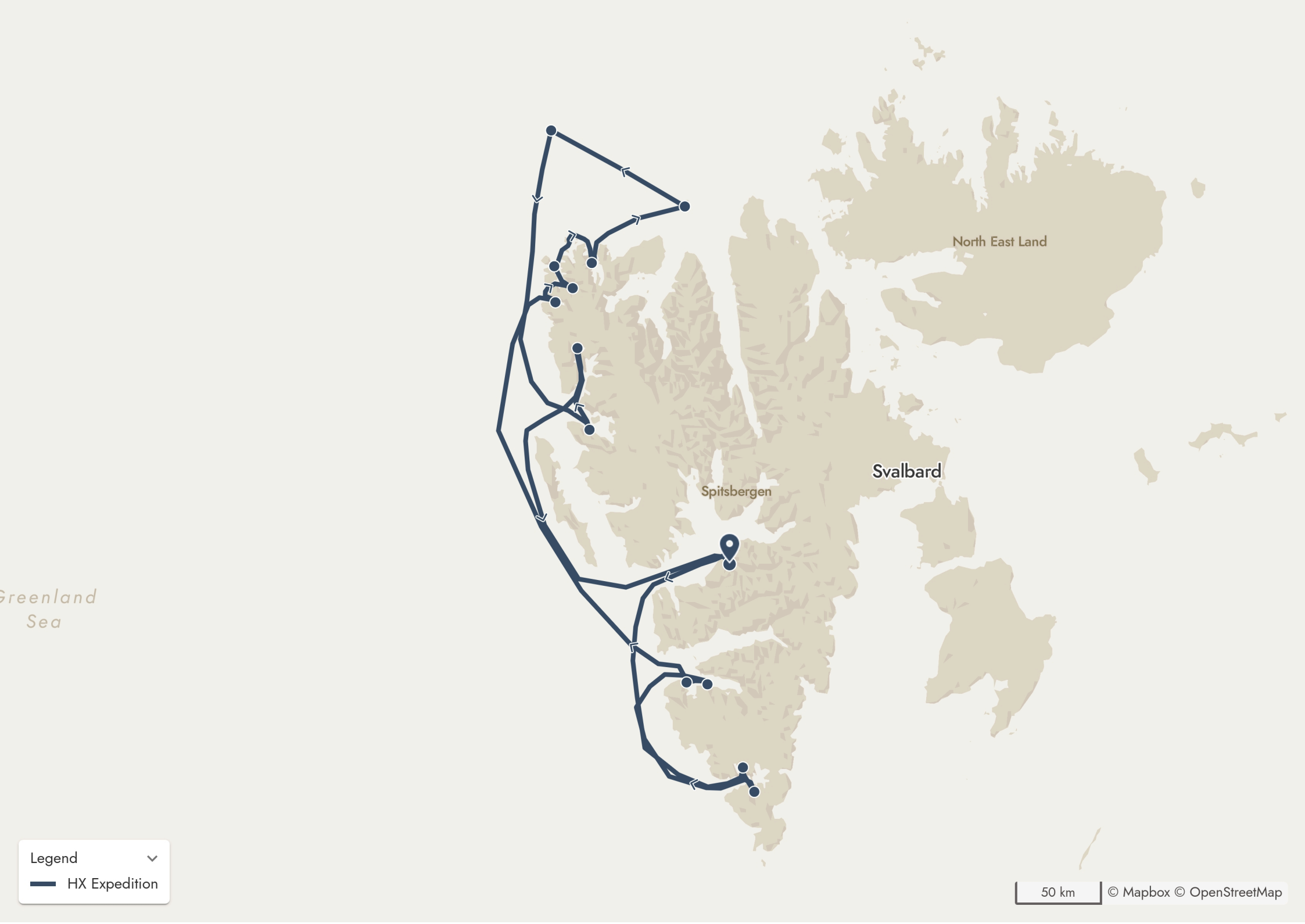
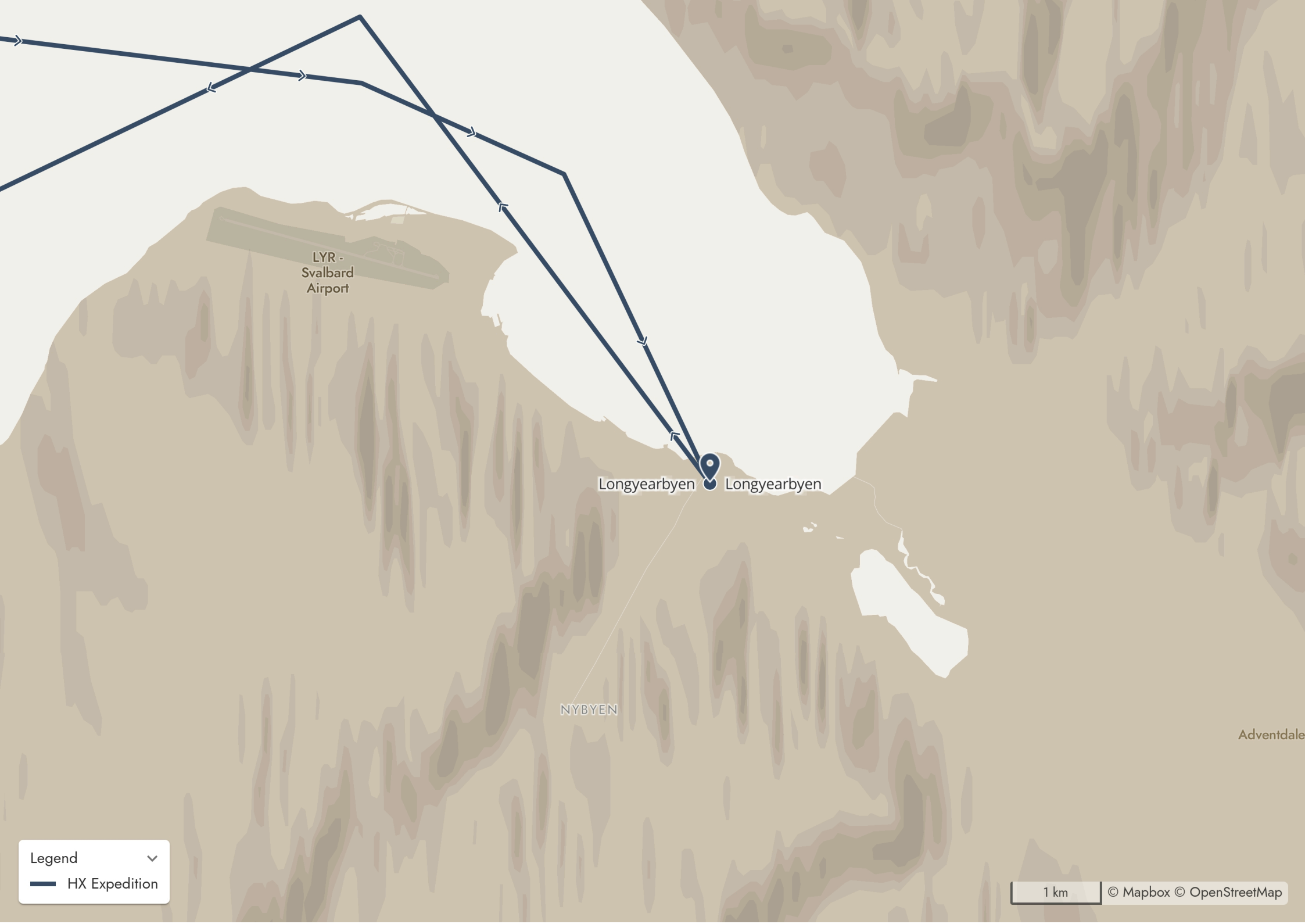


MS Spitsbergen

2025.05.20 - 2025.05.27





LYR -
Svalbard
Airport

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

NYBYEN

Adventdale

Legend



— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1 - Embarkation

Embarking on an expedition from Longyearbyen, the northernmost town in the world, feels like stepping off the edge of the map and into the raw Arctic wilderness. Nestled between towering mountains

and icy fjords on Spitsbergen Island in Svalbard, this remote outpost serves as the gateway to unforgettable polar adventures.





Burgerbukta

Legend



HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

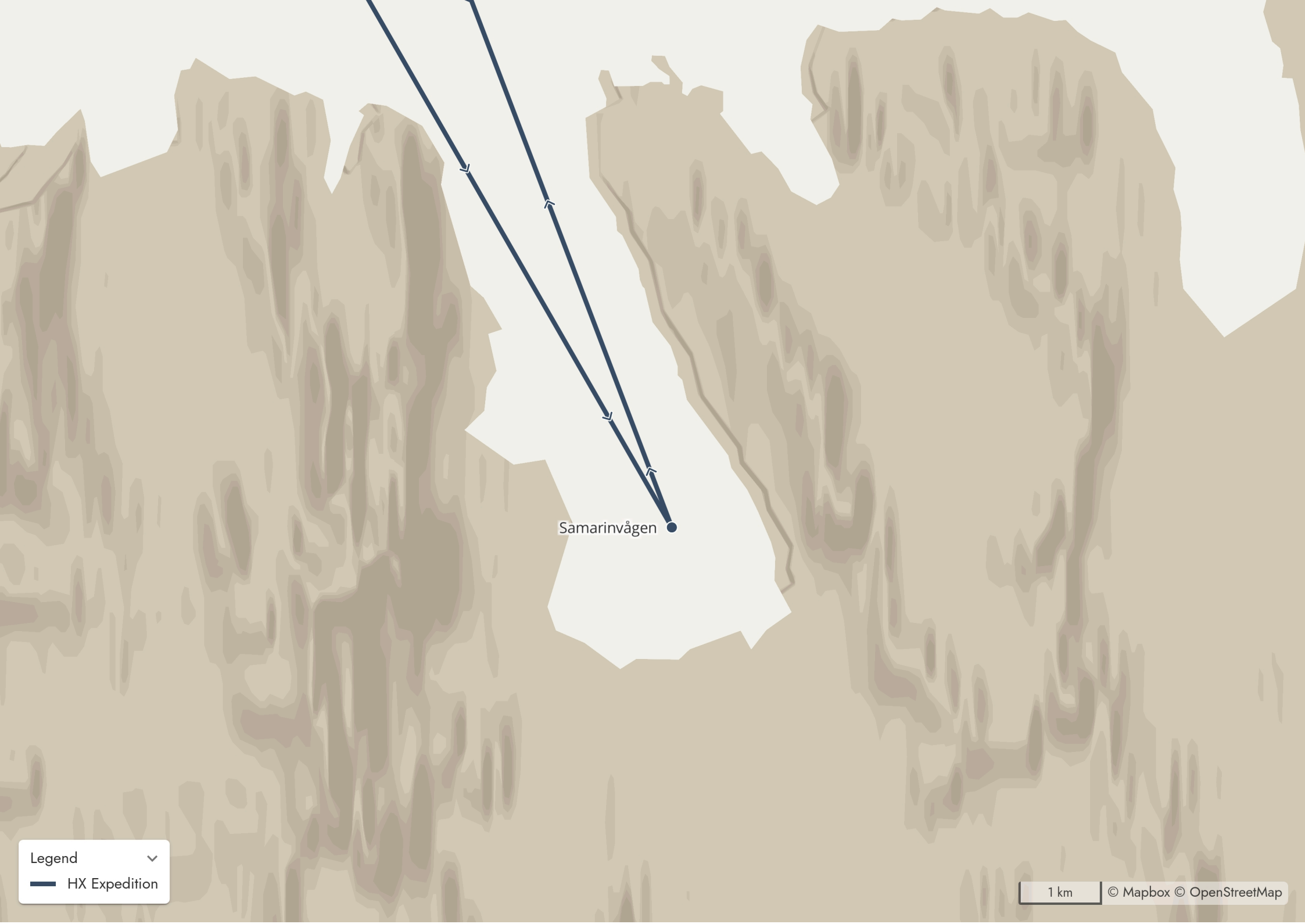
Day 2 - Burgerbukta

Landing in Burgerbukta, a sheltered bay nestled within the dramatic fjord of Hornsund in southern Spitsbergen, feels like stepping into a hidden chamber of the Arctic. Towering glaciers and jagged peaks rise around you, while blue-tinged icebergs drift silently across the calm waters, framing a stunning introduction to Svalbard's raw and untamed beauty. The snow conditions ashore proved challenging,

with some deep patches to navigate, but once we reached the ridge, we were rewarded with a breathtaking panorama of the bay below. Here, guests enjoyed their first opportunities for kayaking and a refreshing polar plunge, fully immersing themselves in the Arctic experience.







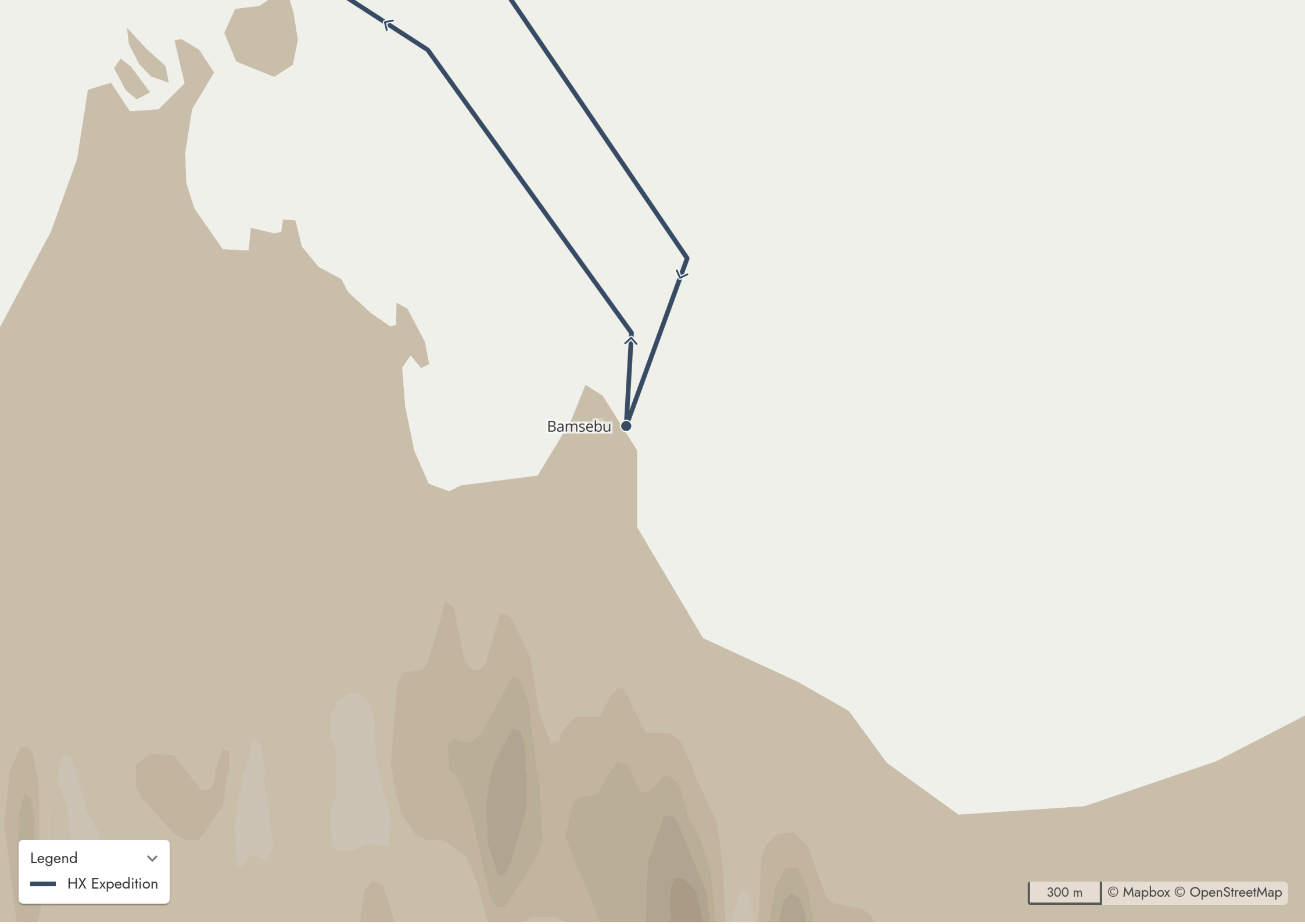
Samarinvågen

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Bamsebu

Legend



— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Samarinvågen, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - May 21, 2025

18.2 km

Bamsebu, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - May 22, 2025

171.3 km

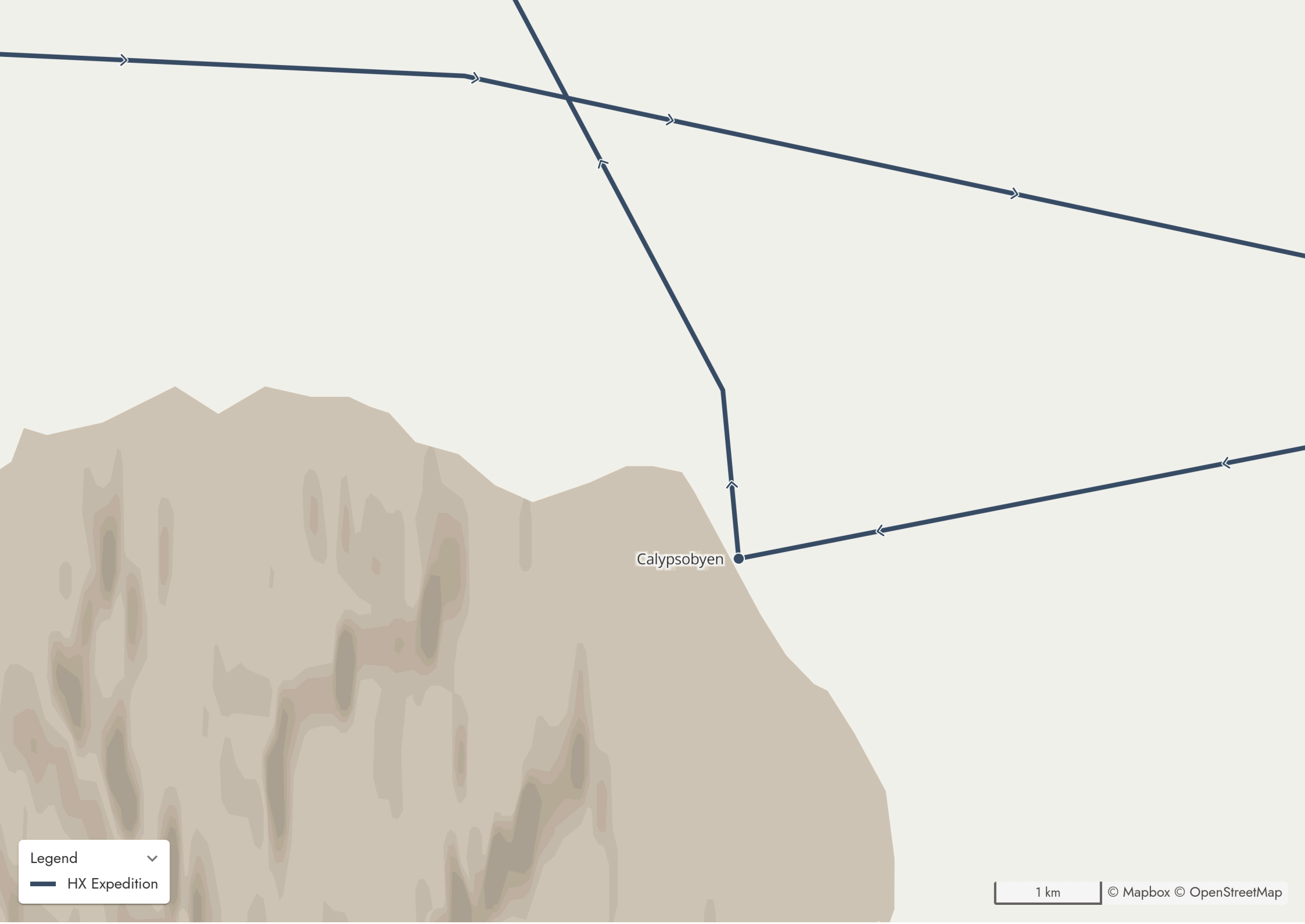
Day 3 - Bamsebu

Landing at Bamsebu, nestled along the shores of Bellsund in Svalbard, is a step into both Arctic wilderness and history. This remote cabin, once used by trappers during the early 20th century, stands as a weathered sentinel against the stark backdrop of tundra and icy sea. The name "Bamsebu" means "teddy bear hut," but its

surroundings are anything but cuddly. Bones from historic whale hunting days still lie scattered around, a haunting reminder of past exploitation and a powerful contrast to the protected status the area holds today.







Calypsobyen

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

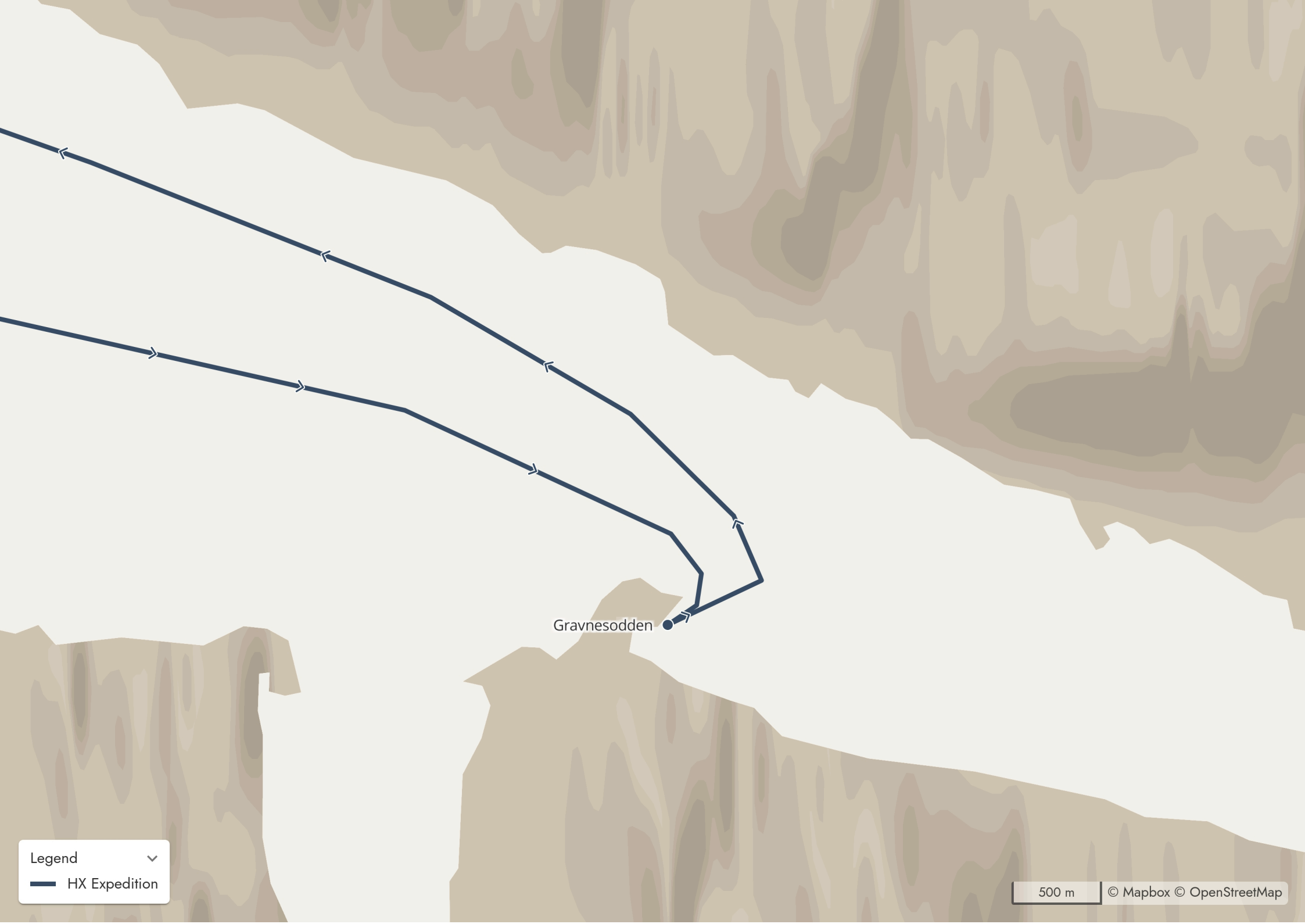
Day 3 - Calypsobyen

Landing in Calypsobyen, perched on the edge of Recherchefjorden in southwestern Spitsbergen, offers a compelling glimpse into Svalbard's industrial past amid stark Arctic wilderness. Once a modest mining settlement, the weathered remains of cabins and rusted equipment stand as silent witnesses, slowly surrendering to the forces of nature. As you step ashore, the stillness is punctuated only by the

whispering wind and the calls of seabirds wheeling overhead. In summer, the surrounding tundra bursts with Arctic flora, while reindeer often graze peacefully nearby, unbothered by human presence. Calypsobyen is a place where history and nature converge in quiet, haunting harmony.







Gravnesodden

Legend

HX Expedition

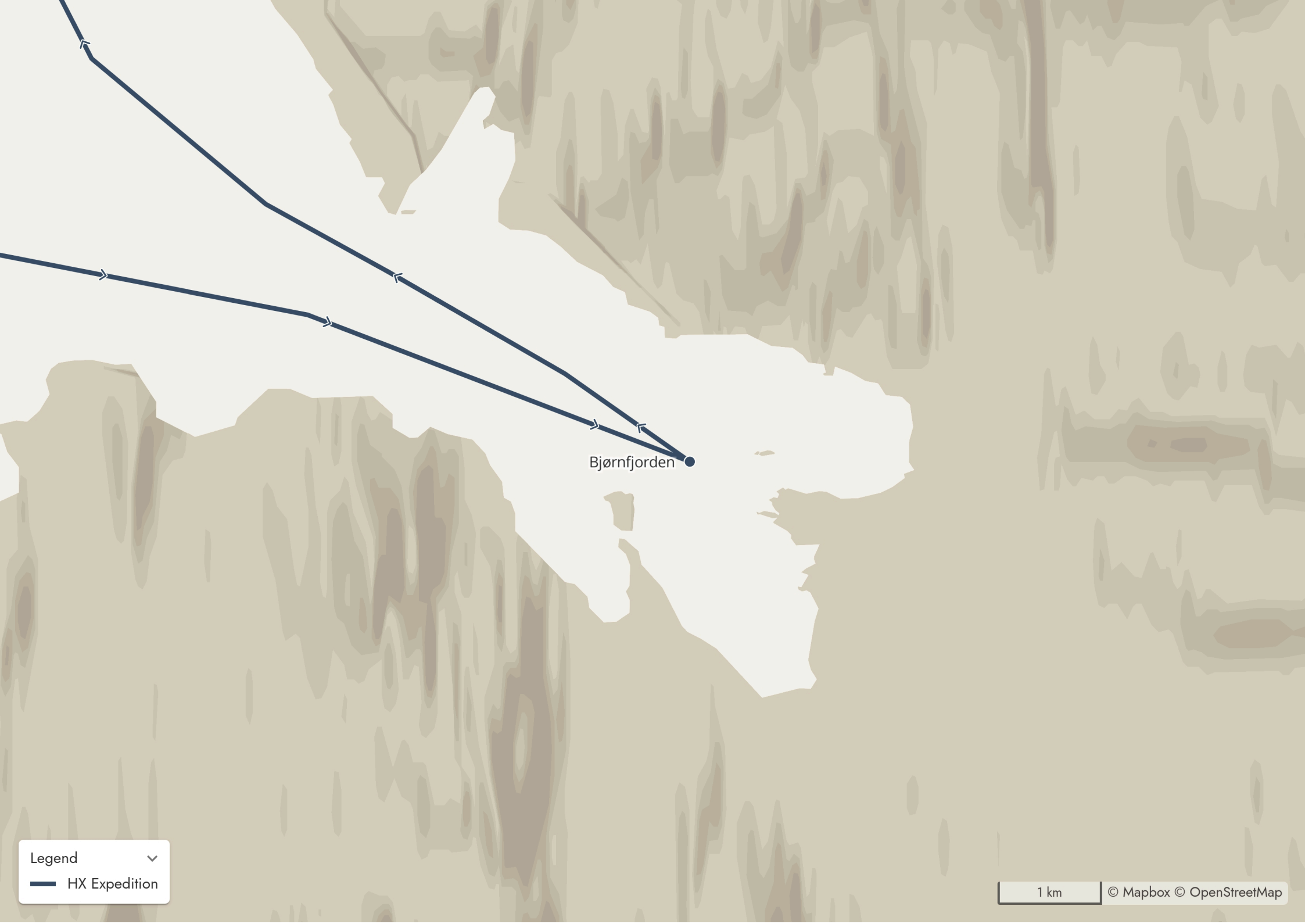
Day 4 - Gravnesodden

Landing at Gravneset, at the entrance to the stunning Magdalenefjorden on Spitsbergen's northwest coast, is both a visual and historical highlight of any Arctic expedition. Surrounded by jagged peaks and calving glaciers, the beach holds the weathered remains of a 17th-century whaling station, including a cemetery where dozens of whalers rest beneath simple wooden crosses. The stark

beauty of the landscape contrasts deeply with the quiet solemnity of the site. As you step ashore, a profound silence fills the air, evoking reverence for the past. From here, we caught our first glimpse of walrus across the bay in Gullybukta. This beautiful location also offered us a final chance for a polar plunge and our last kayaking session of the journey.







Bjørnfjorden

Legend

HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

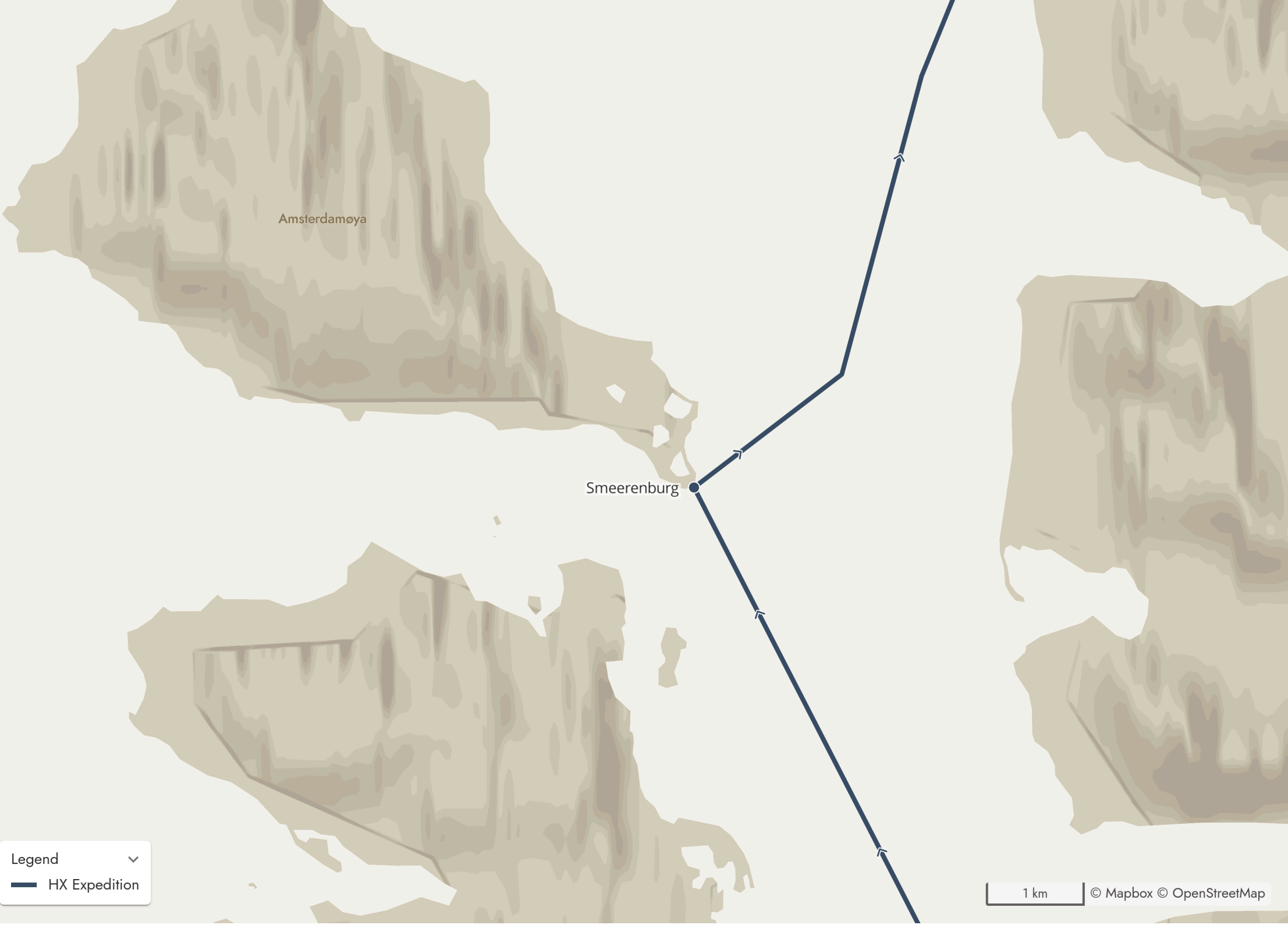
Day 5 - Bjørnfjorden

Zodiac cruising in Bjørnfjorden, a tranquil arm of Smeerenburgfjorden in northwest Spitsbergen, offers a front-row view of the Arctic's serene grandeur. Surrounded by steep mountain slopes and dramatic glacial fronts, the fjord's calm waters mirror a landscape sculpted by centuries of ice. Our cruise began with a peaceful

encounter: a large male walrus resting on an ice floe, completely undisturbed by our presence. We then navigated along the glacier front, gliding over mirror-like waters and weaving carefully through a mosaic of sea and glacier ice.







Amsterdamøya

Smeerenburg

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

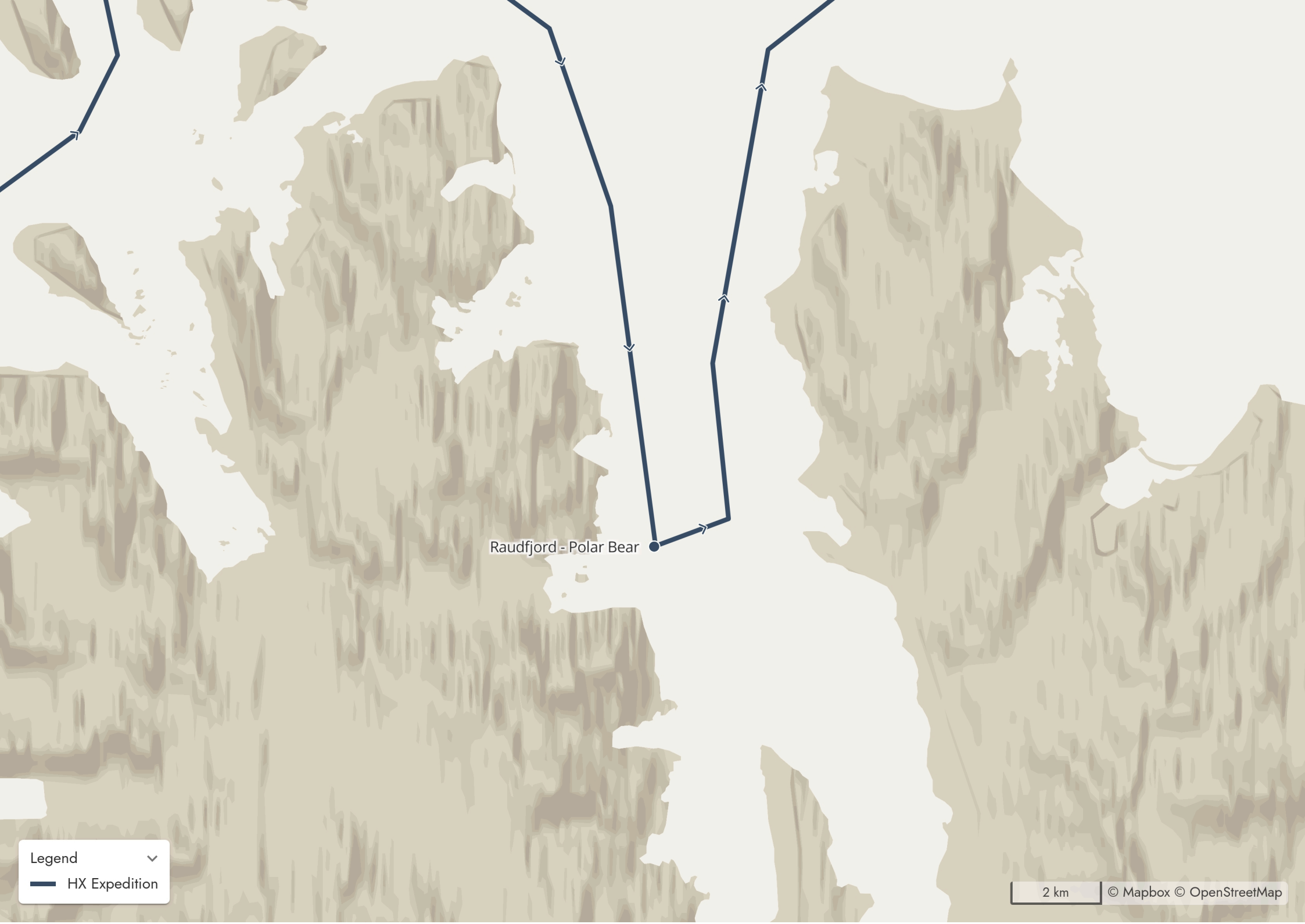
Day 5 - Smeerenburg

Landing at Smeerenburg, on the northwest coast of Spitsbergen, feels like stepping into a living museum of Arctic exploration and industry. Once one of the busiest 17th-century whaling stations, Smeerenburg—meaning “Blubber Town”—was a bustling hub for Dutch whalers harvesting bowhead whales. Today, only scattered remnants remain:

the outlines of blubber ovens, fragments of tools, and weathered earth where temporary structures once stood. The site is also a well-known haul-out spot for walrus. We were able to approach quite closely without disturbing the animals, observing them peacefully in their natural habitat.







Raudfjord - Polar Bear

Legend

HX Expedition

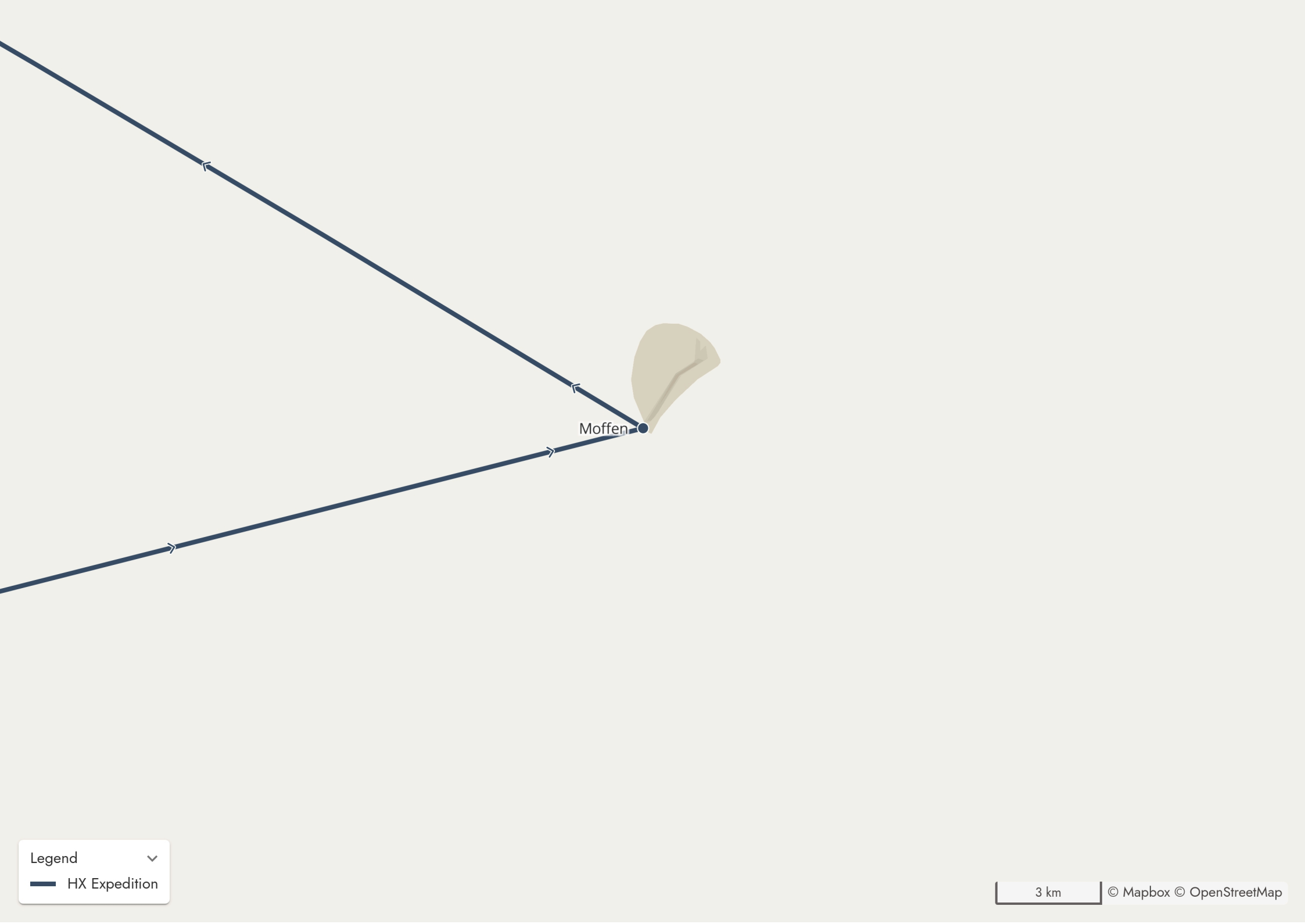
Day 5 - Polar Bears in Raudfjord

In the evening, we took a detour into Raudfjord in search of wildlife. We were lucky to spot two polar bears at a distance and approached slowly and carefully. The sea ice, acting as a natural barrier, was scattered with signs of animal activity - numerous polar bear and

Arctic fox tracks crisscrossed the broken ice floes beneath us. The bears stayed distant and seemed completely unaware of our presence, as we basked in the glorious sunshine, quietly observing and pointing them out to one another.







Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 6 - Moffen

Viewing Moffen from the ship, as it rises starkly from the icy Arctic waters, is a captivating experience. This remote, flat island hosts large colonies of Atlantic walrus, often seen lounging on the shores or hauled out on nearby sandbars. As the ship drifts closer, the

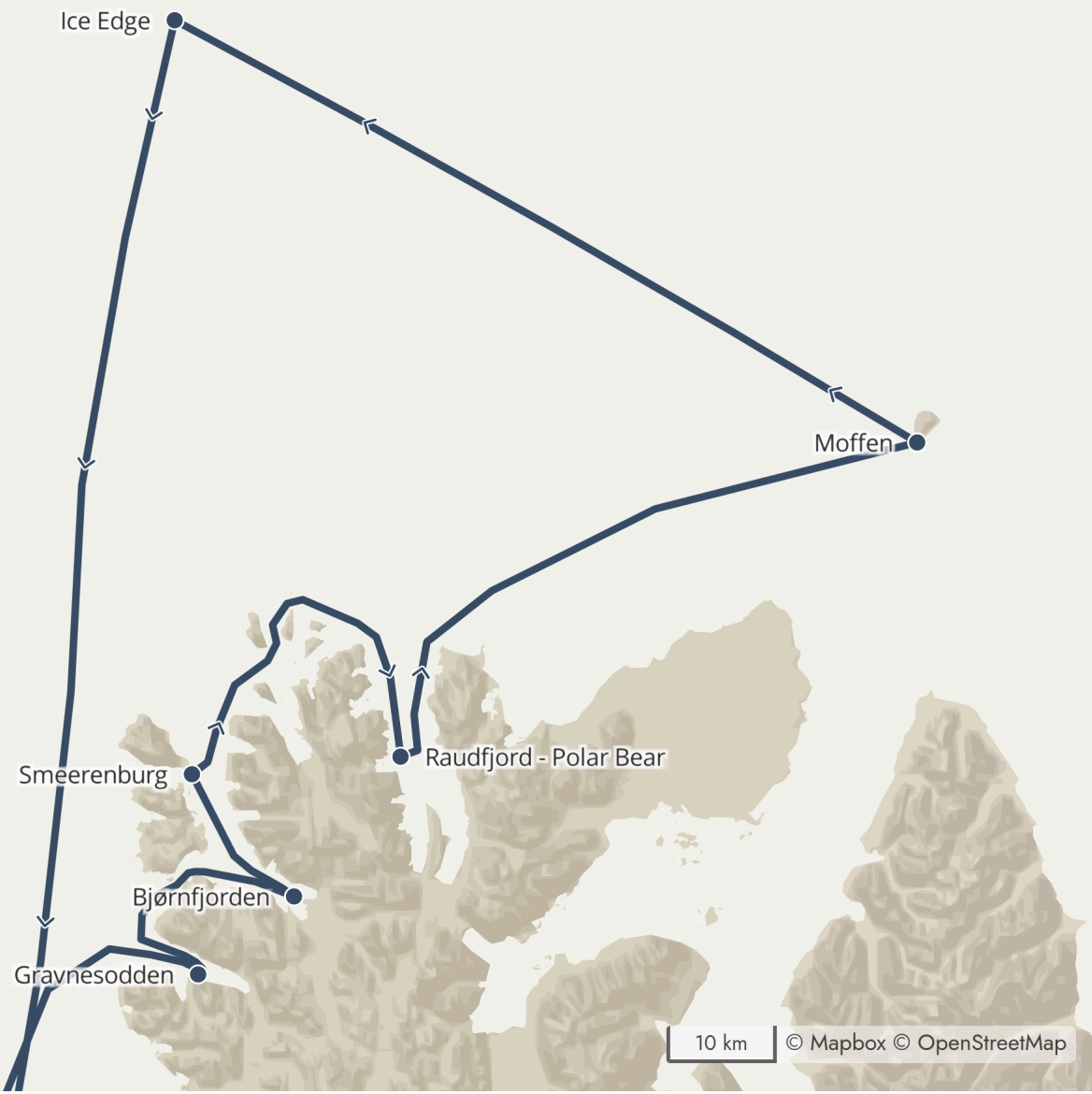
immense, lumbering animals bask in the brief Arctic sunlight, their tusks gleaming against the pristine, ice-capped backdrop. Overhead, seabirds wheel gracefully, adding life and movement to the otherwise still scene.





Legend

HX Expedition



Day 6 - Ice Edge

Zodiac cruising along the Arctic ice edge is one of the most exhilarating experiences in the polar regions - a place where the sea meets the frozen frontier. As the small boat weaves between drifting


floes and towering chunks of sea ice, the landscape feels otherworldly: endless white stretching to the horizon, punctuated by the deep blues of melting ice and the cold glint of open water.







Legend

 HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 7 - Ny-Ålesund

Visiting Ny-Ålesund, one of the northernmost settlements in the world, offers a unique glimpse into both Arctic history and cutting-edge polar science. Nestled along the shores of Kongsfjorden, this small research town was once a coal mining outpost and a launching point for legendary polar expeditions, including those of Roald Amundsen. Today, it is a quiet hub of international scientific

collaboration, where researchers from around the world study climate, glaciology, and Arctic ecosystems. As you walk among the colourful buildings, past the old airship mast and historic mining relics, the stark beauty of the surrounding glaciers and mountains is ever-present.





Lilliehöökbrean

Legend



— HX Expedition

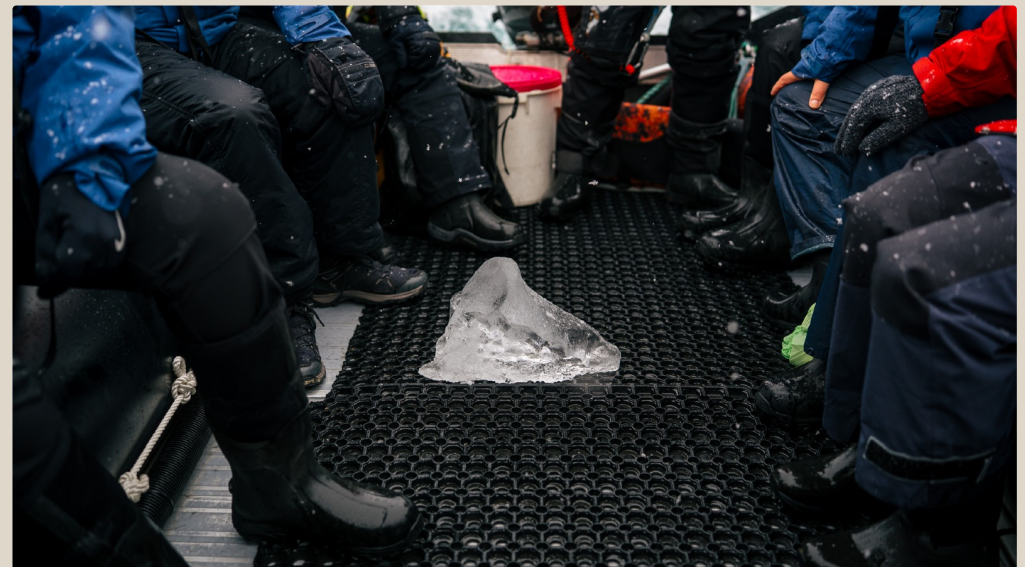
2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 7 - Lilliehöökreen

Zodiac cruising at Lilliehöökreen, one of Svalbard's most impressive glacier fronts, is a breathtaking journey into the heart of Arctic ice. Stretching over seven kilometres wide, the towering glacier spills into the head of Lilliehöökfjorden, sending icebergs and growlers drifting into the cold, silent waters. Our Zodiacs weaved carefully between

floating ice, and the sheer scale of the glacier became apparent — its jagged blue face rising dramatically against the overcast sky. Many black guillemots, Arctic terns, and glaucous gulls were present in the bay. What a fantastic way to end our voyage here in Svalbard.







Longyearbyen, Svalbard and Jan Mayen - May 27, 2025

252.8 km



logbook.travelmap.net/20250520-sbspi2504