

# FLIGHTS OVER NATURE RESERVES AND NESTING AREAS OF BIRDS

COMPILED BY THE ICELANDIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OF ICELAND



## DOES YOUR FLIGHT AFFECT THE LIFE CYCLE OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS?

Your flight can affect the life cycle of birds and animals as well as people's experience of the country's nature. Keep this in mind the next time you plan and execute a flight.

When the nesting time of birds is at its peak, special care must be taken so that no disturbance occurs in known nesting areas, e.g. in the vicinity of bird cliffs. This is important both to ensure flight safety and to prevent damage or disruption to wildlife.

The Icelandic Transport Authority and the Environment Agency would like to draw the attention of pilots to the importance of respecting minimum altitudes at all times. By respecting flight rules and showing consideration, a positive image of aviation is created and safety is ensured in the best possible way.

Special attention is drawn to the restrictions on flights over Þjórsárver, as per Chapter ENR 5.1 of the Icelandic AIP, which is valid from 10 May to 10 August, prohibiting any operation of aircraft below 5000 feet above sea level.

## MAIN RULES FOR NATURE RESERVES AND BIRD NESTING AREAS:

1. It is not permitted to fly aircraft unnecessarily in the vicinity of bird cliffs, as per Paragraph 4 Art. 17 Act no. 64/1994 on the protection, conservation and hunting of wild birds and wild mammals.
2. Care shall be taken in the vicinity of bird nesting grounds according to Paragraph 4 Art. 17 of the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013.
3. In addition to laws and regulations, rules on protected areas are laid down in the protection terms of each area.
4. Detailed information on all protected areas and rules can be found here on the Environment Agency's website (see also a link to a map at the bottom of the page).
5. Many of the protection terms state that it is not permitted to harm or disturb wildlife in the protected area.

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## EXAMPLE:

**Dyrhólaey:** Advertisement no. 101/1978 in the B-section of the Official Journal of the Icelandic Government: Wildlife may not be harmed or disturbed in the protected area.

**Surtsey:** Advertisement no. 50/2006 on the nature reserve in Surtsey Art. 6:

It is not permitted to spoil vegetation, disturb wildlife and disturb the geological formations and other natural monuments in the nature reserve.

**Þjórsárver** is the only nature reserve in the country where restrictions have been placed on air traffic, as per advertisement no. 507/1987 on the nature reserve in Þjórsárver. It is not allowed to fly below 5000 feet above sea level outside the perimeter of the glacier in the period 10 May to 10 August except with a permit from the Environment Agency. This is to ensure that the geese that nest there will not be disturbed during the breeding season. The rules that apply to the minimum flight altitude in rural areas therefore do not apply there.

Attention is drawn to the fact that in the [Icelandic AIP](#), which can be found on the website of the Icelandic Transport Authority, is detailed information that pilots must familiarize themselves with, see section ENR 5.6 "Migratory birds and areas with vulnerable wildlife."

Pilots are also encouraged to obtain information from the Environment Agency for protected and sensitive areas, but [here you can see a map](#) showing those areas.