

Guide

Application for drone use in Lofotodden National Park

Drone flying is generally prohibited in Lofotodden National Park, but permission can be granted in special cases upon application. All flying requires that an application has been submitted and a dispensation granted, cf. § 10 of the protection regulations. Knowledge of the Civil Aviation Authority's rules and guidelines for drone flying is a requirement.

If you wish to apply for multiple options (e.g., using two different drone weights), please submit them in separate application forms.

Application Form

Purpose of the flight

The matrix below explains the categories mentioned in question no. 10 in the application form. It also provides guidelines for processing the applications. If the purpose of the flight falls under categories 1–4, the application will result in a refusal.

Purpose	Processing	Conditions for permission/grounds for refusal
1. Entertainment/recreation <i>(e.g., for private video recording)</i>	Refusal	Precedent effect, cf. nml § 10 cumulative impact. Can be done outside the protected area or limited to recording methods that do not require permission.
2. Private use <i>(e.g., for publication on private social media)</i>		
3. Advertising/marketing		
4. Events/competitions		
5. Supervision of grazing animals	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
6. Supervision and operation of facilities and installations <i>(e.g., power lines or navigation installations)</i>	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
7. Management and maintenance by the management authority or SNO	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.

8. Nature monitoring and mapping	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
9. Documentation to promote conservation and natural values	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
10. Scientific studies	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
11. Activities organized by the Coast Guard	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
12. Purposes where the protection regulations allow permission for motorized traffic for the same purpose (e.g., use of helicopter)	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.
13. Purposes where refusal may lead to alternative use of aircraft (helicopter)	Permission, but with conditions	Avoid vulnerable areas during sensitive periods.

Application Text

We require detailed information about the purpose of the flight, the preparatory and follow-up work, and the necessity.

Can the flight be conducted outside the national park? If no, why must it be done within the national park?

We wish to document the actual need to allow drone flying in the national park. Please investigate whether the desired flight can be conducted outside the park boundaries and prioritize this if possible.

The following minimum conditions apply to all drone flights:

- The drone pilot must be registered as a drone operator with the Civil Aviation Authority and adhere to the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority's rules for drone usage.
- If permission is granted, the geographical area for drone use must be marked on a map and submitted afterward.
- Visitors in the surrounding area must not be unnecessarily disturbed. Drone use should not occur near popular tourist spots or heavily trafficked routes so that outdoor activities are not negatively affected.

- Drone use should, if possible, avoid known sites for golden eagles and sea eagles, and avoid nesting and breeding seasons, i.e., the period from March 1st to July 15th. Other periods will be evaluated based on whether they cause disturbances to wildlife.
- Drone use near birds and other wildlife should be avoided. If birds of prey are observed in the area, the drone should be taken down until the bird has moved away.
- When publishing material, such as films and photos, it should clearly state that permission has been granted by the national park management.
- Dispensation/permission can be granted for up to 1 year at a time.

Processing of Applications

The administrator processes applications under delegated authority in accordance with the matrix. In general, dispensation will only be granted where the drone is necessary for the task and the benefit has been documented. If the alternative is a helicopter, a drone should be used if possible. In special cases, applications must be processed by the Lofotodden National Park Board.

You can expect a temporary response within 3 weeks. Processing time may take longer if the case must be handled by the Lofotodden National Park Board. An overview of meeting dates is available at [National Park Board | Meeting Calendar and Meeting Documents](#). Please submit your application well in advance.