

Raphael Roy

Friday, 18. July 2025
202507-0095/H.Á.
10.02.01

Subject: Permit for the use of drone in the Fjallabak Nature Reserve

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Raphael Roy, dated 17.7.2025 for the use of drone within Fjallabak Nature Reserve and Laki area.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th – September 15th is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

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 instead. Laki area is within Vatnajökull National Park and in the Laki area category II rules apply: Areas where the use of drones is subject to the verbal permission of rangers. In these following areas, rangers can give verbal permission for the use of drones. The conditions for a permit are based on an assessment of the state of the ecosystem and/or a specific time of day when there is less tourist traffic than usual (e.g. early morning or late afternoon/evening). The ranger records the granting of the permit on a special form. Before the drone is used within the Laki area you will need to contact rangers at the parking lot at Laki.

Description of the project:

The applicant requests a permit to fly his drone at some points in the Fjallabak Nature Reserve are on August 4th to August 15th, 2025. The applicant wants to use the drone either in the morning (before 12 PM) or in the evening (after 6 PM) at Hnausapollur (Bláhyllur), Stútur crater and along F225 and F208 south. 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 Raphael Roy permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak Nature Reserve, on August 4th to August 15th, 2025, as described above, 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 at Fjallabak. 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 shall 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.

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 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.

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

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

Valdimar Kristjánsson

Advisor

Helga Árnadóttir

Project manager