

Fabian Jorge Meroi

Friday, 18. July 2025

202507-0023/H.Á.

10.02.01

**Subject: Permit for the use of drone within protected areas in Iceland**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Fabian Jorge Meroi, dated 7.7.2025, for the use of drone in Búrfell (Garðabær), Dyrhólaey, Dynjandi, Geysir, Gróttta, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Kerlingarfjöll and Þjórsárdalur (Háifoss and Granni) for the period of August 17 to September 17, 2025.

Búrfell, Búrfellsgjá og Selgjá are protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 687/2020. 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.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1986. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

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. According to the management plan regulations permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency to operate an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

Geysir is protected as a 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, soil and rocks, without permission. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Gróttta is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. [13/1984](#). Due to nesting all access to Gróttta is prohibited during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> of Maí to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. All disturbances to flora, fauna, wildlife and disturbance of nesting are prohibited.

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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss 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.

Hólmanes is protected as a nature reserve and country park, cf. regulation no. 393/1973. Visitors are not allowed to disturb vegetation and wild animal life. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited.

***Description of the project:***

The project applied for is to fly one drone within the following protected areas in Iceland (listed by dates):

- Búrfell (Garðabær) – August 18, 11:00 AM,
- Grótta, August 18, 4:00 PM
- Geysir – August 20, 10:00 AM
- Gullfoss - August 20, 12:00 PM
- Kerlingarfjöll – August 20, 5:00 PM
- Þjórsárdalur (Háifoss and Granni) – August 21, 12:00 PM.
- Dyrhólaey – August 23, 11:00 AM
- Hólmanes – August 26, 5:00 PM
- Dynjandi – September 3, 11:00 AM

The flights of the drone will take 15 - 30 minutes depending on the location, mainly during daylight hours, to reduce the impact on people and fauna.

***Impact assessment:***

The drone flights might have a negative effect on birdlife and other fauna and visitors' experience of the site. The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation values of the sites given that the applicants follow the rules here below.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Fabian Jorge Meroi permission on its behalf to use one drone in the above-mentioned areas on August 17 to September 17, 2025, on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the areas about their arrival and departure at site (see a list of rangers and mobile numbers in email). This is to be done no less than 24 hours before entering the area.
- 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 rangers or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.

- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased immediately.
- 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.
- Unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precautions 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 for 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.
- **For safety reasons, drones are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.**

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 if Iceland can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

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

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, drone flights, cinematography and/or photography is 83.200 ISK according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

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