




MS Fridtjof Nansen

2025.04.23 - 2025.05.04




Legend

 HX Expedition





Legend

 HX Expedition

100 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1

Guests arrived in the beautiful and historic city of Lisbon to join the ship in the afternoon. After check-in formalities it was time to explore on board and participate in a safety briefing. Following a lecture introducing the ship and the activities during the days ahead, we sailed out of the city through the mouth of the Tagus River. We passed


under the spectacular 25 de Abril suspension bridge on a glorious evening and guests enjoyed sail away cocktails under a setting sun. As we sailed out into the ocean later in the evening, we picked up a gentle Atlantic swell.

Leixões/Porto, Portugal - Apr 24, 2025





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Day 2

We sailed into Leixões, the port installation of Porto, in heavy fog, as the morning catch was being unloaded on the quay. The sun soon came out, and after lunch guests enjoyed their first excursions. Most joined local guides on a bus to a high point, and walked down to the river, learning on the way about the history and life in this historic

city, where J.K. Rowling started writing the Harry Potter books. One of the excursions included a cruise along the Douro River and a glass of wine. We sailed out into the Atlantic in beautiful evening sunshine and watched the sunset on the port side of the ship.

Ferrol, Spain - Apr 25, 2025





Legend

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Day 3

The first Gannets of the trip were seen on the morning wildlife watch, and there were morning lectures and workshops on history, geology and whales. In the afternoon, most guests enjoyed a guided tour of Ferrol that explained the naval and industrial history, and the political importance of the town as the birthplace of both Francisco Franco and Pablo Iglesias Posse – historic leaders from opposite sides of the

political spectrum. The walk took in the old streets and squares lined with characteristic glazed balconies. Some guests hiked a scenic 5km stretch of the pilgrims' trail to Santiago de Compostela, and an excursion to the city by bus included a tour of the spectacular cathedral.

Gijón, Spain - Apr 26, 2025





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Doneztebe/
Santesteban 5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4

We arrived early in the busy old port of Gijon in a heavy shower of rain. The weather cleared and by the afternoon we were enjoying bright sunshine and blue skies. Many guests went on a guided city tour by bus and on foot. This included a trip to the magnificent architectural complex at the Laboral University built in the 1950s in many historic styles. The bus continued to Providencia viewpoint for a

splendid view of the city and surrounding coast. Another excursion visited the spectacular coastal headland of Cabo Peñas and continued to the historic town of Avilés for a guided walking tour. Onboard activities included a workshop on Phytoplankton and a lecture on Photography.

Pasaia / San Sebastián, Spain - Apr 27, 2025



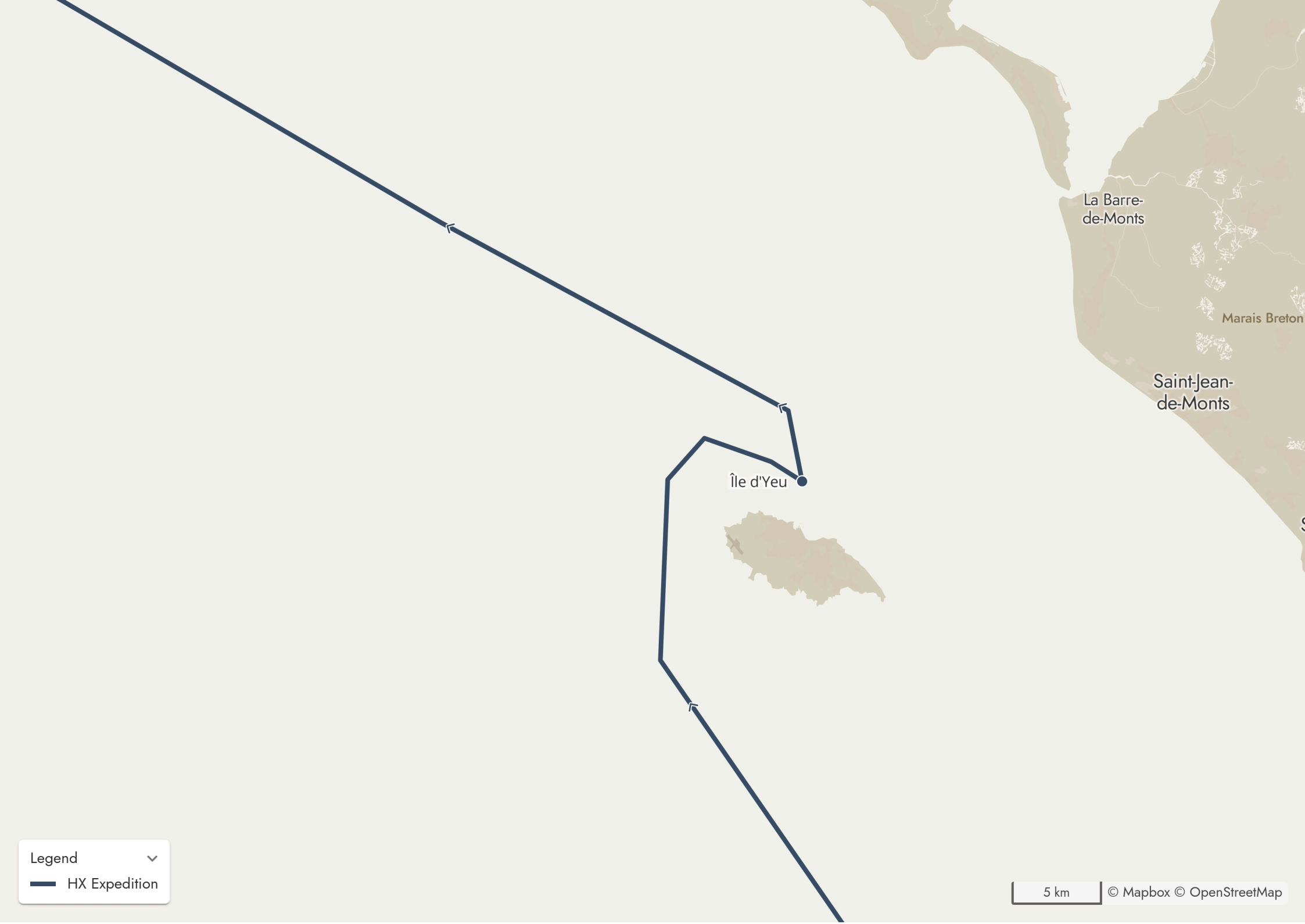
Day 5

We sailed into Pasaia, the port of San Sebastian, through a dramatically narrow, steep-sided channel. The morning guided tour took in a viewpoint with a wonderful view of the spectacularly beautiful city of San Sebastian, followed by a lovely walk through the historic streets and squares where we sampled a delicious local Pintxos snack. Another group hiked a 9 km section of the Camino de


Santiago trail, and there was an excursion to Gipuzkoa to see where the famous Idiazabel cheese is made from sheep's milk. We left early in the afternoon and there were onboard lectures and workshops on Photography, Geology and Feathers. Then we cruised towards Bordeaux across the Bay of Biscay on a glorious sunny evening.

Bordeaux, France - Apr 28, 2025





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Day 6

The ship sailed up the 130 km long estuary of the Gironde and moored spectacularly close to the centre of Bordeaux. The sunrise was glorious and interesting birds by the river included Black Kites, White Storks and a singing Nightingale. Most guests enjoyed guided—or self-guided walks around the magnificent architecture, squares, markets and parks of the wonderful city of Bordeaux. An excursion to

St Émilion took in the historic old city with its cobbled streets and underground monuments, and included a wine tasting session at one of the famous cellars. Another excursion took guests to the Bay of Arcachon, noted for its enormous sand dunes. We sailed back up the Gironde as the sun set and a Purple Heron flew over to end a fantastic day.

Île d'Yeu, France - Apr 29, 2025



Day 7

We spent a glorious day exploring Brittany's southernmost inhabited island under cloudless skies. Many guests took advantage of the island's road train for a guided trip of the old villages, farms, woods and stunning coast. The hike started along the coast then turned inland for a 17 km traverse of the island – probably the longest hike ever undertaken on a Hurtigruten expedition. A wildlife walk along

the rocky and sandy shoreline was more leisurely, stopping to look at a variety of flowering plants, seaweeds and other sea life, birds, and an abundance of Common Lizards enjoying the sun. During a Wildlife Watch after leaving the island, a pod of Bottlenose Dolphins joined the ship and rode the bow for several kilometres.

Douarnenez, France - Apr 30, 2025





Day 8

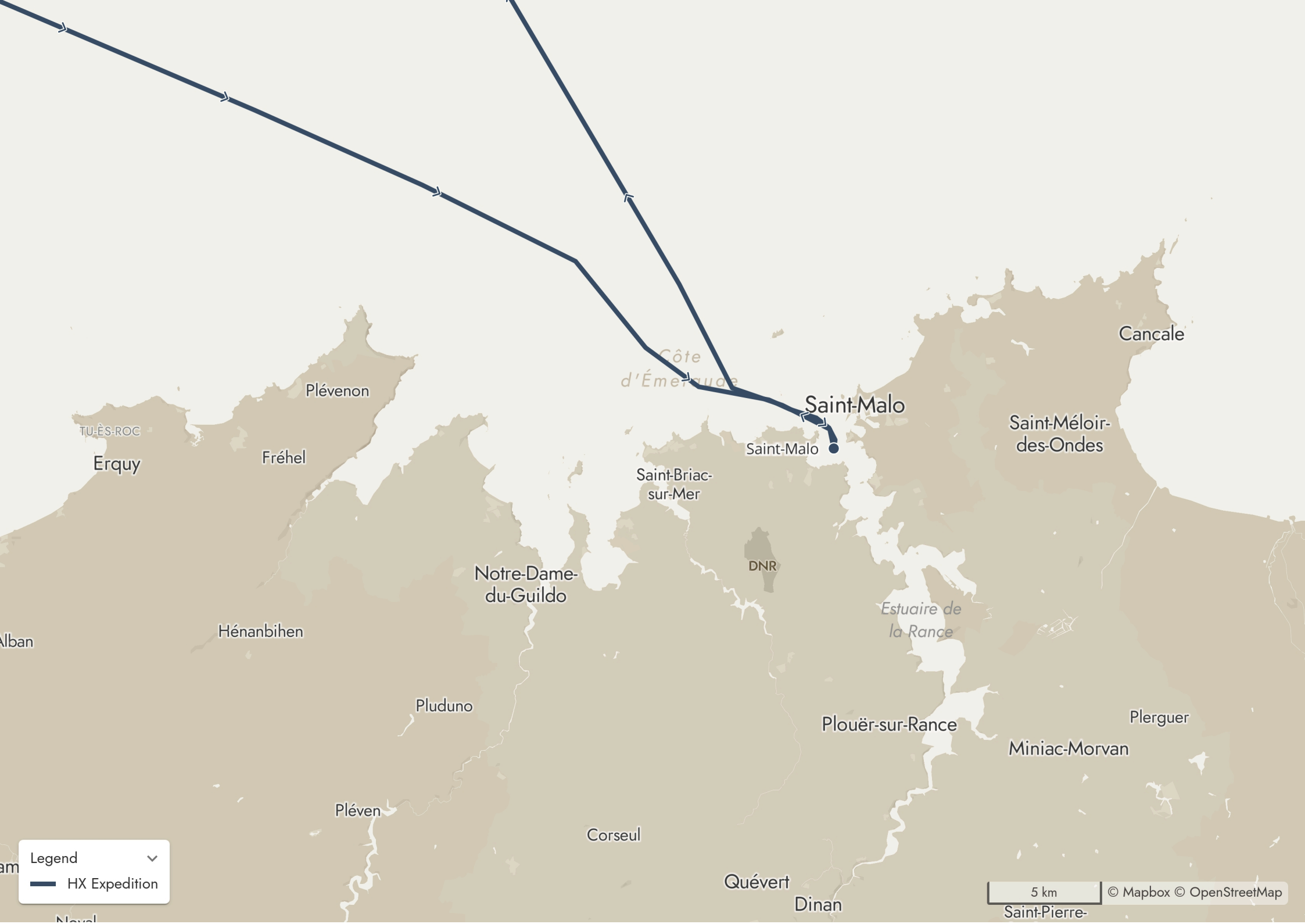
The wonderful weather continued for our day in and around the old and scenic fishing port of Douarnenez with its fascinating Maritime Museum. More energetic guests went kayaking along the coast, and others enjoyed an 11km coastal hike. A nature walk took in the harbour and coastal woodland, ending at a well-preserved and interpreted Roman ruin where sardines were processed and stored.

The birdsong, butterflies and flowers in the woods were very special. An excursion to the Pointe du Raz enjoyed a walk out to the rugged headland and a view of the famous offshore lighthouse with the Ile de Sein in the distance. Another excursion went to the medieval port of Quimper and the cathedral of St Corentin.

Saint-Malo, France - May 1, 2025







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5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 9

A guided walk around the walled town of St Malo, faithfully reconstructed after its destruction during the second world war, visited the ramparts, the castle, the cathedral and more on a hot, sunny day. There was an excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mont Saint Michel with its abbey soaring high above the tidal bay. Guests explored its steep and narrow cobbled streets and

ascended hundreds of steps on the way to the abbey. Another excursion included a hike around the scenic coastal headland at Cap Frehel with its lighthouses and seabird colonies, and a visit to Fort Lalatte. An auction of voyage-related items on behalf of the Hurtigruten Foundation was the highlight of the evening.

At sea: English Channel - May 2, 2025



Day 10

We spent the early morning sailing up the eastern English Channel, with Beachy Head and the White Cliffs of Dover visible on the port side and Cap Griz Nez to starboard. The fog came and went and the first Kittiwakes and Northern Fulmars of the trip were seen, together with Northern Gannets and gulls. An extensive programme of lectures and workshops on board included subjects such as knots, bird

migration, the flooding of Doggerland and the formation of the English Channel. Guests also had an opportunity to visit the bridge, and there was a question and answer session with the ship's officers. As night fell, we passed the Dutch islands of Texel and Vlieland and continued towards Heligoland.

Heligoland, Germany - May 3, 2025







Helgoland

Nationalpark Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer

Schleswig

Rendsburg

Kiel

Preetz

Neumünster

Cuxhaven

Lübeck

Ruhezone I/51

Norderstedt

Pinneberg

Stade

Hamburg

Wilhelmshaven

Bremerhaven

Aurich

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Day 11

The day started with a recap of the wildlife seen on the expedition, and an informal history corner. We landed on Heligoland with the tender boats. A walk through the village and up to the Oberland took us to the sheer sandstone cliffs forming the west of the island. There we found the spectacular seabird city, with thousands of Northern Gannets, Common Guillemots (known in North America as Common Murres), and Black-legged Kittiwakes jostling for position on the steep

ledges. The path took us within two metres of the nesting gannets which were engaged in the courtship, nest building, mating and incubation of the single egg that characterize the early breeding season. The sight, sound and smell of this spectacle will live long in the memory. The captain's farewell followed, and the photographer's slide show wrapped up a wonderful expedition.



Hamburg, Germany - May 4, 2025





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