

Around the World Project
Carlos Santos
Rua Joaquim Agostinho, 58
2785380 Sao Domingos Rana - Lisbon
Portugal

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Permit to fly a drone in protected areas

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Carlos Santos, dated May 4th 2021, for a permit to fly a drone within the protected areas Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Goðafoss, Gróttta, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Hverfjall/Hverfell, Skógafoss, Skútustaðagígar, Ströndin við Stapa and Hellnar and Snæfellsjökull National park.

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. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers.

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.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. 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 Environment Agency of Iceland.

Gróttta is protected as nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 13/1984. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Construction work is prohibited.

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.

Hólmanes is protected as a nature reserve and country park, cf. regulation no. 393/1973. Visitors are not allowed to disturb vegetation and wild animal life. Construction work and



disturbance to geological formations is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

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. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Skútustaðagígur is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 399/1973. Mining, construction work and disturbance to geological formations that can alter or damage the craters is prohibited.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 568/2001. All commercial filming projects within the national park are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 17 in the Regulation. Permit from the Environment Agency is needed for research projects on nature and heritage monuments within the national park according to art. 20 in the regulation.

Description of the project:

Permission is requested to fly the drone in the protected areas Dyrhólaey, Geysir, Goðafoss, Gróttta, Gullfoss, Hólmanes, Hverfjall/Hverfell, Skógafoss, Skútustaðagígur, Ströndin við Stapa og Hellnar and National park Snæfellsjökull. In the national park there are two locations where the drone would fly, Hólahólar and Saxhóll. At Skútustaðagígur the drone would also fly over lake Mývatn. Each flight will take 10-15 min. Aerial photos that show the area requested to fly over was attached to the application. Flights will take place in the period October 9th -October 17th 2021. Information about the date and time the drone would be flown were included in the application for each area. Film crew consist of 1 employee.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the areas if conditions of the permit are followed. Other visitors in the sites might be disturbed by the drone but if the flights are scheduled to take place when few visitors are in the sites the effect will be minimal.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Carlos Santos permission on its behalf to fly a drone as described above in the period October 9th -October 17th 2021 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.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- 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 must be removed when the project is over.
- The applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that droneflight 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 Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The applicant is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- The applicant should stay on marked paths the whole time.
- 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.
- 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.**
- **For safety reasons it is forbidden to fly the drone over Strokkur in altitudes below 50 meters.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters if birds are in the cliffs.

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:

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

Arna Hjörleifsdóttir
advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor