

Marius Vogt Photography

Garðabær, 29. apríl 2025

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10.02.01

Efni: Permit to fly a drone at Goðafoss

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Marius Vogt Photography, dated April 22nd 2025, for permit to fly a drone within Goðafoss and Hverfjall.

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.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1391/2024. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time. Permission must be obtained from the Nature Conservation Agency for organized events and projects that pose a risk of disturbance to geological formations, wildlife or guests in the area.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to fly a drone at Goðafoss and Hverfjall between 3:45 am and 10:30 pm in the period of May 4th -7th 2025. Maximum flight time would be 1,5 hours per site. Maximum flight altitude would be 120 meters. Number of employees would be 1 person.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation value or nature at Goðafoss. The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on other visitors experience on the sites but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

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 to fly the drone at Hverfjall in the period requested if the project does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Marius Vogt Photography permission on its behalf to fly a drone at Goðafoss as described above in the period of May 4th -7th 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 shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Licence should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The licence 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the areas, it is not allowed to fly the drone there while the birds are 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

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

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.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Nature Conservation Agency.

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advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
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