

Jan Rudinsky

Friday, 18. July 2025  
202507-0077/H.Á.  
10.02.01

**Subject: Permission to fly a drone in protected areas**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Jan Rudinsky, dated 14.7.2025, for the use of drone at Hjalparfoss, Gjain, Håifoss and Granni, Skógafoss, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Dettifoss, Goðafoss and Lóndrangar.

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss, on the eastern side of the riverbank, is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 457/1996.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. It is prohibited to disturb vegetation or geological formation within the protected area.

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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjalparfoss, Gjain, Håifoss and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation 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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the Regulation during nesting season.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007. In general, the use of drones for recreational purposes is allowed in Vatnajökull National Park, but regional restrictions apply in some areas. The general rules of the Icelandic Transport Authority must be followed, but the rules of Vatnajökull National Park (general and regional), which can be found [here](#), also apply. Special permits for recreational drone usage are not issued, but users

are asked to follow the guidelines cited here above instead. Regional rules apply at Dettifoss, see below:

*Category V: Dettifoss (western side) - Restrictions and permissions*

The use of drones at Dettifoss on the western side of the river is permitted at certain times of the day, but elsewhere in Jökulsárgljúfur the use of drones for recreational purposes is not permitted. The use of drones is permitted at the following times of the day, which vary depending on the time of year and the sunrise/sunset:

- March 1st to April 30th – before 10:00 or after 16:00.
- May 1st to August 31st – before 8:00 or after 18:00.
- September 1st to October 31st – before 10:00 or after 16:00
- November 1st to February 29th – no time-of-day restrictions, but general conditions apply.

Within the park boundaries at Dettifoss, you may only fly over the canyon itself. Due to bird protection, it is not allowed to fly further north than the northernmost viewing platform west of Dettifoss (where the red shaded area [on the map](#) begins). The eastern bank of Jökulsá is a natural monument run by the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland (shaded green) and south of Dettifoss is privately owned land. On the footpaths to the waterfalls, general conditions for drone flight apply, including a ban on flying over crowds.

***Description of the project:***

The applicant requests a permit to fly his drone at some points at Hjalparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni, Skógafoss, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Dettifoss, Goðafoss and Lóndrangar on August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The drone flights are for recreational film and photography capture only.

***Impact assessment:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation value of the sites and nature. The flights might have negative effect on other visitors' experience of the site due to number of drones flying at the same time. The Nature Conservation Agency considers that the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Jan Rudinsky permission on its behalf to fly a drone at Hjalparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni, Skógafoss, Goðafoss and Lóndrangar on August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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 – further information in email. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.

- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- If any complications occur during the drone flight, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- The applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- 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 Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near 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.
- 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 due to wildlife protection.**
- **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.**

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.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage [flydrone.is](https://flydrone.is)

***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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is 41.600 ISK according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

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