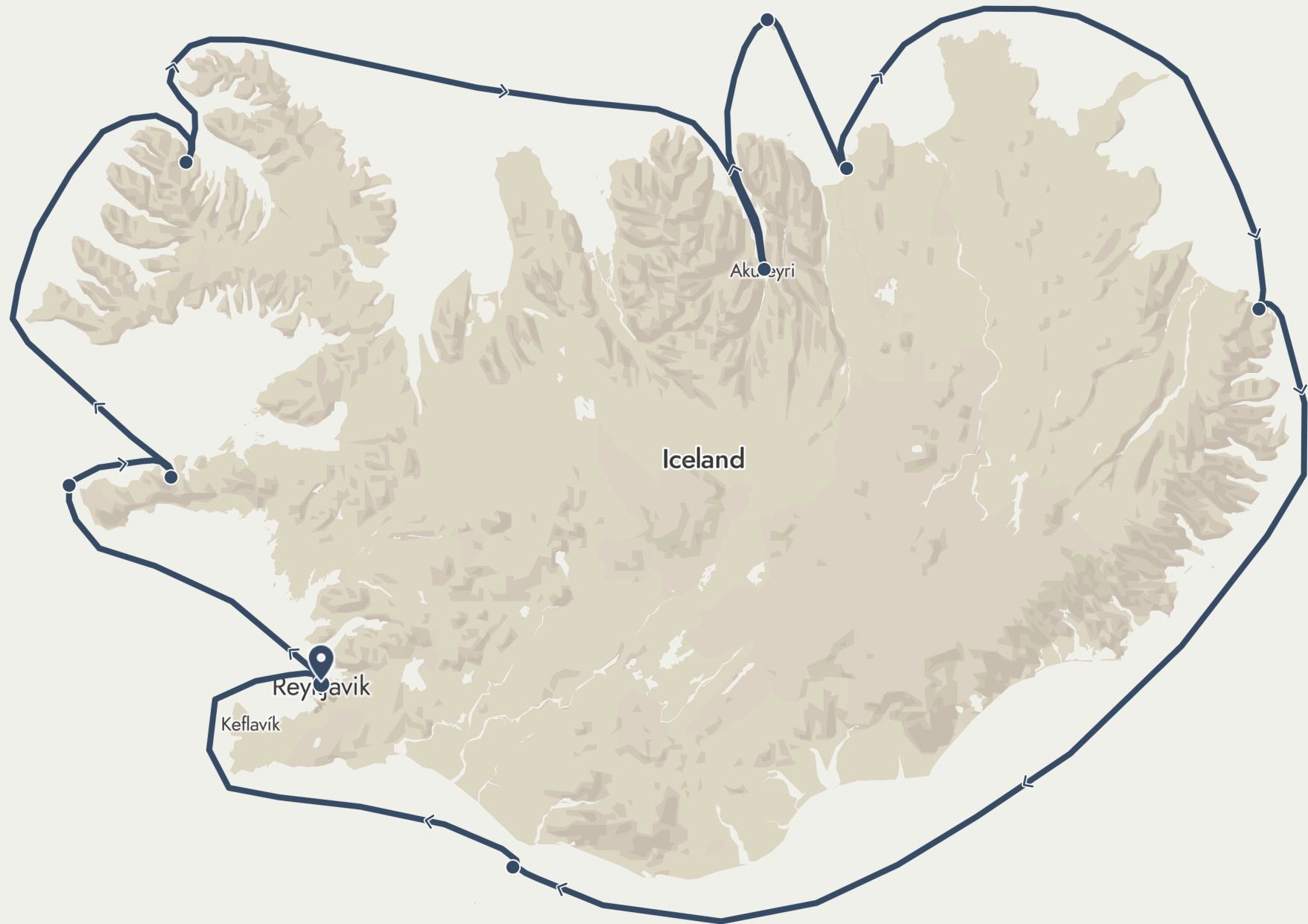


MS Fridtjof Nansen

2025.05.17 - 2025.05.24



Legend

HX Expedition

Embarkation Day Aboard MS Fridtjof Nansen — Reykjavik, Iceland

The journey begins in Reykjavik, Iceland's vibrant capital, where guests board the state-of-the-art expedition vessel, MS Fridtjof Nansen. Welcomed by the crew, they are introduced to the ship's sustainable design, Scandinavian comfort, and cutting-edge technology. With the stunning backdrop of Faxaflói Bay, anticipation grows for an unforgettable circumnavigation of Iceland - exploring dramatic coastlines, volcanic landscapes, and remote fjords.

Following a thorough safety briefing and a sail-away cocktail, the ship departs Reykjavik, setting course for adventure across the Land of Fire and Ice. The first evening at sea promises breathtaking views and a glimpse of the rugged natural beauty, rich wildlife, and unique cultural heritage awaiting discovery.



Harpa Concert Hall



Reykjavik, with Hallgrímskirkja in the background

Legend

HX Expedition

Sperm Whales & Orcas!

Ólafsvík

Grundarfjörður

Borgarnes

Akranes

Reykjavík

Reykjavík

Hafnarfjörður

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Early Morning Whale Sighting at the Tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula

The day began with an incredible surprise just as dawn's first light brushed the horizon - whales appeared off the tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Throughout the morning, we were fortunate to witness both

majestic orcas and mighty sperm whales moving gracefully in their natural habitat. This unforgettable spectacle was nature's grand welcome, perfectly setting the tone for the adventure ahead.



Orca (Killer Whale)



Sperm Whale

Grundarfjörður

The following day, MS Fridtjof Nansen arrives in Grundarfjörður, a charming fishing village nestled along the scenic Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Dominated by the striking Kirkjufell mountain - one of Iceland's most iconic peaks often captured alongside its cascading

waterfalls - this picturesque setting invites guests to stretch their legs and explore. The day offers a variety of options, from guided hikes to leisurely excursions, allowing everyone to experience the region's breathtaking natural beauty.



The waterfall Kirkjufellsfoss and Kirkjufell



The small town of Grundarfjörður



Exploring Ísafjörður and the Majestic Dynjandi Waterfall

On Day 3, MS Fridtjof Nansen arrives in Ísafjörður, a picturesque town tucked away in Iceland's remote Westfjords. Surrounded by steep mountains and deep fjords, this charming settlement offers a window into Iceland's rugged and less-explored wilderness.

Guests set out on a thrilling excursion to Dynjandi Waterfall, the crown jewel of the Westfjords. This breathtaking cascade flows in a series of graceful tiers, with the main drop plunging nearly 100

meters. As mist rises from the roaring waters, the lush green valleys and towering cliffs create a truly magical backdrop.

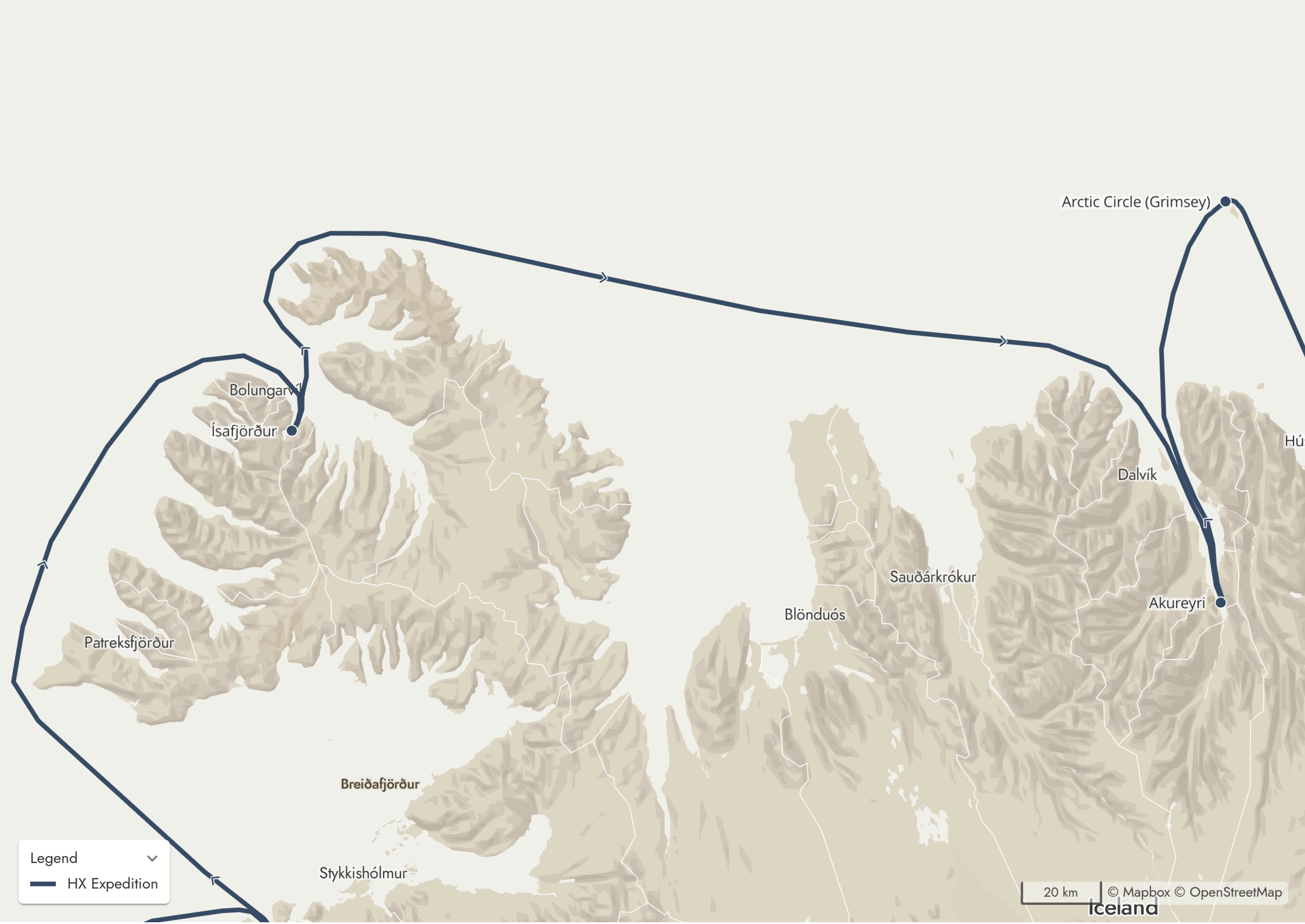
After the excursion, there's time to wander Ísafjörður's quaint streets, explore its historic buildings, and enjoy local cafés. Steeped in rich maritime history, the town offers a fascinating glimpse into Iceland's seafaring heritage.



View from Dynjandi waterfall



Dynjandi waterfall



Arctic Circle (Grimsey)

Hú

Dalvík

Sauðárkrúkur

Blönduós

Akureyri

Breiðafjörður


Stykkishólmur

Patreksfjörður

Ísafjörður

Bolungarvík

Legend

 HX Expedition

Akureyri, often called the “Capital of the North.”

Situated at the base of Iceland’s longest fjord, Eyjafjörður, this vibrant town serves as the gateway to some of the country’s most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Guests embark on the full-day “Jewels of the North” excursion, exploring a series of remarkable geological and geothermal sites. Highlights include the Goðafoss waterfall—known as the “Waterfall of the Gods” - where icy glacial waters plunge into a dramatic horseshoe-shaped canyon. The journey continues to Lake Mývatn, a surreal landscape of steaming lava fields, bubbling mud pools, and striking volcanic formations.

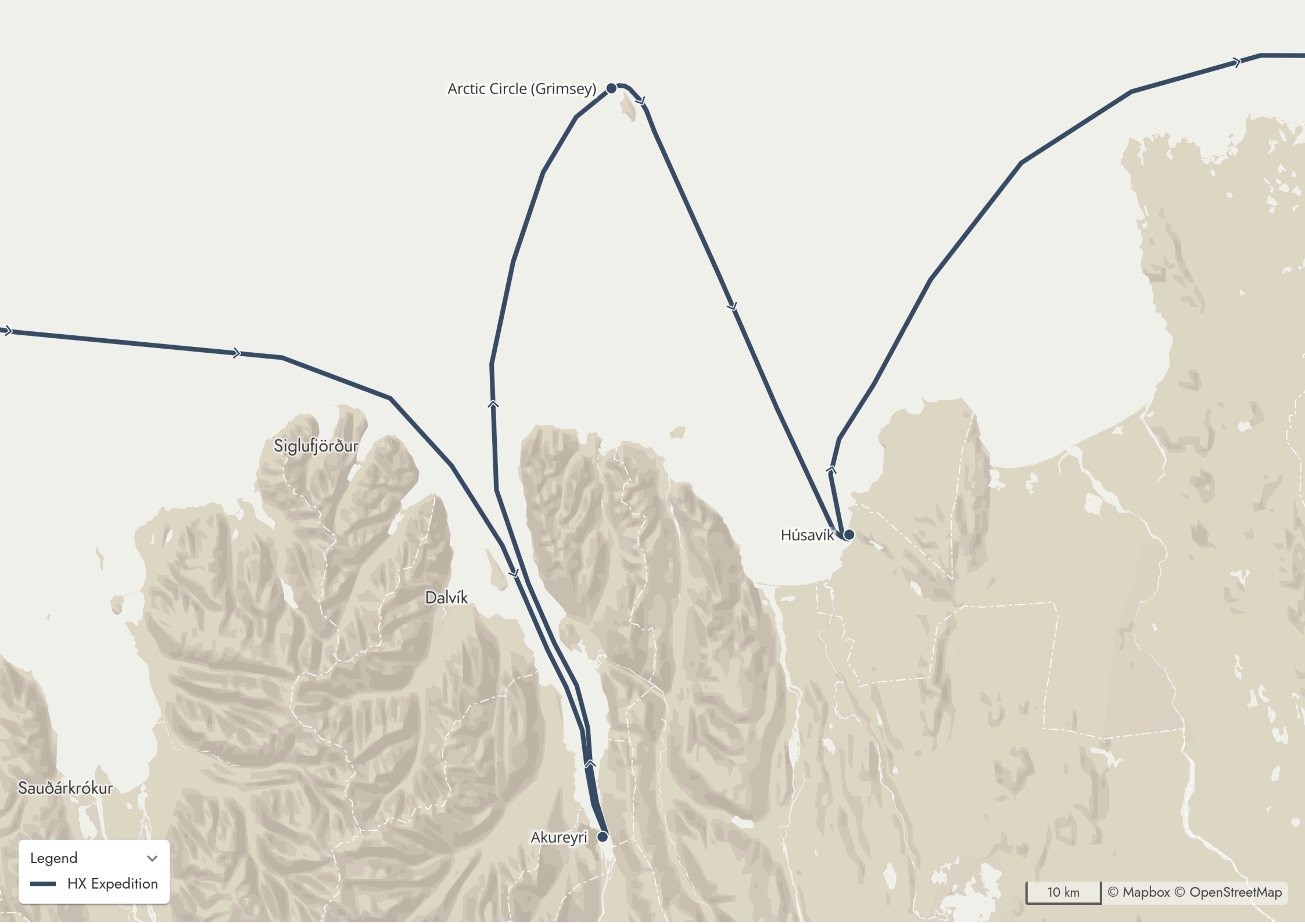
Along the way, guests may spot diverse birdlife, take in panoramic views, and delve into the area’s volcanic history and rich folklore. This immersive day reveals the raw, untamed beauty of northern Iceland and often becomes a highlight of the voyage. By evening, everyone returns to the ship, carrying unforgettable memories and a trove of photos from a day spent discovering the natural treasures of the north.



Goðafoss waterfall



Akureyri



Arctic Circle (Grimsey)

Siglufjörður

Dalvík

Húsavík

Akureyri

Sauðárkrókur

Legend
HX Expedition

Crossing the Arctic Circle – A Visit from Njord

In the early hours, MS Fridtjof Nansen crossed the Arctic Circle just off the coast of Grímsey Island - a major highlight of the expedition. To mark this special moment, guests were treated to a lively onboard ceremony led by none other than Njord, the Norse god of the sea.

Dressed in full regalia, Njord boarded the ship to officially welcome travellers into Arctic waters. As part of the tradition, guests received a

brisk splash of icy Arctic water - a refreshing (and unforgettable!) rite of passage celebrating their entry into the northern realm.

Laughter echoed across the deck as spirits soared despite the chill - a spirited and memorable way to honour this milestone. With the Arctic now behind us, the journey pressed on, brimming with excitement for the adventures still to come.



Njord!



Arctic Circle Ceremony!

Húsavík – The Whale Watching Capital of Iceland

After the excitement of crossing the Arctic Circle, the journey continues with an afternoon stop in Húsavík, a charming coastal town nestled along Skjálfandi Bay. Known as the Whale Watching Capital of Europe, Húsavík is celebrated for its abundant marine life and prime conditions for spotting majestic whales.

Guests embark on local boats for a whale watching excursion, venturing into the bay in search of humpbacks and minke whales. With expert guides sharing their knowledge and sweeping views of snow-capped mountains all around, the experience is as enlightening

as it is awe-inspiring.

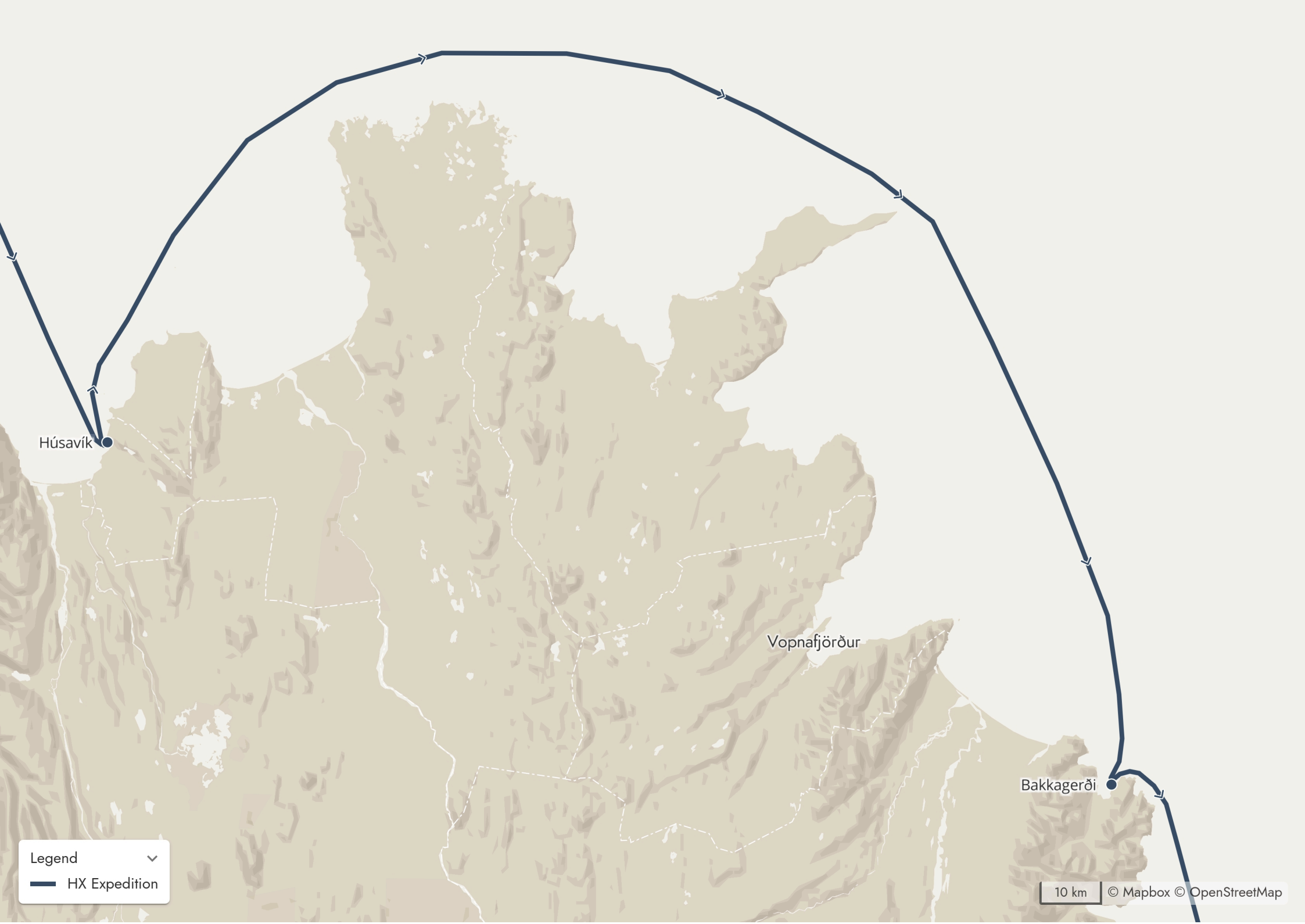
Between sightings, there's time to explore the town's colourful harbour, visit the quaint Húsavík Whale Museum, or enjoy a warming cup of hot chocolate. As the ship sets sail again in the evening, the day stands out as a perfect blend of Arctic adventure and unforgettable encounters with Iceland's wild wonders. Our evening was crowned by a spectacular sighting of a blue whale — a truly magnificent finale.



Whale Watching



Husavik Harbour



Húsavík

Vopnafjörður

Bakkagerði

Legend

HX Expedition

Bakkagerði – Puffins and the Magic of the East

Day 6 brings MS Fridtjof Nansen to Bakkagerði, a small, remote village nestled within the stunning landscapes of Borgarfjörður Eystri in East Iceland. Renowned for its dramatic mountains, rich folklore, and pristine beauty, this hidden gem is a paradise for bird lovers. One of the day's true highlights is a visit to one of Iceland's premier puffin-viewing spots.

Just a short walk from the harbour, guests have the chance to observe these charming seabirds up close as they nest on grassy cliffs. With their colourful beaks and playful antics, puffins never fail to captivate

photographers and nature enthusiasts alike.

Beyond birdwatching, there's time to explore the tranquil village of Bakkagerði, famed for its connection to Icelandic elves and local legends. Surrounded by striking rhyolite mountains and lush valleys, it's easy to understand why this region is often hailed as one of Iceland's most enchanting. After a peaceful and inspiring day in the East Fjords, the ship sets sail once more, continuing its voyage around the island.



Puffin

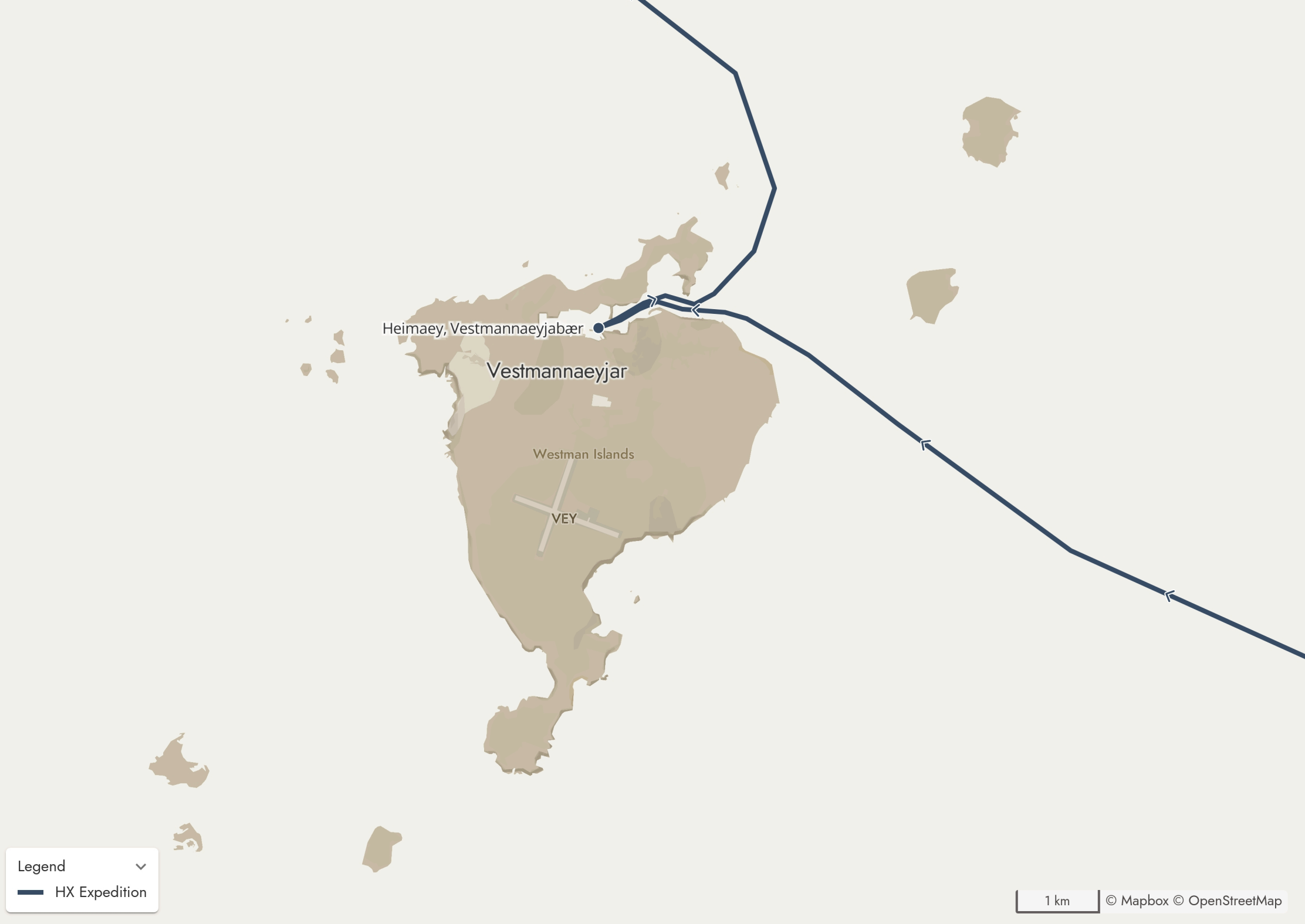


Puffin and Northern Fulmar



Legend

HX Expedition



Heimaey – The Pompeii of the North

MS Fridtjof Nansen arrives at Heimaey, the only inhabited island in the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar) archipelago, just off Iceland's south coast. Rich in dramatic history and natural beauty, Heimaey offers a truly unique stop on the expedition.

The island is best known for the powerful 1973 eruption of Eldfell volcano, which forced the entire population to evacuate and dramatically reshaped the landscape. Today, guests can walk across

cooled lava fields, explore the crater's edge, and visit the Eldheimar Museum, which tells the compelling story of the eruption and the community's remarkable recovery.

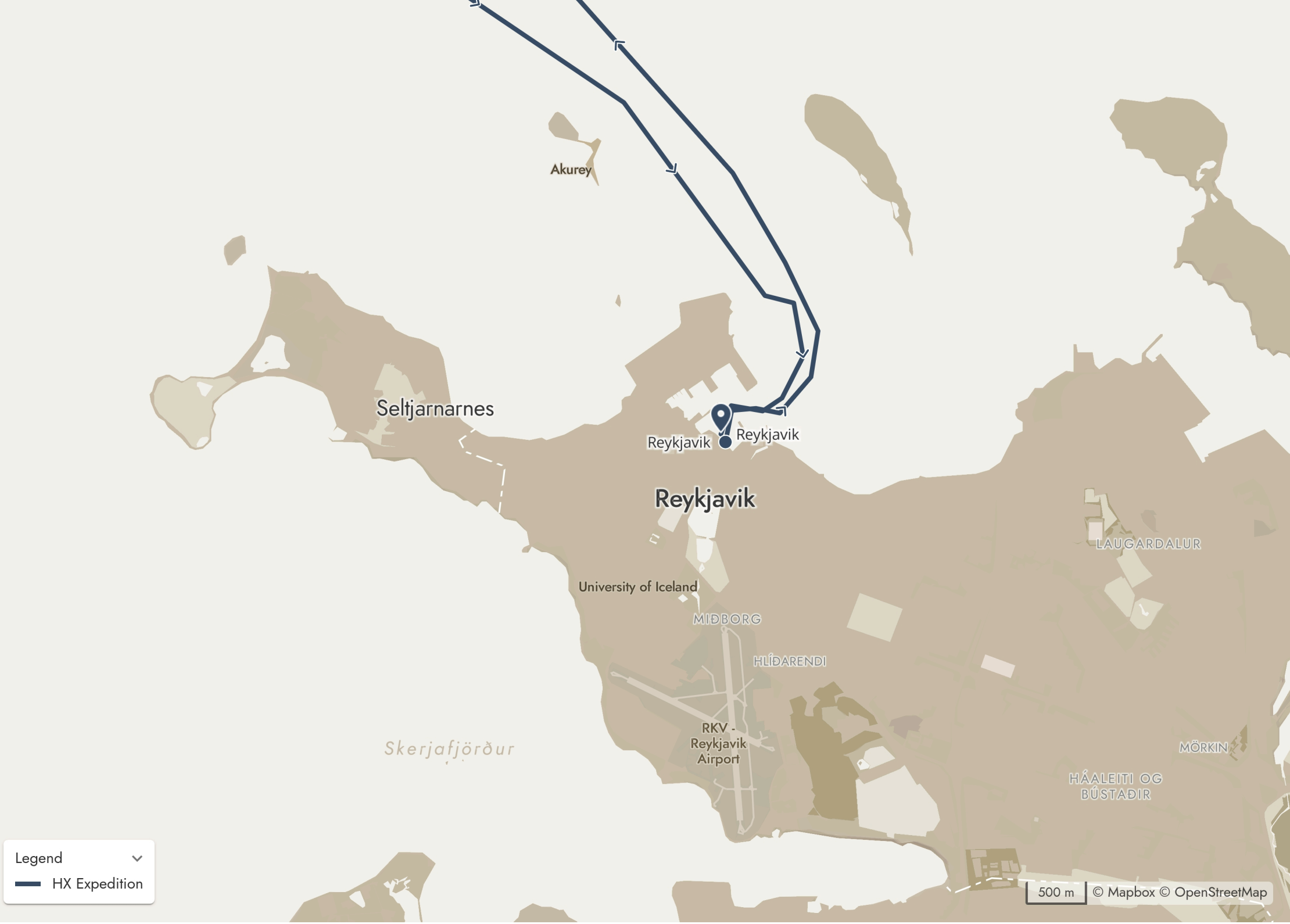
With its blend of natural wonders, volcanic history, and vibrant local life, Heimaey stands as a powerful reminder of Iceland's dynamic forces — and serves as a fitting final stop before returning to Reykjavík to complete the circumnavigation.



Heimaey town



Heimaey harbour





Disembarkation in Reykjavik – Journey's End

As MS Fridtjof Nansen returns to Reykjavík, the expedition around Iceland comes full circle. After a week of unforgettable landscapes, wildlife encounters, and cultural discoveries, it's time to disembark and bid farewell to the ship, crew, and fellow travellers who shared in the adventure.

Whether crossing the Arctic Circle, standing beneath thundering

waterfalls, or watching whales in icy fjords, each day brought moments of awe and inspiration. As guests step ashore, they carry with them not just photos and memories—but a deep connection to Iceland's wild and wonderful spirit.

Though the voyage ends here, the spirit of exploration lives on. Until the next adventure!



Welcome back to us!



Expedition Team Nansen



logbook.travelmap.net/20250517-fn250517