon as the marathons finishes. There would be no markings on top of Hverfjall, only at the base. Maximum number of participants are 500 persons as agreed with landowners. Fewer are though expected to participate in 2025, or 125. Number of staff would be 12 persons. The marathons are planned to start at 7:30 and have a 7 hour time limit so any runners still on the course at 14:30 would be picked up and taken back to the finish.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the sites if conditions of the permit are followed. That decision is taken according to estimated number of participants in 2025. It is though likely that event of this size could affect other visitors and nature enthusiasts. Organisers are therefore asked to take that into account.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Nonni Travel permission on its behalf to hold a marathon within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall as described above on June 28th 2025 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.
- Organizer of the event must fill in a report at least one week prior to the event/race starts with a schedule on how the race will take place. Information that needs to be in the report are for example final number of contestants and how and when cleanup of the event will take place.
- The Nature Conservation Agency must be notified, as soon as possible, of all deviations from previously published project description, as well as if there will be changes in planned schedule.
- The applicant needs to place information signs about the event at the start and finish line at least 3 days prior to the event. This is to inform other guests of the sites about the event.
- It is desirable to control running in such a way that runners are neither in Dimmuborgir nor at Hverfjall after 12:00. If it is not possible, the Nature Conservation Agency shall be informed.
- Photographers, and others who come to observe the race, shall be informed that they are not allowed to go off paths and pointed to good viewpoints in consultation with rangers.
- Organizers of the event must guarantee that no litter will be left behind at site and on race routes. All markings of the route must be removed as soon as the event is over.
- The organizers and participants must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Travel toilets must be emptied in authorized discharge site outside the protected area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- Organizers must inform participants on the importance of staying on marked race routes to prevent damage to fauna and geological formations.
- Drinking stations must be located on gravel surfaces or other areas that are not sensitive to intrusion.

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.

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 operational, events, research and other activities is **62.400 ISK** according to art. 7. a. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

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

Hákon Ásgeirsson
director

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir
advisor