



Nature
Conservation
Agency of Iceland

Volodymyr Kovtun

Garðabær, 9. júní 2025

202506-0106/S.V.

10.02.01

Permit to use a drone within protected areas in Iceland

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Volodymyr Kovtun, dated June 20th, 2025, for a permit to use a drone within protected areas in Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant applies for a permit to film/photograph with a drone, type DJI Mini 3, for recreational use within the protected areas of Geysir, Gullfoss, Skógafoss, Goðafoss and Fjaðrárgljúfur during the period of 10th – 15th July 2025. According to his plan he will visit Geysir and Gullfoss 10th July, Skógafoss 11th July, Fjaðrárgljúfur 12th July and Goðafoss 14th July. Flights at every location are expected to be 10 minutes, 1-2 flights per site.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. A permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland must be obtained for planned events and projects that may cause disruption or require facilities, personnel, or the use of equipment within the protected area, such as for film production, art events, and gatherings.

Geysir is protected as a 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. 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.

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.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. 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.

The applicant also applies for Seljalandsfoss which is not protected and therefore not subject to a permit from 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. The drone holder should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Volodymyr Kovtun permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjaðrárgljúfur, Geysir, Gullfoss, Goðafoss and as described above on during the period of 10th – 15th, July 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 shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The permit holder should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads and 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 disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The permit holder 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 permit holder 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 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.
- 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.**
- **For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.**
- 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 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 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

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 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

Daníel Freyr Sigurbjargarson

advisor

Sigrún Valgarðsdóttir

advisor