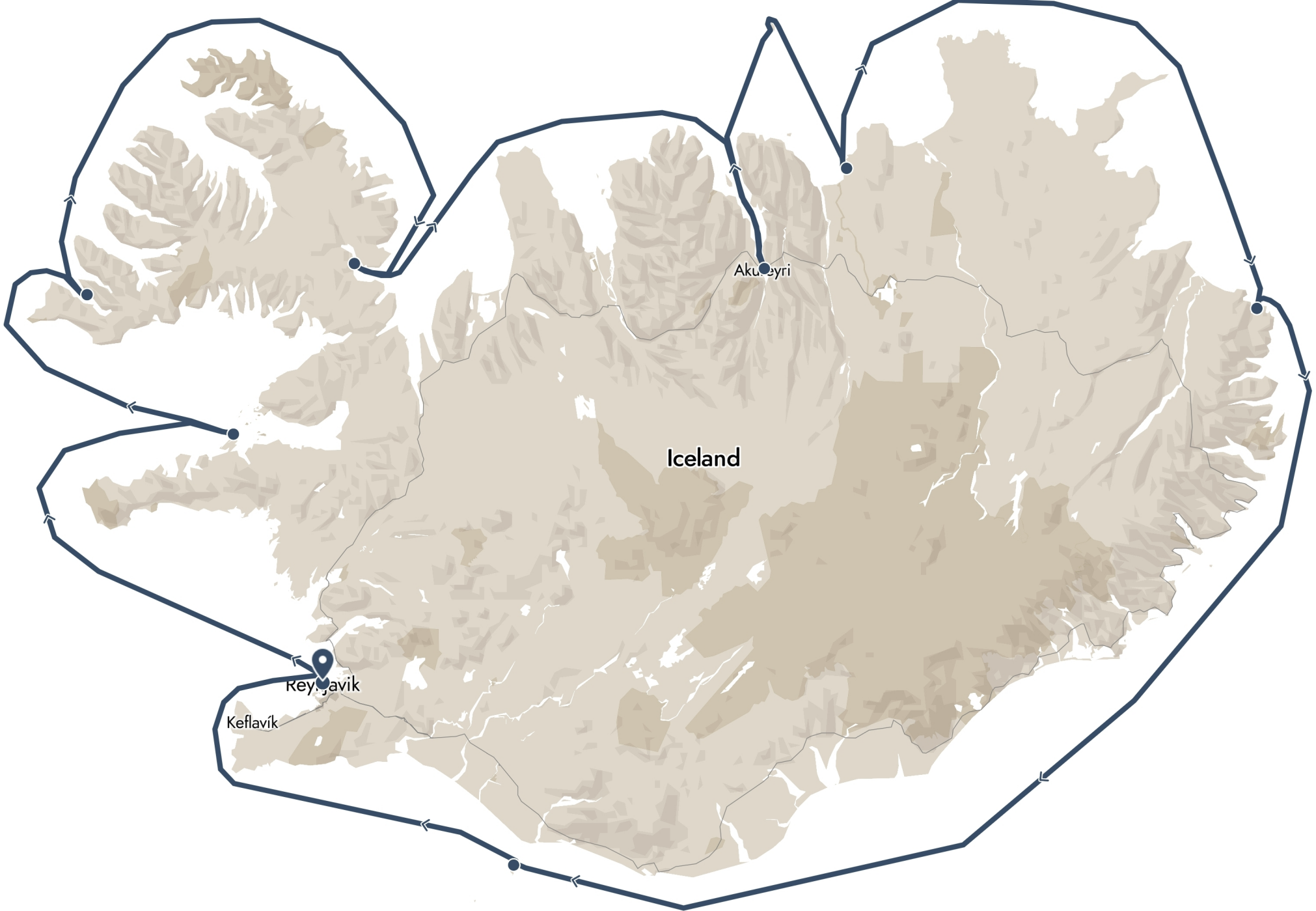




MS Fridtjof Nansen

2024.05.16 - 2024.05.24




Iceland

Reykjavik

Keflavik

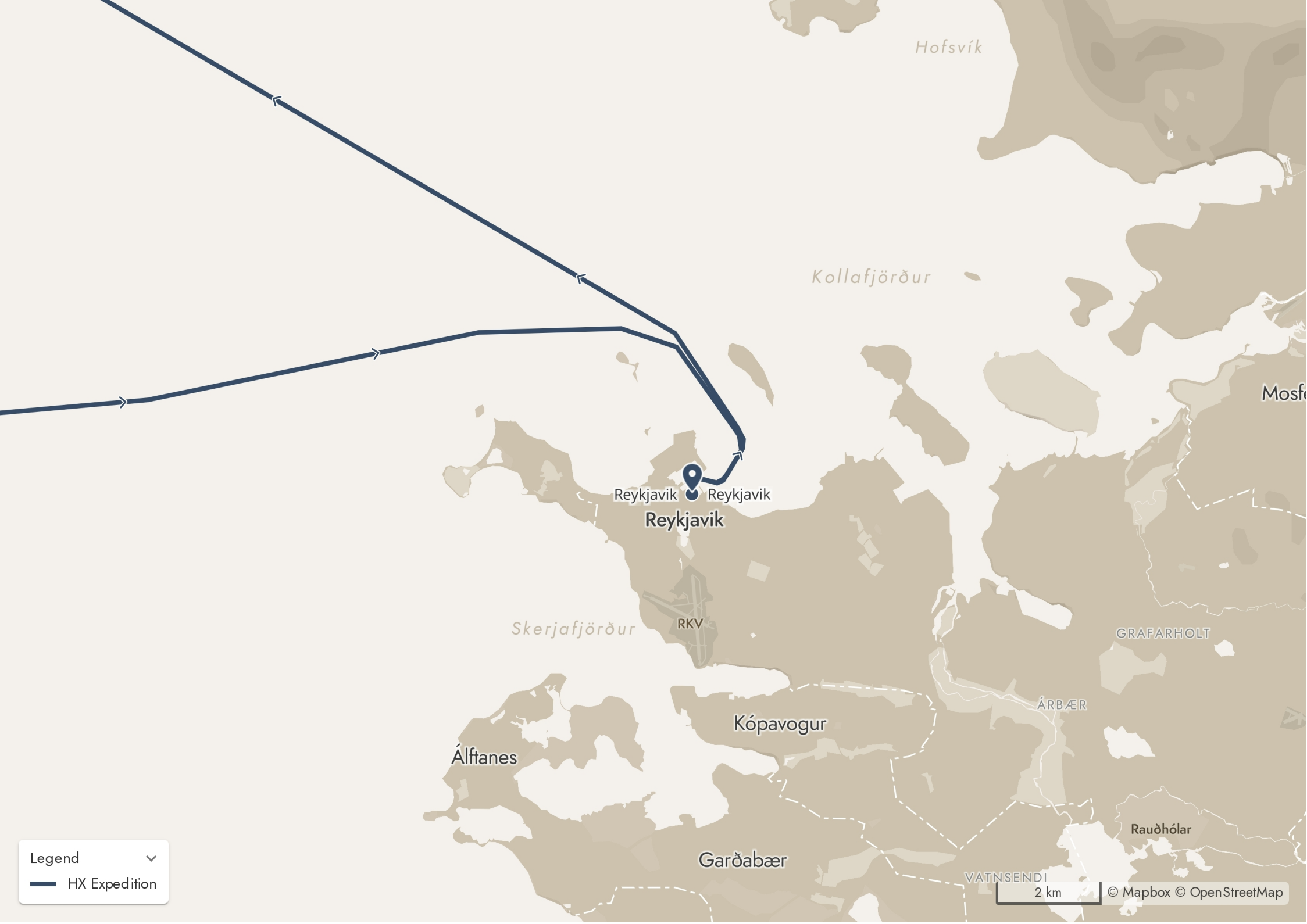
Akureyri

Legend

 HX Expedition

50 km

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Hofsvík

Kollafjörður

Mosf

Reykjavik
Reykjavik
Reykjavik

Skerjafjörður

RUV

GRAFARHOLT

Kópavogur

ÁRBÆR

Álftanes

Garðabær

Rauðhólar

VATNSEIÐI

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

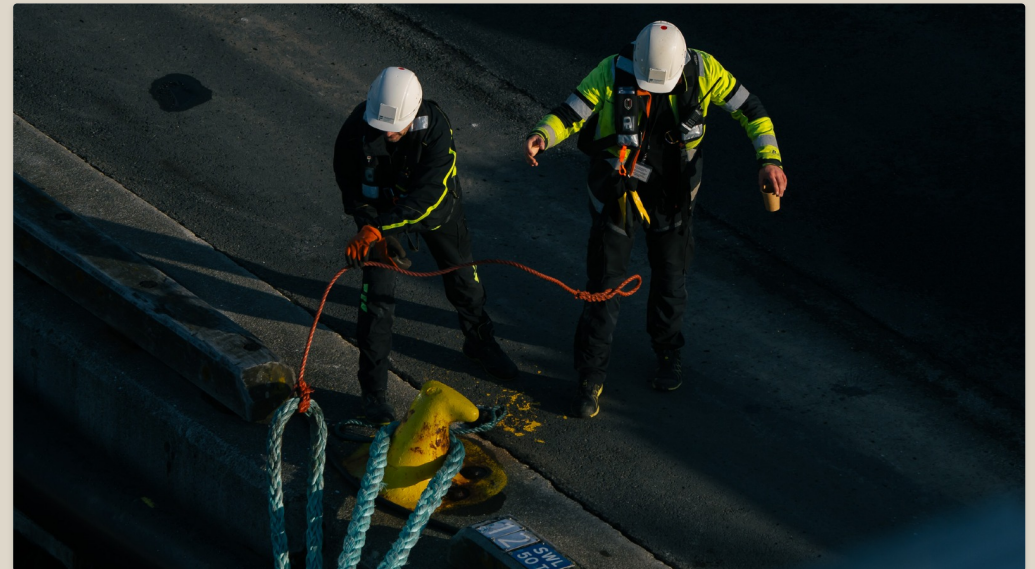
Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 1

On a cloudy day, 354 adventurous guests from 21 nations embarked MV Fridtjof Nansen. When they all settled in and

had completed the mandatory safety drill, we set sail and started our circular saga around Iceland.



Day 2

Our first stop was in Stykkisholmur. The weather was cold and windy, but from time to time the sun came through the clouds. On different excursions we explored the Snæfellsness peninsula. We visited lava caves and craters, enjoyed

beaches of black sand or admired rocks of basaltic columns. Finally, we even found the first harbour seals arriving for breeding.



Day 3

From Stykkisholmur we sailed to Patreksfjörður, a little village in the Westfjords of Iceland. During the night, the wind had become even colder, and the higher parts of the flat mountains were covered by fresh snow. Most of us went on an excursion: either to one of the largest and most beautiful

waterfalls of the Westfjords or to Latrabjerg, the highest sea cliff of Iceland. In strong winds we walked along these cliffs watching out for the first kittiwakes and guillemots that started to nest in the cliffs while the puffins were hiding from the wind in their burrows.






Hólmavík

Steingrímsfjörður

Drangsnæs

Björnarfjörður

Legend

 HX Expedition

Day 4

The ship stopped in front of the little village of Holmavik. We were tendered ashore and from there, three small shuttle busses took us to an even tinier place called Saudfjarsetur á Ströndum. The weather continued to be cold and windy, but we were given a very warm welcome by the sheep farmer's family who runs a little museum there. After visiting the

museum and learning about Icelandic sheep farming, we even got cake and coffee as much as we wanted. Outside the museum we could also walk a little path with local art and the more sportive ones of us went on a hike to the top of a nearby hill and enjoyed the great view over the place.



Day 5

The next day saw us in Akureyri, the second largest town of Iceland. There too, the winter had come back, and hence we explored the jewels of the northern part of the country in a snow-powdered landscape: the mighty waterfall of the gods, the lavafields and craters around Lake Myvatn and the hot,


colourful, and smelly sulfur springs in the nearby geothermal fields. In spite of the cold temperatures, some of us also went to Myvatn bath to enjoy the 38 to 40°C warm water of these springs.



Skjálfandi

Grimsey & Húsavík
Húsavík

Legend

 HX Expedition

Day 6

According to plan A we were supposed to go to the island of Grímsey. However, due to the strong winds and storms of the last days, there was too much swell to land there in our tender boats. Luckily, captain and expedition leader had a plan B and so we went to Húsavík instead. As this place is the whale watching capital of Iceland, many of us visited the whale

museum with the very impressive skeleton of a blue whale or even went on a whale watching tour with local operators. Those, who preferred to stretch their legs, walked over to Botnvatn lake enjoying the beautiful scenery and the different bird species that were to be seen around the water.



Day 7

Bakkagerdi in the east coast of Iceland greeted us with bright sunshine. Because the little harbour was even too small for our tenderboats, we were brought ashore in the zodiacs. From there, a shuttle bus took us to town where we got a guided tour and learnt about the live in a 100 people village

or climbed the Alfaborg, the rock of the elves. However, the highlight of this landing were the many puffins that lived close to the landing site. In this moment, a dream came true for many of us!





Heimaey

Vestmannaeyjar

Westman Islands

VEY

Legend

— HX Expedition

Heimaey, Iceland - May 23, 2024

Day 8

Also our last day, started in sunshine. As a masterpiece of navigation, the captain steered the ship into the narrow harbour of Heimaey, the largest and only inhabited Vestman island. Then, the clouds took over, but nevertheless we explored the island in many ways: by boat tour and RIB safari, by bus or by walking over the black lava fields that were

formed during the last eruption on the island in 1973. With excitement we heard that 400 houses were buried under volcanic ash and that the lava nearly closed the island's harbour, and with relief we got to know that nobody died in this natural disaster.

Reykjavik, Iceland - May 24, 2024

Day 9

In the early morning, we arrived in Reykjavik and our trip came to an end. We said ,Goodbye!' to ship and crew and

started our way home.





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