

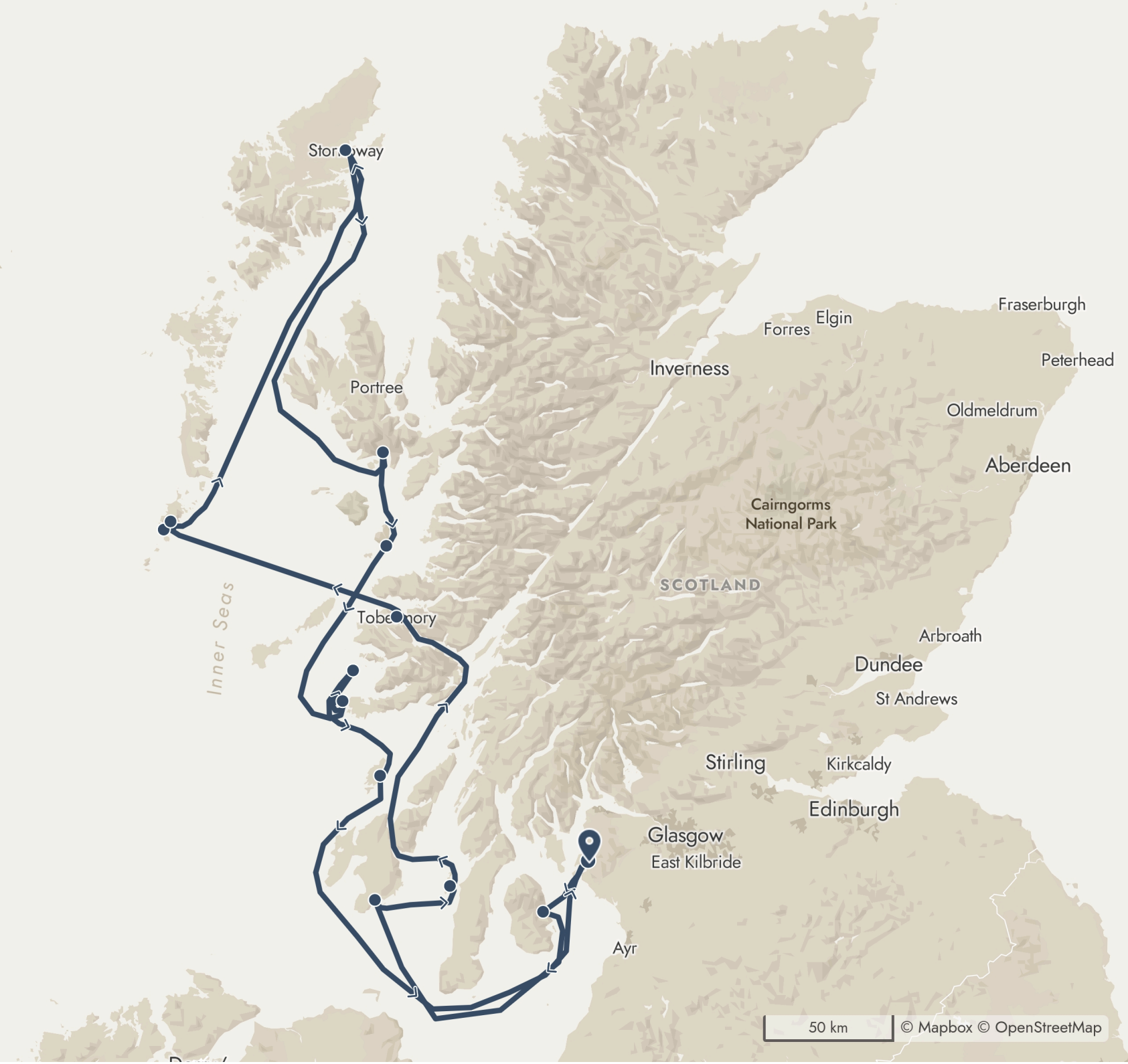


## MS Spitsbergen

2025.04.08 - 2025.04.18

Legend

— HX Expedition





Kelburn Castle

Fairlie

Fairlie

Fairlie Castle

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

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## Day 1 - Embarkation in Fairlie

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Passengers boarded the ship at Fairlie on a glorious sunny day, filled with excitement and eager anticipation to see Spitsbergen in her new livery. As the lines were cast off and the ship gently eased away from the dock, Fairlie faded into the distance, giving way to open water

and the promise of the islands ahead.







## Day 2 - Isle of Arran

Sailing into Brodick Bay feels like stepping into a living postcard, where dramatic mountains rise above sparkling waters and ancient castles dot the landscape. The island's nickname, "Scotland in Miniature," becomes clear. From the rugged peaks of Goat Fell to the gentle shores lined with sandy beaches, Arran offers a stunning contrast of nature's grandeur and tranquillity. The salty breeze and the

soft hum of the ship's engines soon give way to the island's rich history and vibrant culture. Whether exploring the Glen Rosa Walk or Fisherman's Circuit, wandering through the mossy woodlands of Brodick Castle, or tasting local whiskies, Arran reveals itself as a treasure trove of unforgettable experiences.









## Day 3 - Islay

As the ship pulled into Port Ellen, Islay, the low outline of the island came into sharper focus - green hills rolling down to a quiet shoreline, with whitewashed buildings dotting the bay. The harbour was calm, sheltered from the open sea, and the scent of salt and peat

hung faintly in the air. People disembarked at a steady pace - some heading straight for the distillery tours they'd read about, some for town walks, and others simply taking in the stillness of the place - a world away from the mainland.





Legend

HX Expedition





## Day 4 - Isle of Gigha

Spending a day on the sunny Isle of Gigha is like stepping into a quiet dream, painted with sea-salted air and wildflower hues. As the zodiacs approach the town, you're greeted by a stretch of emerald green and the sparkling blues of the Sound of Jura. The island's gentle pace invites you to wander along white sandy beaches, cycle

past fields dotted with Highland cows, or explore the lush gardens of Achamore, where rare plants thrive in the mild Gulf Stream climate. A visit wouldn't be complete without sampling fresh seafood at the island's café or taking a refreshing dip in the clear, calm waters.







## Day 5 - Tobermory

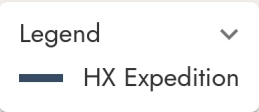
Nestled on the Isle of Mull, this charming Scottish harbour town is instantly recognisable by its row of brightly coloured buildings lining the waterfront. A day trip here offers the perfect mix of coastal beauty, quirky shops, and fresh seafood. You can stroll along the marina, pop into local boutiques, or take in the views from the nearby

lighthouse. If you're lucky, you might even spot seals or otters along the shoreline. Whether you're sipping coffee with a sea breeze or hiking up to catch panoramic views, Tobermory makes for a memorable and relaxing getaway.











## Day 6 - Vatersay

Visiting Vatersay, the southernmost inhabited island of the Outer Hebrides in Scotland, feels like stepping into a serene, untouched world. Connected to Barra by a causeway, the island offers breathtaking white-sand beaches, rolling green hills, and a peaceful atmosphere that's perfect for quiet reflection or coastal walks. The wreckage of a World War II Catalina flying boat near one of the beaches adds a poignant historical touch to the natural beauty. With

its charming isolation and welcoming local community, Vatersay is a hidden gem for those seeking tranquillity and a deeper connection to Scotland's wild western isles.







## Day 6 - Castlebay

Castlebay, the main village on the Isle of Barra in Scotland's Outer Hebrides, is a picturesque coastal settlement that greets visitors with charm and history. Nestled around a natural harbour, the village is famously overlooked by the medieval Kisimul Castle, which appears to float in the bay and gives the village its name. With its colourful

houses, friendly locals, and easy access to beautiful beaches and scenic walks, Castlebay offers a perfect blend of culture and nature. Whether you're exploring local shops, hopping on a ferry, or simply soaking in the views with a warm drink, Castlebay captures the heart with its quiet beauty and island warmth.









Marybank

Western Isles Hospital

Steinish

Lewis Castle

Stornoway

Stornoway

NEWTON

Sandwick

Stornoway  
Harbour

Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 7 - Stornoway

Stornoway, the vibrant capital of the Isle of Lewis in Scotland's Outer Hebrides, blends island tradition with a lively, modern spirit. As the largest town in the Hebrides, it serves as a cultural and commercial hub, with bustling shops, cosy cafés, and a working harbour that reflects its deep maritime roots. Just a short walk from the town centre, the impressive Lews Castle and its surrounding woodland trails offer a peaceful escape and a glimpse into local history. Stornoway is also

known for its rich Gaelic heritage and the famous Stornoway black pudding, making it a perfect base for exploring the island while experiencing the heart of Hebridean life.







## Day 8 - Loch Scavaig

Visiting Loch Scavaig on the Isle of Skye offers an unforgettable journey into one of Scotland's most dramatic landscapes. Arriving by boat reveals the towering Black Cuillin mountains and the serene waters of Loch Scavaig. The loch is renowned for its secluded beauty,

with steep granite cliffs and the hauntingly picturesque Loch Coruisk nestled within.







## Day 8 - Isle of Eigg

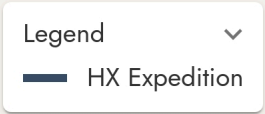
Visiting the Isle of Eigg by boat is a magical experience that begins with stunning views of the Small Isles rising from the sea. As you approach, Eigg's dramatic skyline comes into view, dominated by the towering An Sgurr — a striking volcanic ridge. Once ashore, the

island reveals its peaceful charm, with lush meadows, white beaches, and a strong sense of community. Known for its sustainable living and rich wildlife, Eigg invites visitors to explore on foot or bike, discovering hidden caves, ancient ruins, and breathtaking vistas.









## Day 9 - Iona

Visiting Iona is like stepping into a quieter, more contemplative world. The island, though small, is rich in history and natural beauty, with the iconic Iona Abbey serving as a powerful reminder of its spiritual past. Tourists can wander through ancient ruins, stroll along

white sandy beaches, and enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding sea and nearby isles. The pace is slow and calming, with friendly locals, cosy cafés, and a deep sense of peace that seems to linger in the air.







## Day 9 - Staffa

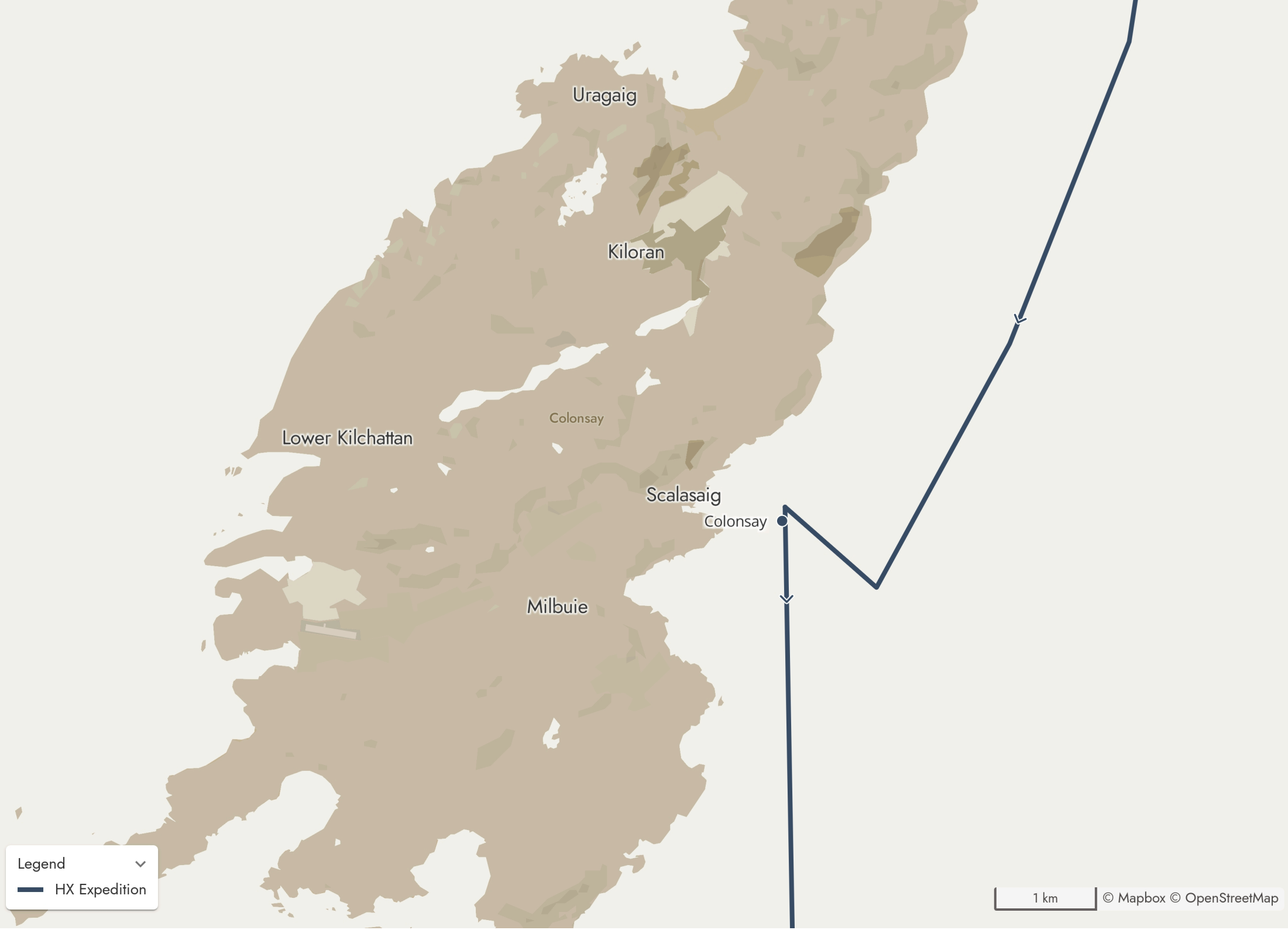
Cruising around Staffa Island in the rain and wind is a wild, unforgettable adventure. As the boat rocked with the waves, the island's dramatic basalt cliffs rise like a fortress from the sea, their dark columns glistening with rain. Despite the weather—or maybe because of it—there's a raw beauty to the scene that makes it all the

more thrilling. Entering Fingal's Cave by boat is a breathtaking experience, as the zodiac gently edges into the towering sea cavern carved from hexagonal basalt columns. The echoes of the waves reverberate off the walls, creating an eerie, natural symphony that adds to the cave's mysterious and majestic atmosphere.











## Day 10 - Colonsay

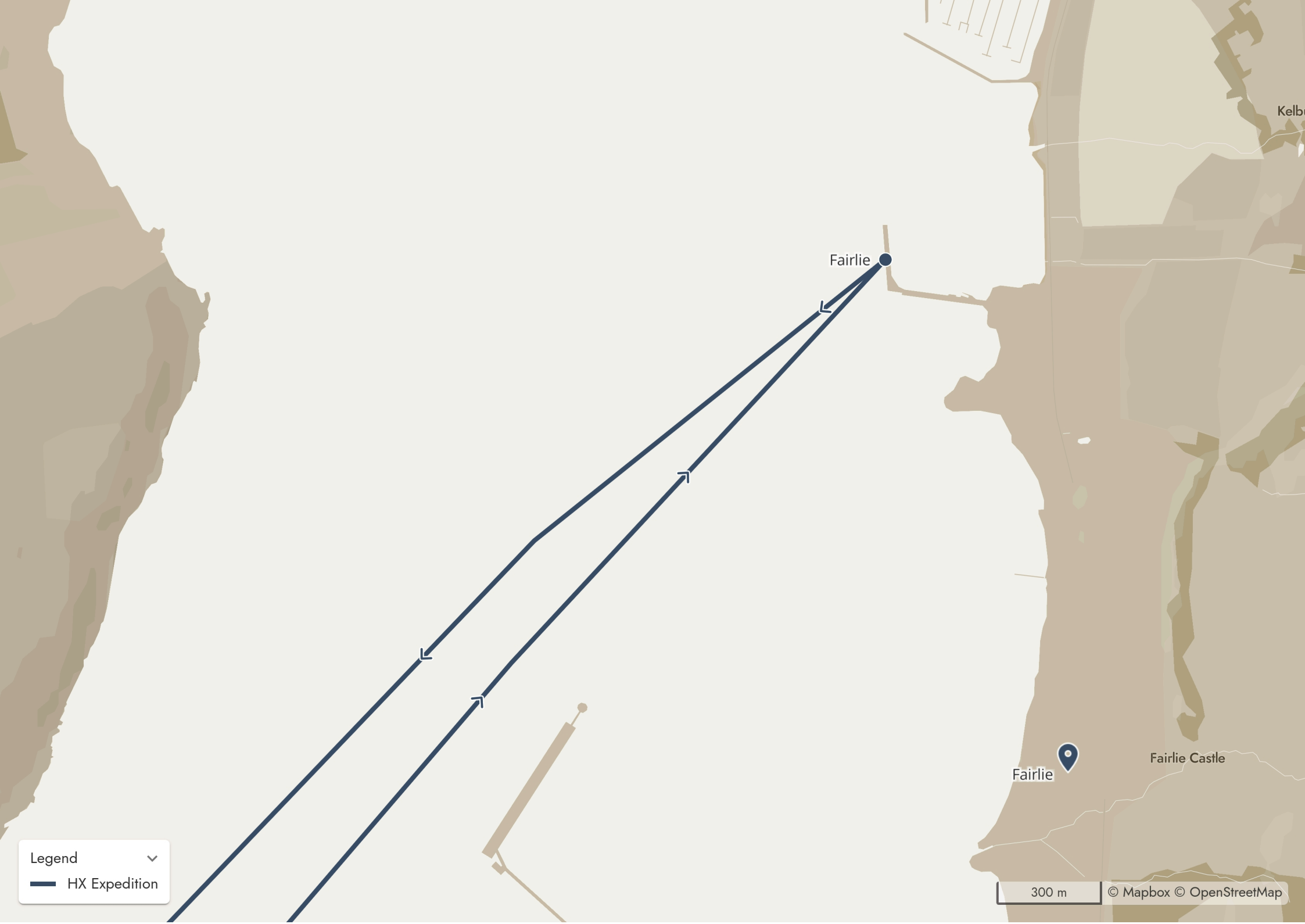
Visiting the Isle of Colonsay offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and quiet charm. The lush Colonsay House Gardens are a highlight, with vibrant rhododendrons and exotic plants thriving in the island's

mild climate. In Scalasaig, the island's main village, you'll find a welcoming community, a small shop, and stunning views across the harbour that capture the essence of Hebridean life.









Fairlie

Kelburn

Fairlie

Fairlie Castle

Legend  
HX Expedition

300 m

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Fairlie, United Kingdom - Apr 18, 2025

220.5 km





[logbook.travelmap.net/20250804-sbgbr2502a](http://logbook.travelmap.net/20250804-sbgbr2502a)