

Terra Incognita  
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Garðabær, 18. ágúst 2025  
202508-0009/P.V.B.  
10.02.01

**Subject: Permit to film at Dettifoss, Dimmuborgir, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Hljóðaklettur, Jökulsárgljúfur, Jökulsá á Fjöllum, lake Mývatn, Skútustaðagígar and Öskjuvatn**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Terra Incognita, dated March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, for permit to film within the protected areas Dimmuborgir, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Mývatn and Laxá Vatnajökull national park

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.

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 Nature Conservation Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

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.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

Skútustaðargígar is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 399/1973. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007. According to art. 14, it is prohibited to cause damage or disturbance to the wildlife, geological formations, landscape, and cultural heritage sites within Vatnajökull National Park. According to art 15(a) of act no.

60/2007, permission must be obtained from the park ranger for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment in the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research.

Askja – Drone flying is prohibited in Askja to ensure a quality visitor experience.

Dettifoss – Drone flying is only permitted in the evening or at night, before 08:00 or after 18:00.

Jökulsárgljúfur (Ásbyrgi, Vesturdalur, Hljóðaklettur, Hólm Tungur, etc.) – Due to bird protection, safety concerns, and to ensure a high-quality experience for visitors, drone flying is prohibited in this area.

### ***Description of the project:***

Filming permit is requested within the areas Dimmuborgir, Geysir area, Goðafoss, Mývatn and Laxá and Vatnajökull national park. In Dimmuborgir the filming would take place in the area between Kirkja and the parking lot. In Geysir area filming would take place around Strokkur. At lake Myvatn filming would take place near within and near Skútustaðargígar. Within Vatnajökull national park the filming would take place at Dettifoss, In Hljóðaklettur, Jökulárgljúfur, around Jökulsá á Fjöllum and Öskjuvatn. Number of employee would be 3 persons with camera on tripod and two drones. The filming is scheduled in the period of August 18<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### ***Impact assessment:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value at Dimmuborgir, Geysir and Goðafoss. The drone flight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in the areas but if conditions of the permit is followed the impact can be reduced. The droneflight is considered to have negative impact on birdlife and other visitors experience in Hljóðaklettur, Jökulárgljúfur, Mývatn area and Skútustaðargígar. The droneflight is also considered to have negative impact on other visitors at Öskjuvatn. The droneflight is not considered to have negative impact on visitors at Dettifoss if it is conducted before 8:00 and after 18:00 and only within the area where drone flight is allowed.

### ***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Nature Conservation of Iceland hereby declines Terra Incognita request to fly a drone at Hljóðaklettur, Jökulárgljúfur Mývatn, Skútustaðargígar and Öskjuvatn in the period requested

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Terra Incognita permission on its behalf to film and fly a drone at Dimmuborgir, Geysi and Goðafoss and film without a drone within Hljóðaklettur, Jökulárgljúfur Mývatn, Skútustaðargígar and Öskjuvatn as described above on August 18<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 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.

- The applicant shall inform rangers in the areas 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 Nature Conservation shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- The crew 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 Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokki.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the areas, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.
- Droneflight is not allowed at Dettifoss between 8:00 and 18:00

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.

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 **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. 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***