

Compass ehf.
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Iceland

Akureyri, 1. júlí 2021
UST202106-239/D.Ö.H.
09.06.01

Subject: permit to film in Dimmuborgir, Gullfoss and Geysir

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Compass ehf., dated June 22nd, for an event, photo shooting and a dronefly within Dimmuborgir, Geysir and Gullfoss.

Dimmuborgir are protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no, 1262/2011 and are one of the most popular destination of tourist in north Iceland. The goal set in the terms of protection is to protect the geological features due to high value of educational purposes and possibilities for outdoor activity. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Events and commercial filming are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment 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 Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

According to The Compass ehf. application the plan in Dimmuborgir is to film a choir that will perform at the entrance to Dimmuborgir. The choir and the surroundings will be filmed at the location. Drone will be used for filming purposes.

Estimated date of filming is July 10th or 11th around 18:00 and should not take longer time than 30 minutes. Crew of seven will be working on location along with choir of 15 performers who will perform one song.

While the photo shooting takes place temporary pause of foot traffic is preferred through the entrance.

At Geysir site the presenter will be walking while filmed at the Geysir site. There will be no need to go off paths. Drone filming will take place at the Geysir site only, approximately flying time is 30 minutes. Estimated time of filming will be one day within the period 3rd – 5th July.

By Gullfoss the presenter will be observing the waterfall from viewing platform, drone flying time is 30 minutes above river Hvítá. Estimated time of filming will be one day within the period 16th – 18th July.

At all locations there will be filming crew of 7, although in Dimmuborgir group of 15 will be added as previously described.

Impact assessment:

The project is not likely to affect conservation value of Dimmuborgir and therefore the permit can be granted for the project as it is described but drone flying is only allowed above the choir due to bird protection.

By Gullfoss the project is not likely to affect the conservation value.

At the Geysir site the project is not likely to affect the conservation value but it is strictly forbidden to fly the drone lower than 50 meters above Geysir and Strokkur the active geysers.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Compass ehf. permission on its behalf to film on land and by flying drones within or by Dimmuborgir, Gullfoss and Geysir as described above on given dates 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 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 Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- A sign that indicates that a permit to film has been obtained from the Environment Agency, must be placed at the site.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- All traces of the project, such as litter must be removed when the project is over.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited. It occurs to the project staff and unmanned aircraft.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.**
- **It is forbidden to fly unmanned aircraft lower than 50 meters above Strokkur and Geysir within the Geysir site.**
- 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.

If the developer causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment 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 Environment 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 Environment 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 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

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

Permission fee: Environmental and Natural Resources Board of Appeal

Environment 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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Davíð Örvar Hansson
advisor