

Deutsche Welle  
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Germany

Reykjavík, 22. August 2019  
UST201908-139/H.H.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to fly drone at Gullfoss and Geysir**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Deutsche Welle, dated 19. August 2019, for drone flight at Gullfoss and Geysir.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. 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.

Geysir is listed on the Nature Conservation Register and is under the supervision of the Environment Agency.

***Description of the project:***

The project applied for is to fly a drone at Gullfoss and Geysir, September 1. 2019 for 2 hours. The plan is using the footage for travel series: Meggin's Perfect Weekend for culture program "euromaxx". The Flight altitude will be no higher than 100 meters. The crew consist of 4 people. There will be no need to go off the paths.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the area. Due to number of visitors visiting the sites applied for, flying a drone can have negative impact on the visitor 's experience. Flight time should therefore be kept as short as possible.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Deutsche Welle permission on its behalf to fly drone at Gullfoss and Geysir as described above on 1. September 2019 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.
- 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. During early morning and late afternoon, there are less people visiting the sites.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **It is forbidden to fly over Strokkur and in the Geysir area in altitudes below 50 meters.**
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- A sign that indicates that a permit to film has been obtained from the Environment
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

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/>).

#### ***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,

*Hildur Hafbergsd.*

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir  
advisor

*Valdimar Kristjánsson*

Valdimar Kristjánsson  
advisor