



MS Roald Amundsen

2024.08.21 - 2024.09.14



Arctic Ocean

Beaufort Sea

Baffin Bay

Greenland

Bering Sea

Canada

Edmonton

Calgary

Vancouver

NORTH AMERICA

United States

Chicago

Toronto

Ottawa


New York

Los Angeles

Houston

North Atlantic Ocean

North Pacific Ocean

Legend
  HX Expedition

500 km

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Day 1

The adventure started as soon as we arrived in Nome. Very strong winds came directly from the sea and drove the waves right into the port. Although lying alongside in port, the ship with its gangway was pushed back and forth by the winds and waves. At some point, the gangway needed to be closed and guests still in town would have to

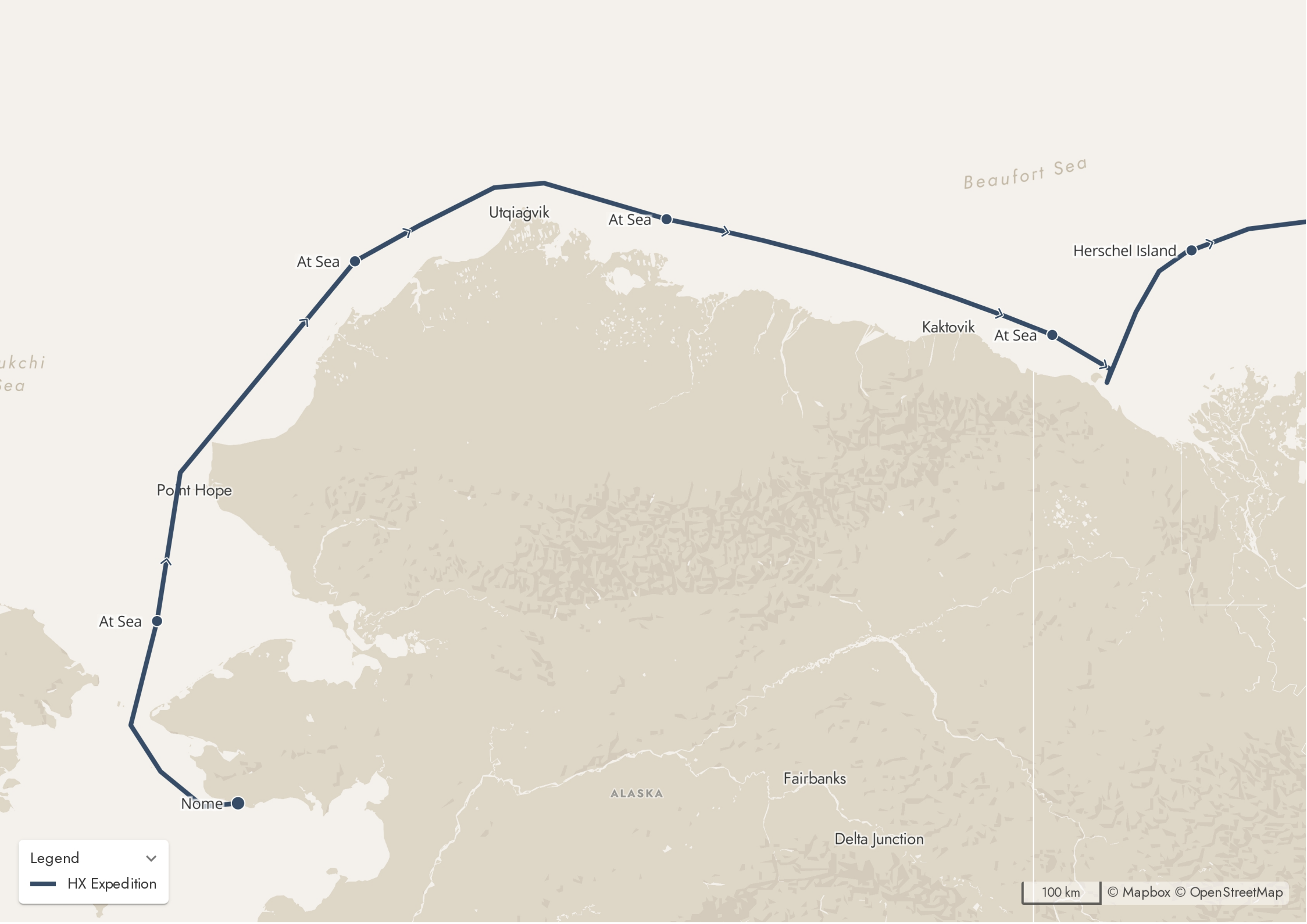
wait in the hospitality centre with soft drinks, some Alaskan beers and pizza. Not the worst place to wait for the wind to calm down. In the early evening, the situation improved, and all guests made it onto the ship safely.



Deck 7



View of Nome from the ship



Legend

— HX Expedition

At Sea - Aug 22, 2024

Day 2

We waited in the port of Nome until the swell had calmed down, and we finally left at 10 am. We were sailing north with all the joyful anticipation of what was to come. Not many people have ever sailed where we are going over the coming days and weeks. For now, it was

a foggy day; we certainly felt that temperatures were cooler now than in the places that we left from. But the onboard programme kept us busy.

At Sea - Aug 23, 2024

Day 3

While we sailed further north, the weather improved. The fog cleared up, and we even got sunshine in the afternoon. This can certainly be traced back to the visit of the sea god Njord, who paid us a visit at the bow of deck 6 in the morning. Many guests wanted to conciliate

Njord and willingly let him baptize them with ice water and a warming drop of alcohol. As a 'reward', we were visited by several humpback and fin whales in the afternoon.



Whale sighting



Polar Circle Baptism by the Captain

Day 4

Another day at sea, close to Point Barrow, was filled with an onboard programme, much of which centred around Inuit topics so we could better understand the indigenous people of this area. We learnt of a fascinating lifestyle that has evolved over thousands of years in order

to survive in the rough Arctic reality. But we also had lots of fun learning to play Inuit games in the Explorer Bar. Our scientists retrieved a phytoplankton sample that they analysed together with us.



Arctic Ocean

Day 5

While sailing the Beaufort Sea today, we prepared for the first stop on our route. We received our patches, which divided us into boat groups, vacuum-cleaned our outdoor gear and backpacks, and were equipped with rubber boots. We also attended the AECO briefing to

learn the rules for behaving in this pristine part of the world. In addition, many of us eagerly walked around the ship to complete the Roald Amundsen scavenger hunt.



Navigational instrument on the bridge

Day 6

After the first four sea days, as entertaining and educational as they were, we were happy to finally set foot on land again. A beautiful sunny day awaited us on Herschel Island after crossing the border into Canada at night. We strolled around the buildings that date back

to whaling times. Close to the beach, some of us walked further to a viewpoint where caribou were grazing. At midday, the wind picked up, and the zodiac rides back to the ship were accompanied by some splashes of seawater.



Beach and old houses on Herschel



Caribou

Day 7

This day at sea had some highlights to offer. After lunch, we encountered our sister ship, MS Fridtjof Nansen. A lot of shouting and cheering, waving and smiling went on, Norwegian flags blowing in the wind. We witnessed how both ships exchanged some goods and

zodiacs. In the evening, a second highlight brought us outside on deck again: the “Smoking Hills”, with sulfur smoke arising from the colour-rich mountains.



Amundsen meets Nansen



Smoking hills

Day 8

Before we went ashore, we were greeted by around 40 locals in the Explorer Bar, who introduced us to various music, dances, songs, games and sports. We then went ashore, meeting many welcoming inhabitants of this small but warm-hearted community. We could choose between a guided tour of the village or a hike up the local

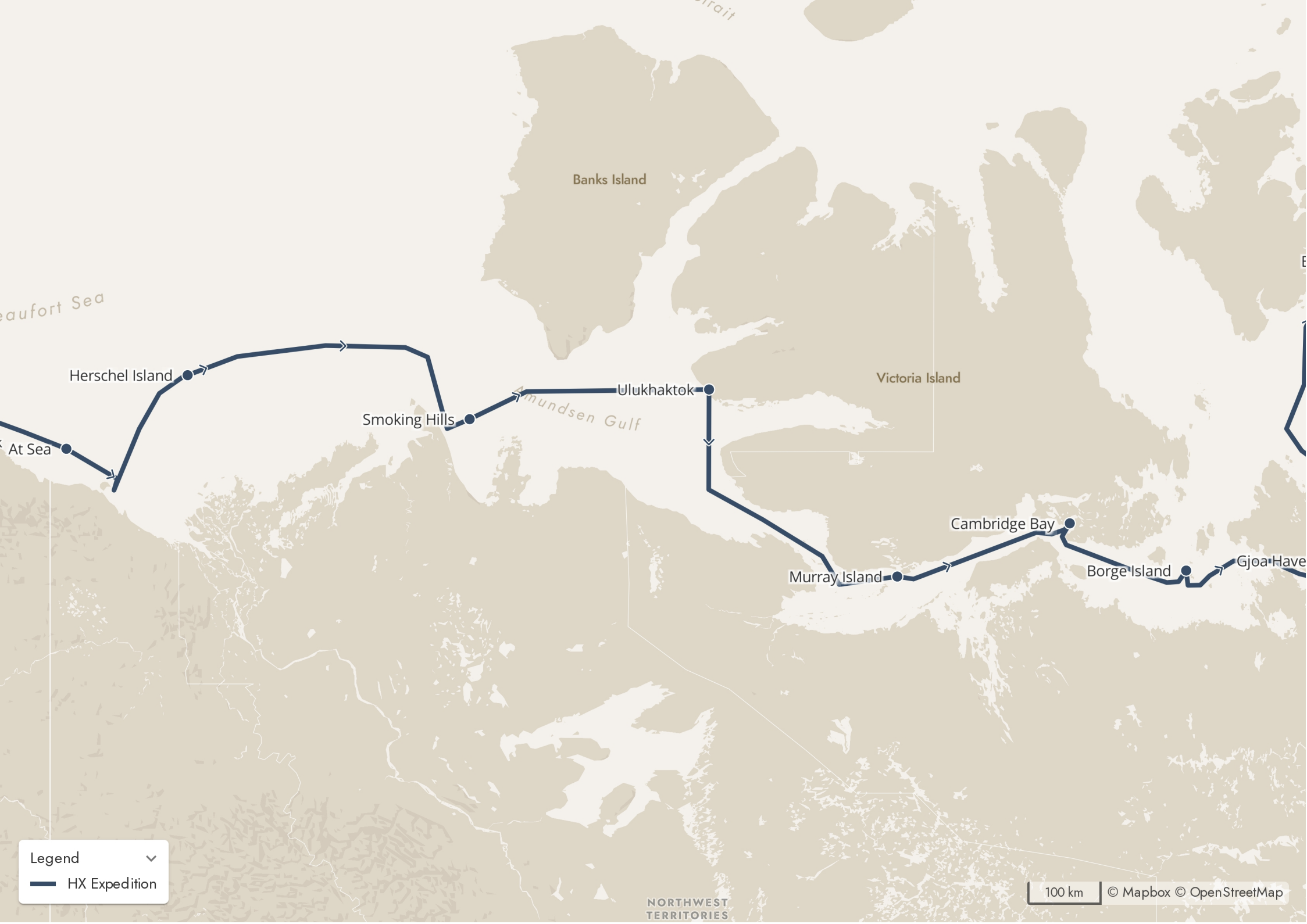
mountains. In the school gym, several local artists were waiting to show us their craftsmanship and the finished results. Embroidery, clothing made from furs, prints, jewellery - a multitude of beautiful handmade objects enchanted us. On the way back, we were shown how to fillet fish and tasted a piece of the freshest Arctic char.



View from hill



Local dancing performance on board



Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 9

During a windy yet sunny nature landing on Murray Island, we took a short hike through the grasslands and up a hill. Not only a marvellous view but also some animal bones (definitely some caribou and

lemmings) presented themselves to us. The island looked barren from the sea, but once on land, a surprisingly rich flora awaited us.



Murray Island view



Caribou antler

Day 10

Awakened by rays of sunshine, the excitement of the visit to the community of Cambridge Bay was already growing. Once there, we went on a guided tour with the locals, who eagerly introduced us to their way of life in the area. We could see the Canadian High Arctic Research Station and the visitor centre, which had been converted

into a small museum. There was also a nice little exhibition of local culture in the high school library. Time flew by, and before we headed back on board, we were treated to local delicacies: narwhal, beluga whale, caribou and Arctic char.



Street view



Metal art

Day 11

The evening before, our captain, Terje Willassen, had already prepared us for today's special event: the attempt to set foot on Borge Island, named after the birthplace of Roald Amundsen, also our esteemed captain's birthplace. The day started off windy and wavy

and initially we couldn't launch the boats. When this was possible, we entered Borge Island and were greeted by the captain waiting in front of an Amundsen tent.



Borge Island



Our Captain - or is it Roald Amundsen himself?

Day 12

We arrived in the morning in Gjoa Haven, a place of historical significance. None other than the legendary polar explorer Roald Amundsen spent two winters there with his crew from 1903 to 1905 to learn from the local Inuit. Today, we went on a guided tour led by the

local Inuit to learn more about life here. In the community centre, we were served traditional food. We also enjoyed a square dance performance by the children, throat singing and Inuit games, all accompanied by a fantastic band that provided the musical backdrop.



Street view



Square Dance performance by local children

Day 13

After manoeuvring through a stretch of large sea ice floes during the night, there was almost no ice in sight in the morning. Instead, we spotted the first polar bear on land during breakfast. As we travelled

through the narrow Bellot Strait in the afternoon, we observed more polar bears and musk oxen on land.



First polar bear sighting



Muskox

Day 14

The day kicked off spectacularly with Prince Leopold Island. We marvelled at 300 metres of cliffs rising almost vertically out of the water. The cliffs are used as breeding grounds by thousands of seabirds. The journey continued to Beechey Island, a historic site since the failed Franklin expedition. Freshly fallen snow and a cold, northerly wind gave us a small flavour of what it means to be in such

an inhospitable Arctic region. The graves (three of which belonged to the Franklin crew) were also thought-inspiring. In the evening, we continued to Radstock Bay, but because of the wind, we could not launch the Zodiacs. Instead, we enjoyed sailing along the bay in our comfortable ship.



Graves (3 of the Franklin Expedition)



Play of light at Beechey Island



Parry Islands

Beechey Island

Croker Bay & Dundas Harbour

Arctic Bay

Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik)

Bellot Strait

Gjoa Haven

Kugaaruk

Igloolik

Legend

- HX Expedition

100 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 15

We were treated to spectacular views as we travelled in and out of Croker Bay. Majestic glacier tongues calving into the sea, some whitish, some bluish, glistened in the sunlight. A few seals were playing in the water in front of the glacier front and were not disturbed

by us, and we also spotted a polar bear on the beach. In the afternoon in Dundas Harbour, we took a trip in the Zodiacs and went ashore, where we could see the remains of a former RCMP police station, with a curious beluga whale watching us.



Former RCMP Police Post at Dundas Harbour



One of the glacier fronts at Croker Bay

Day 16

Our immense good fortune followed us again today - a few fair weather clouds interrupted the otherwise sunny sky as we sailed past a marvellously rugged mountain landscape. A varied cultural and

historical programme was available on board. In the afternoon, we stopped briefly at Pond Inlet to take our Danish pilot on board for the trip to Greenland.



Pond Inlet



At sea

Day 17

We were travelling on open water again with clear visibility to the end of the horizon in all directions. Apart from some nice clouds in the sky, the sun's rays were unobstructed. An extensive cultural, scientific and historical lecture programme kept us busy. However, some of us used

the day to relax instead: reading in the Explorer Bar, being treated by the wellness team, sweating in the sauna or relaxing in the pool or Jacuzzis.



Deck 7

Day 18

Ilulissat was covered in rain when we arrived. The energetic waves coming directly from the sea made using the large tender boats impossible, so we were taken ashore in the Zodiacs a short time later. Fortunately, the raindrops were limited and visibility was pretty clear. This meant we could explore the small town centre and little church on

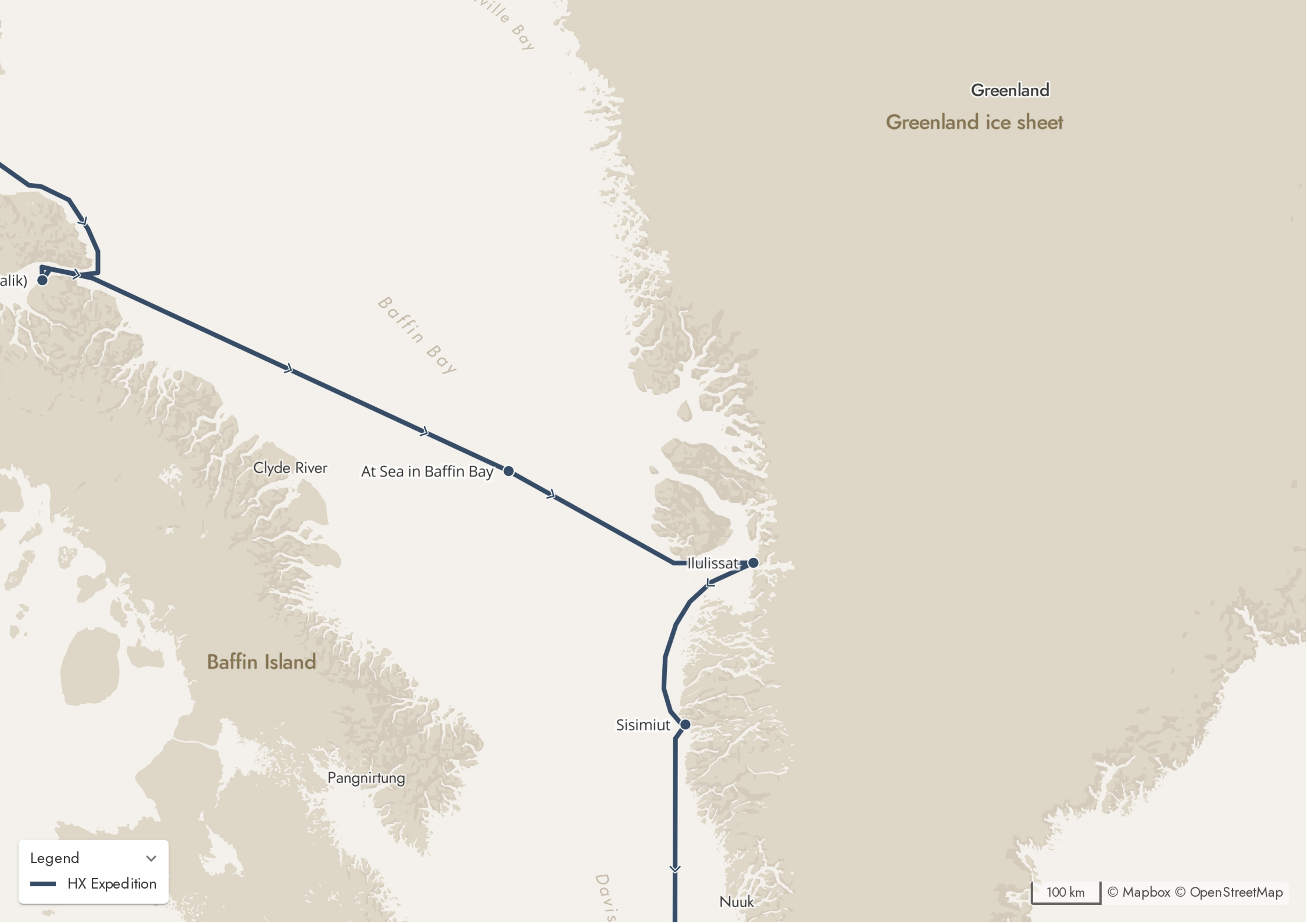
foot. Some of us took the bus to the Icefjord Centre, a lovely little museum. The highlight, however, was the Icefjord, which lay majestically before us after a walk. We marvelled at the sight for a long time; there was so much ice, so densely packed, no water, just ice as far as the eye could see. A scenery that we will never forget.



Board walk towards the Icefjord



Ice, ice, baby...



Greenland

Greenland ice sheet

Narsarsuaq

Baffin Bay

Clyde River

At Sea in Baffin Bay

Ilulissat

Sisimiut

Nuuk

Baffin Island

Pangnirtung

Davis

Legend

— HX Expedition

100 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 19

Our second day in West Greenland was sunny again. A picturesque city panorama could already be seen from the ship lying in the harbour. Whether on foot or by bus, the town, with all its colourfully painted houses, showed us its most beautiful side. It was surrounded

by graceful mountains whose peaks were already dusted with snow. The museum offered many interesting exhibits, explanations and buildings, including a peat house. In the evening, when sailing out, we bid farewell to this eventful two-day stay in Greenland.



View on museum and bay



Colorful Sisimiut

Day 20

What a spectacular night – an unexpected treat! We were outside on deck to view magical auroras (Northern Lights) in the sky, moving brightly above our heads. But even more, the day started with a beautiful sunrise, and the sun kept us company and warmed us

throughout the day. Moderate wind and swell allowed us to sail quietly over the ocean. We used the time to relax and to delve into the onboard programme. How nice to have time to recall and reflect on our many experiences and impressions so far.



Northern Fulmar



Northern lights

Day 21

The sun spoilt us with its warm rays during the day. It is clearly noticeable that we are further south than in recent weeks, and the temperatures are climbing. Nevertheless, some rain fell in the evening. The last groups had their guided tour of the bridge today,

and in the evening, we could ask the officers all kinds of questions. The day ended with a spectacular auction, the proceeds of which went to the HX Foundation.

Day 22

The picturesque little fishing village of Red Bay, with just 142 inhabitants, was glowing in sunlight as we drove into the bay. As we travelled around the town, some of us with a local guide, some on our own, we were met with friendliness from all sides. We felt very

welcome, and the home-made taster plate was delicious. The small exhibitions gave a good impression of the whaling activities of the Basques in the 16th century.



Chalupa (small whaling boat)



Red Bay



Inukjuak

Kuujuaq

Nain

Hopedale

Rigolet

At Sea

NEWFOUNDLAND
AND
LABRADOR

Red Bay

QUÉBEC

Chibougamau

Lebel-sur-
Quévillon

Quebec

NEW
BRUNSWICK

Fredericton

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND

Island of
Newfoundland

Corner Brook

St. John's

MAINE

Saint John

At Sea

Halifax

Legend



— HX Expedition

200 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 23

Newfoundland greeted us warmly. Three Newfoundlanders joined us on board in the Explorer Bar and played music and songs and shared a few stories about events on this island. We then headed into town,

with many of us strolling through the green spaces along the Corner Brook Stream Trail, either guided or on our own. Alternatively, some of us travelled by bus across the Gros Morne National Park.



In port




Locals playing music and telling stories on board

At Sea - Sep 13, 2024

Day 24

A last sea day on board. It was time to reflect upon the previous weeks and all the memorable events. The captain gave his farewell speech, the Expedition Team presented their personal highlights of

the trip, and we watched the video of our journey, which captured the individual stages in touching images.

 Halifax, Canada - Sep 14, 2024

Day 25

A final early breakfast before we left our cabins and said goodbye to the crew and the ship. We have learned a lot, dived deeper into the

fascinating Inuit culture of the north and made new acquaintances. These memories will stay with us for a lifetime.



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