



Andreas Kriebel

Garðabær, 11. júlí 2025

202507-0029/S.V.

10.02.01

### **Subject: Permit to photograph/film with a drone within protected areas**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Andreas Kriebel, dated 8.7.2025, for drone flights within protected areas in Iceland.

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

The applicant applies for a permit to fly a drone, type DJI Mavic 3 Classic, for recreational use at following protected areas: Dettifoss, Hafragilsfoss, Fjallabak, Geysir, Gullfoss, Goðafoss, Hjalparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss, Kerlingarfjöll and Skógafoss during the period of 19th – 29th July 2025. Exact dates for each location are given in the application.

#### **The Protected areas**

*Dettifoss*, *Selfoss* og *Hafragilsfoss* are protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no.457/1996. 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. May 1st to August 31st use of drones is permitted before **8:00 am** or after **18:00pm**. Within the park boundaries at Dettifoss, it is only allowed to 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.

*Fjallabak* is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

*Geysir* is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. 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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

*Gullfoss* is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. 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 monuments, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. 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. 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.

*Skógafoss* is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

*Námaskarð, Námafjall and Seljalandsfoss* are not protected and therefore not under the supervision of the Nature Conservation Agency.

#### **Impact assessment:**

Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation values. The drone flight might have negative impact on other visitors experience but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact is likely to be reduced.

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

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Andreas Kriebel permission on its behalf to film and photograph within the protected areas Fjallabak, Geysir, Gullfoss, Goðafoss, Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss, Kerlingarfjöll and Skógafoss during the period of 19th – 29th July 2025, on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The licensee shall inform rangers in the area 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 Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The licensee 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

- The licensee is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- The licensee should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- 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.
- 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, 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 above or in the vicinity of the the visitor center, campingsite and the pools in Landmannalaugar.**
- For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokki.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

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.

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