

Ambition Studios

Garðabær, 25th of July 2025

202507-0111/I.M.B.

10.02.01

Permit to use a drone within protected areas

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ambition Studios, dated 21st July 2025, for a permit to use a drone within Dyrhólaey and Fjallabak nature reserves, Háifoss natural monument, Reynisfjara and Eldhraun.

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 the use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

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.

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

Reynisfjara and Eldhraun are not protected areas, so the project is not subject to a permit from the agency.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for photography and using a drone within the above-mentioned areas on July 30th and 31st 2025. The project will take place on designated paths and roads, no additional equipment is needed for the project and no restrictions on traffic. Ten people will take part in the project. Drone flights will be limited to open, unobstructed areas around Landmannalaugar, Háifoss and Dyrhólaey — staying clear of crowds, wildlife, and restricted airspace. Maximum altitude will not exceed 120 m. Drone usage will be limited to short, controlled flights (approx. 10–15 min. per location) to capture establishing shots and sweeping landscapes. No high-speed maneuvers or prolonged hovering. A brochure with photos of the locations within the protected areas was submitted with the application.

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 a negative effect on other visitors'

experience of the site. The 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 Ambition Studios permission on its behalf permit to use a drone within the Friðland að Fjallabaki, **excluding the area shown on the attached map**), Dyrhólaey and Háifoss as described above on July 30th and 31st 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 Agency of Iceland shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members shall always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the areas.
- 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 are 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 disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- 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.

- For safety reasons, the pilot of the drone must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone.
- Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors and its usage drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft.

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

According to regulation no. 1360/2024 all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority at www.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 construction, drone flights, 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 of Iceland will supervise the project. The supervisor will be rangers from the agency.

Sincerely

Hanna Valdís Jóhannsdóttir

Assistant Park Manager

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir

team leader