

Chia Ming Liu

Reykjavík, 02.08. 2023
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Subject: Flying a drone in Snæfellsjökull National Park and other areas in Snæfellsnes

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Chia Ming Liu, dated 20th July 2023, for a permit to fly a drone within various places in Snæfellsnes area.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar (Gatklettur) 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. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National Park (Svortuloft and Londrangar) is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the Regulation during nesting season. All nature-related research, that is not legally endorsed by a research institution is subject to permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Búðahraun (Búðakirkja) is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 357/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Description of the project:

The applicant is applying for using drone in various places in Snæfellsnes, Snæfellsjökull National Park (Svortuloft and Londrangar), Arnarstapi coastline (Gatklettur), Búðir nature reserve (Búðakirkja), Ólafsvík and Kirkjufell. The project will be conducted from March 10th – March 12th 2024. Number of employees are 1 person on location. The aim of the project is to film the scenery around Snæfellsnes with a drone (DJI Mavic PRO 2) to make travel records.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on nature or conservation value at Arnarstapi and Hellnar. The droneflight might have negative effect on other visitors experience but if conditions of the permit are followed the agency considers that the impact can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Chia Ming Liu permission on its behalf to film with a drone along Arnarstapi coastline, Gatklettur, within the nature reserve Stapi and Hellnar as described above in March 10th – 12th 2024 on the following conditions. A permit is not needed at this time of the year for filming in the Snæfellsjökull National Park or Búðir.

Other places mentioned in the application are not protected and not under the supervision of The Environment Agency. The applicant might need to apply directly to the landowner or municipalities of the areas, for Ólafsvík snb@snb.is and Kirkjufell grundarfjordur@grundarfjordur.is

- 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 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.
- 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 work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

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/>).

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.

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 droneflight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **38.000 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Hákon Ásgeirsson
Park manager

Guðbjörg Gunnarsdóttir
advisor