



Sébastien Rougeon

Garðabær, 10. júlí 2025

202506-0096/S.V.

10.02.01

Subject: Permit to video- and photograph with a drone within protected areas

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Sébastien Rougeon, dated 19.6.2025, for video- and photographing with a drone within protected areas in Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant applies for a permit to fly a drone for recreational use at following protected areas: Reykjanes public park (Kleifarvatn, Seltún, Engjahver and Krísuvík cliffs); Fjallabak nature reserve (Framvötn, Bláhyllur, Ljótípollur, Stútur crater and Landmannalaugar); Háifoss, Gjáin and Hjalparfoss; Skógafoss; Dyrhólaey; Fjaðrárgljúfur; Dverghamrar; Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður (Svartifoss, Svínafellsjökull, Jökulsárlón, Fellsfjara (Diamond Beach) and Fjallsárlón; Stóruð; Dettifoss; Goðafoss; Hveravellir; Kerlingarfjöll; Geysir, Gullfoss and Þingvellir during the period of 5th August – 19th August 2025. Exact dates for each location are given with the application. He also mentions several locations which are not protected areas but seems to be well informed where there are restrictions and where not.

The protected areas:

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss is 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 or after 18:00**. 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.

Dverghamrar is protected as a natural monument in 1987. The natural monument covers an area of 2,4 ha.

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 permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency for operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the area.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. A permit from the Nature Conservation Agency 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.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. 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.

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 monument, 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.

Hveravellir is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 2017/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1391/2024. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. regulation no. 822/2020. 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.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

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. 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.

Stóruð is protected cf. regulation no. 850/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Vatnajökull National Park (Svartifoss, Svínafellsjökull, Jökulárlón (Diamond Beach) and Fjallsárlón) is protected according to alt no. 60/2007.

- **Svartifoss:** For safety reasons and to ensure a high-quality experience for visitors, drone flying is prohibited in this area.
- **Jökulsárlón and Fellsfjara:** Due to bird protection, drone flying is not allowed from April 15th to July 15th. In the period July 15th – September 21st special permit is not needed.
- **Svínafellsjökull:** The use of drones in front of Svínafellsjökull is permitted at certain times of the day, May 1st to September 15th droneflights are permitted **before 09:00 or after 18:00**

Þingvellir national park is not supervised by the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Further information can be seen at this website

<https://www.thingvellir.is/en/administration/licensing/droneflying-for-personal-use/>

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 of Iceland hereby declines Sébastien Rougeon request to fly a drone within Svartifoss, Jökulsárlón and Fellsfjara during the period applied for.

After revision of the application, regulations for the sites and management plans it is concluded that no permission is needed from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland within Dverghamrar, Hveravellir, Hverfjall, Kerlingarfjöll and Reykjanes Country Park in the period requested if the project does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

Special attention is drawn to permissions vs. restrictions at Dettifoss and Svínafellsjökull.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Sébastien Rougeon permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve (Framvötn, Bláhyllur, Ljótípollur, Stútur crater and Landmannalaugar); Háifoss, Gjáin and Hjálparfoss; Skógafoss; Dyrhólaey; Fjaðrárgljúfur; Dverghamrar; Stóruð; Goðafoss; Geysir and Gullfoss as described above on during the period of 5th August – 19th August 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The licensee 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 shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The licensee 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 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, 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, campsite and the pools in Landmannalaugar.**
- For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 m above Strokkur.

- 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 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

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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