

Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf.  
Brekku götu 5  
600 Akureyri  
Iceland

Reykjavík, 31. október 2019  
UST201910-176/H.H.  
09.07.01

**Subject: Permit for marathon in Dimmuborgir**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf., dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, for permit for marathon within protected areas around Mývatn.

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.

Dimmuborgir is protected as a natural monument, according to act no. 1262/2011. 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.

Hverfjall (Hverfell) is protected as a natural monument, according to act no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. It's prohibited to walk outside of marked hiking trails. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland, landowners and Skútustaðahreppur municipality is needed for all construction work.

***Description of the project:***

Nonni travel on behalf of Albatros Adventure has requested permit to have marathon within protected areas around Mývatn on 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. The marathon will be full and half with a start and finish within the land of Vogar ferðapjónusta. Use of motorized machinery will only be used on gravel roads that area already at place. Draft of the route followed application. It is not estimated to go off paths and the path will be marked with flags and guides will be there to make sure that runners go in the right direction. The run will go through three protected areas, Mývatn and Laxá, Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall. It is estimated that participants will be 200-400 and staff members will be 10-15. On the route there will likely be refreshment stations with water and energy drinks for the runners. These stations will then be manned by volunteers. The plan is to start the run early before tourist arrival so there will be no need to close of any roads/paths.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the protected area even though it's at this size. The runners will run after paths at Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall and from former experience has run like this not affect the area. This run is though bigger than have been before so it's important to have supervision and see how it will affect the area. The run will affect the guests in the area, this is high season of tourists.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Ferðaskrifstofan Nonni ehf., permission on its behalf to have marathon run within Dimmuborgir and Hverfjall as described above on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 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 crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Organizer of the event must fill in a report at least one week prior to the event/race starts with a schedule on how the event/race will take place. Information that need to be in the report is for example final number of contestants and how clean up of the event will take place.
- Contestants should show consideration to other guests are in the area when paths cross on site and on roads and paths where the event takes place.
- Organizers must inform participants on the importance of staying on marked race routes to prevent damage to fauna and geological formations.
- The maximum number of participants should not exceed 500. The condition of the area will be assessed after the run and an assessment will be made as to whether the number of participants has a negative impact on the natural environment.
- Runners should be informed that the race goes through protected area, which is protected by international agreements as well as protected nature reserves that are unique on a global scale.
- Participants are encouraged to explore the area for running and are advised to visit the Environment Agency's guest room at Hraunvegur 8.
- It is desirable to control running in such a way that runners are neither in Dimmuborgir nor at Hverfjall after 12:00. If this is not possible, the Environment Agency shall be informed
- Sign should be set up at the tourist attraction that inform guests that the race is going on.
- Final running path should be submitted to the Environment Agency specialist, or his deputy, and landowners
- If temporary toilets are installed in sensitive areas, should it be done in consultation with the Mývatn Environmental Protection Agency specialist or his deputy.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.

- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Organizers of the event are required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and must guarantee that no litter will be left behind at site and on race routes.
- All markings of the route must be removed as soon as the event is over.
- Crew members should stay on marked paths the whole time.

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.

**A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality and the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration 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 activities is 39.400 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

*Hildur Hafbergsdóttir*  
Hildur Hafbergsdóttir  
advisor

*David Örvar Hansson*  
Davíð Örvar Hansson  
advisor