



Nadine Galandi

Garðabær, August 12th, 2025

202507-0135/S.V.

10.02.01

Permit to use a drone within Friðland að Fjallabaki nature reserve

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Nadine Galandi, dated 24th of July 2025 for a permit to use a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve between the 21st of August to the 4th of September 2025.

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 <https://island.is/en/new-drone-rules>. 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.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for using a drone at locations within Fjallabak nature reserve, a) near the hiking trail Bláhnúkur or near Skalli if the hiking trail allows it, b) Grænihryggur (around Brandsgil/Litla Brandsgil/Jökulgil) and c) Around Ljotipollur.

The flights will take place early in the morning or late in the evening (+/- 45min of sunrise/-set) with no visitors in sight. Flight time will not exceed 20min.

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 Nadine Galandi permission on its behalf to film/photograph with a drone within Fjallabak Nature Reserve as described above during the period of 21st of August to the 4th of September 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. 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 of Iceland shall be notified as soon as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- Always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow the rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are 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.
- The applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that the use of drone causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- An 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.
- 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 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.
- The use of drones shall be in accordance with regulation [1360/2024](#) on unmanned aircraft.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

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.

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 drone flights for recreational flights in up to two areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

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