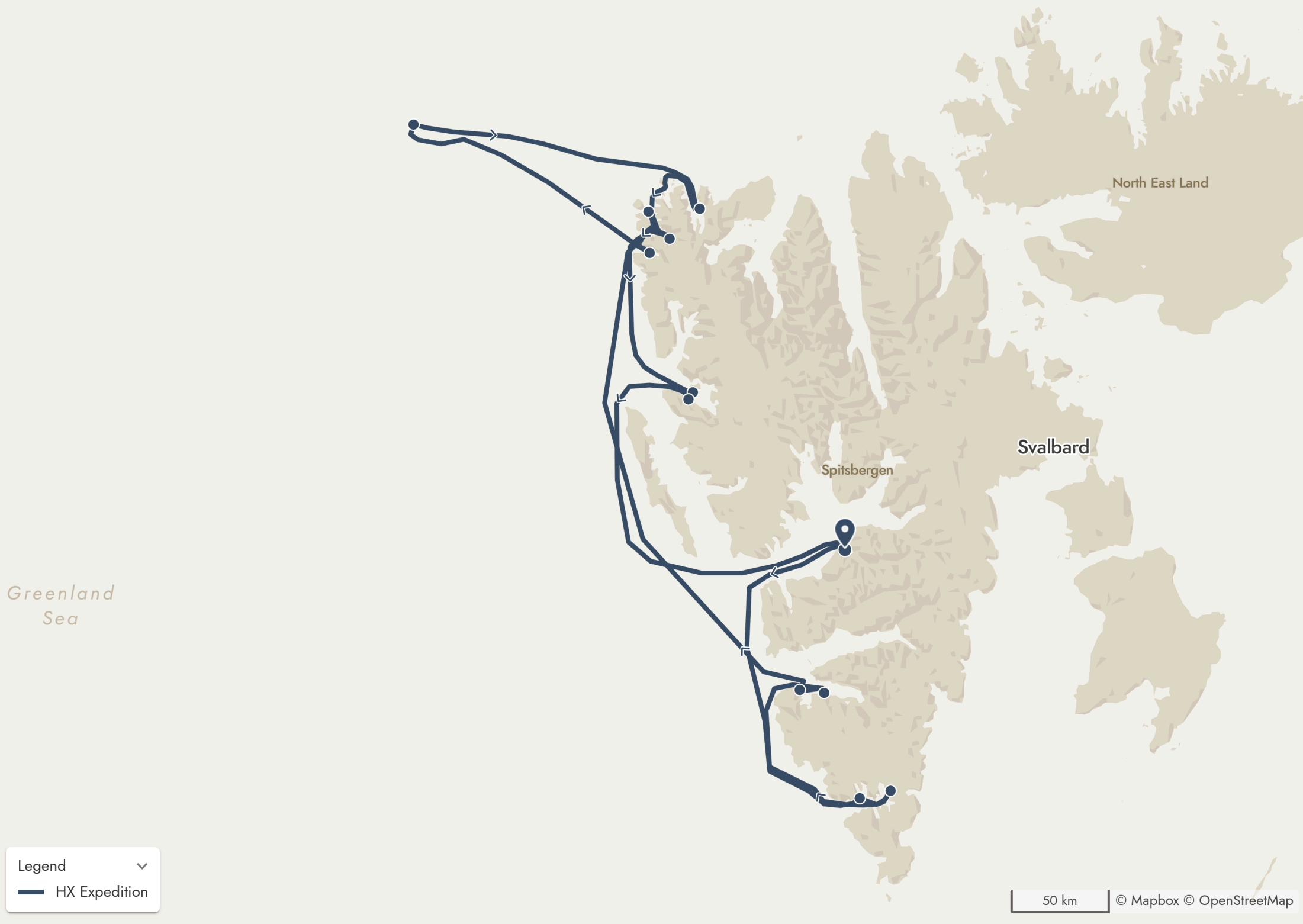


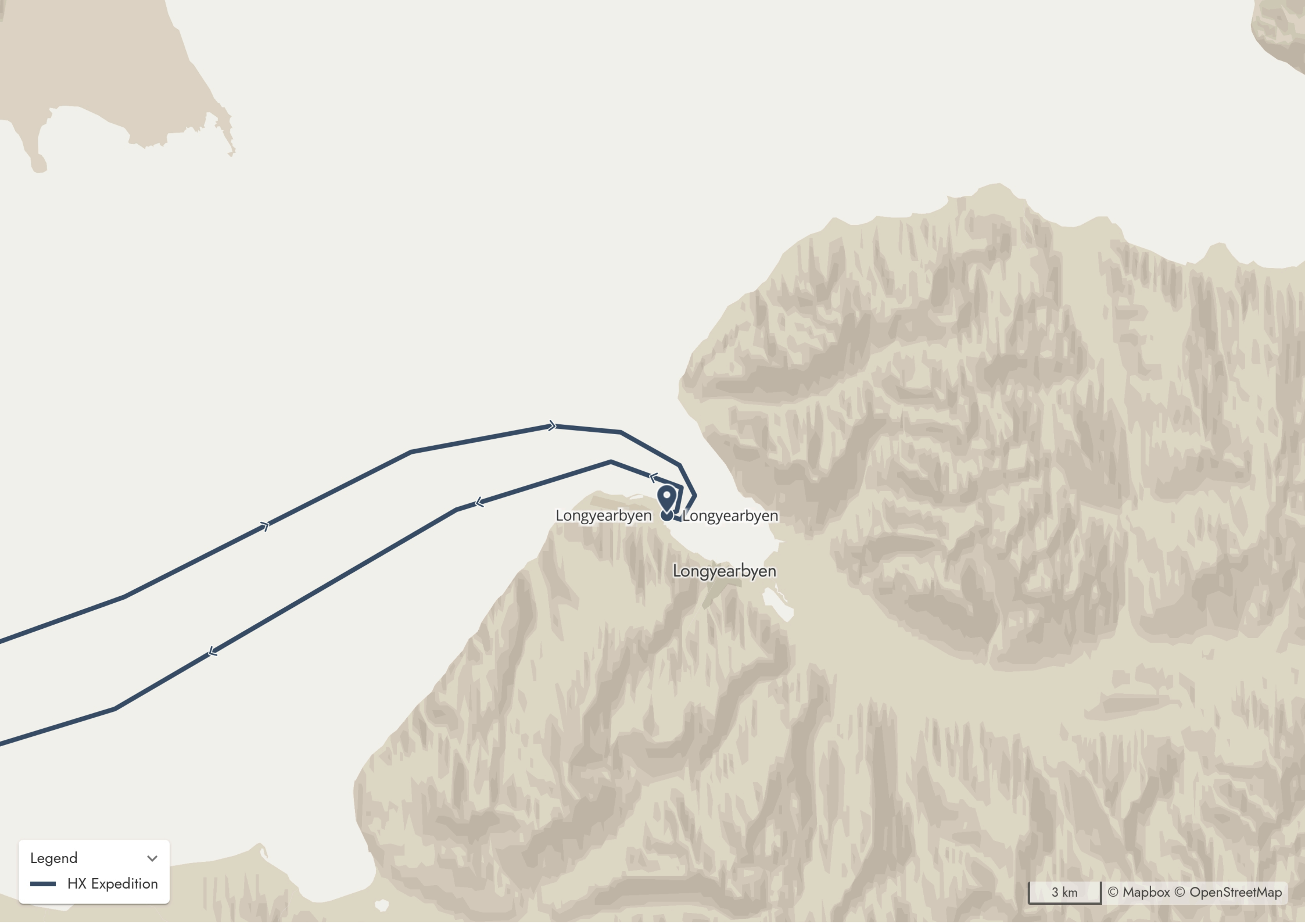
MS Spitsbergen

2025.06.10 - 2025.06.17



Legend

HX Expedition



Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

Legend



— HX Expedition

3 km

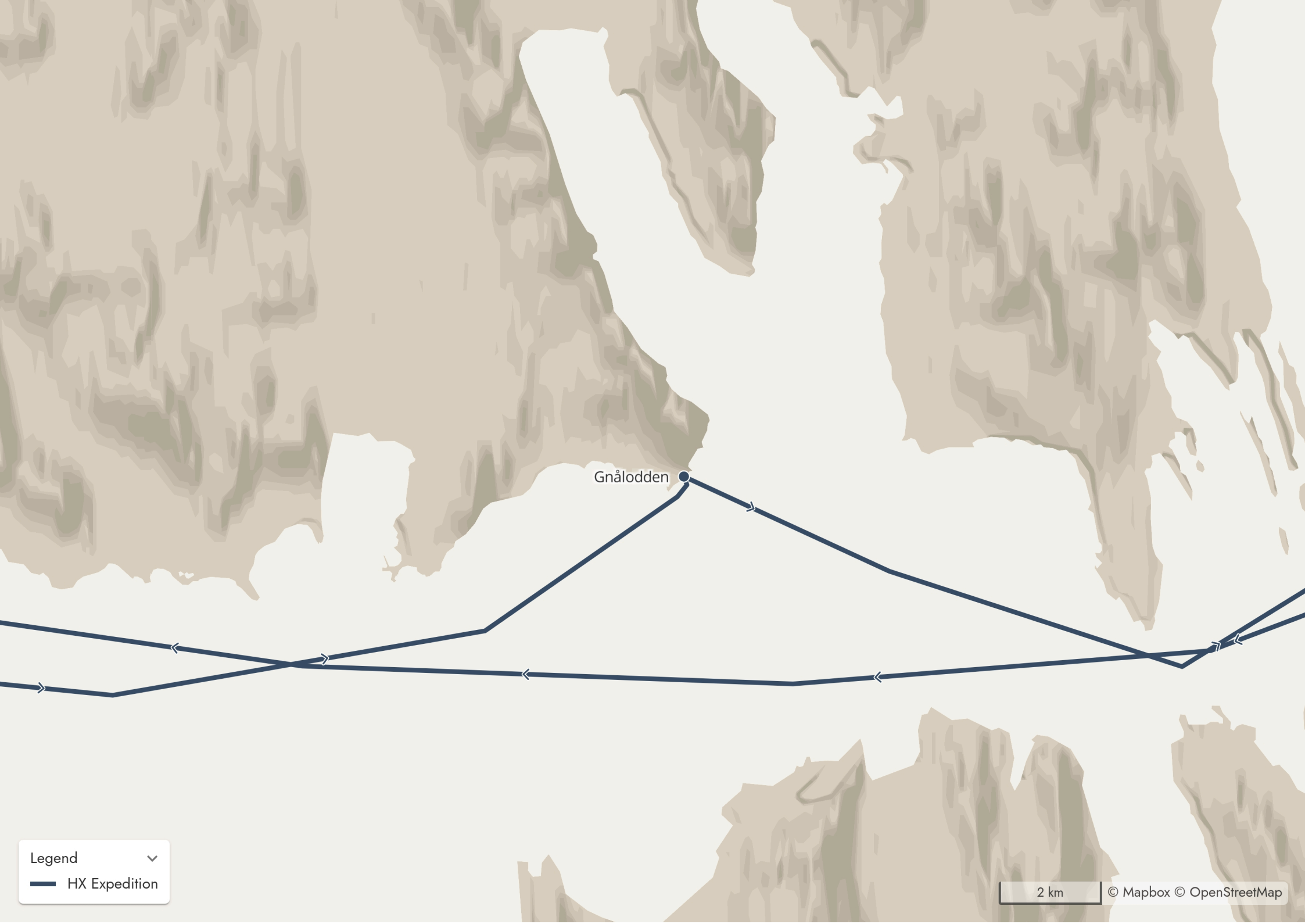
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

The journey begins!

We embarked on the expedition vessel MS Spitsbergen in the remote Arctic outpost of Longyearbyen, the northernmost town in the world, and a fitting gateway to our polar adventure. Before setting sail, guests participated in mandatory safety briefings and were outfitted with their expedition jackets and sturdy boots, essentials for the journey ahead. As the lines were cast off and the ship slowly pulled

away from the pier, a sense of excitement filled the air. Guests gathered in the lounge to enjoy a welcome drink, meet fellow travellers, and take in the first views of the dramatic Svalbard coastline. With spirits high, we set off to embrace the awakening of spring in Spitsbergen, at the very edge of the High Arctic.





Gnålodden

Legend

— HX Expedition

2 km

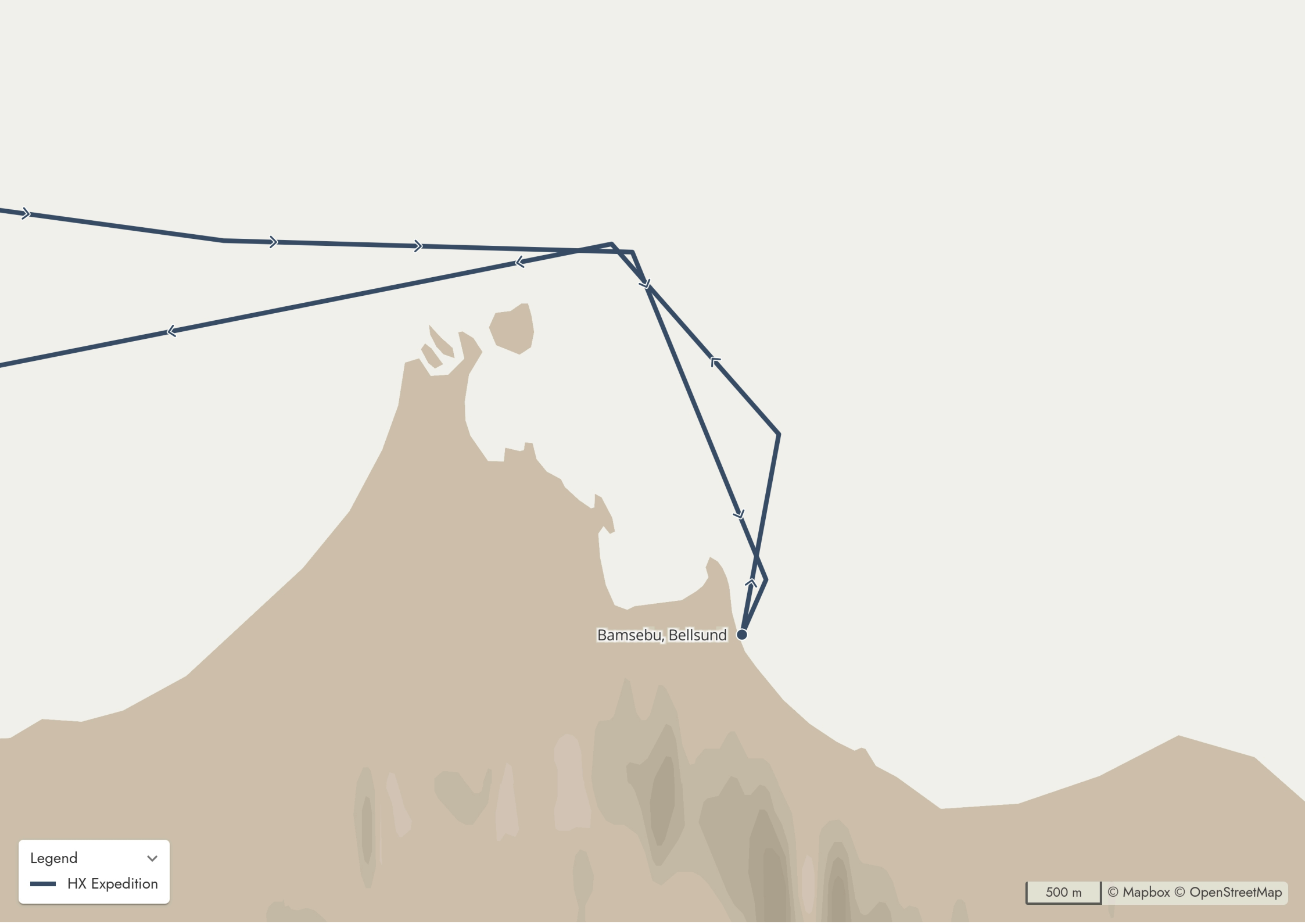
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Our first landing!

Our first landing of the expedition took us to the dramatic cliffs of Gnålodden, nestled in the northern part of Hornsund. Stepping ashore in calm conditions, we were greeted by the striking contrast of snow-covered peaks and dark basalt cliffs towering above. The site is rich in both natural and human history, home to nesting seabirds such as kittiwakes and guillemots, and once the seasonal base for trappers

and researchers. A highlight was the visit to the historic trapper's hut, still standing as a quiet testament to the harsh life once endured here. As we explored the area on foot, the silence of the Arctic was broken only by the cries of seabirds echoing from the cliffs — an unforgettable start to our landings in Svalbard.





Bamsebu, Bellsund

Legend

— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Polar bear far out on the ice!

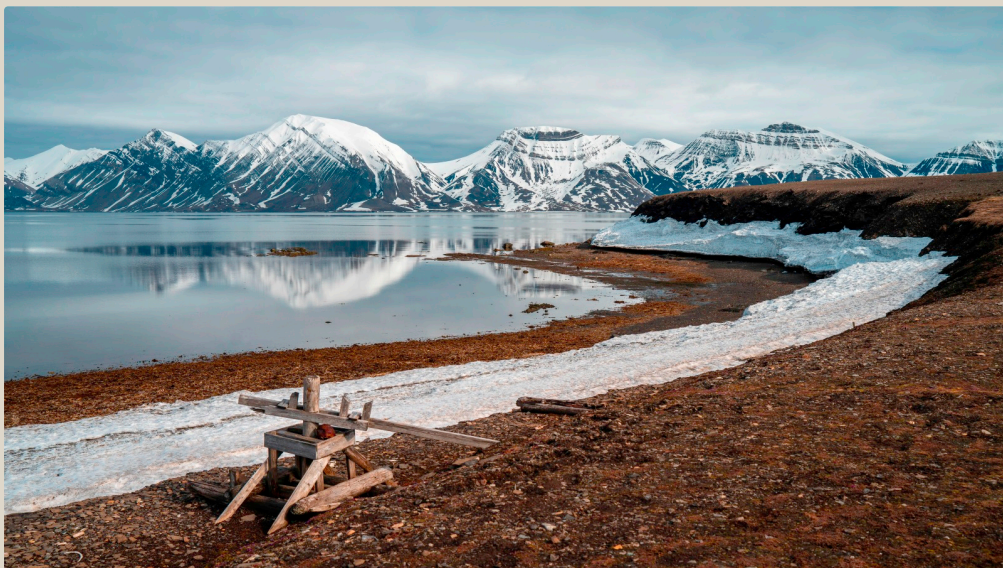
Later that evening, just as we thought the day couldn't get any better, excitement rippled through the ship — our expedition team had spotted a polar bear far out on the sea ice. Though too distant to see

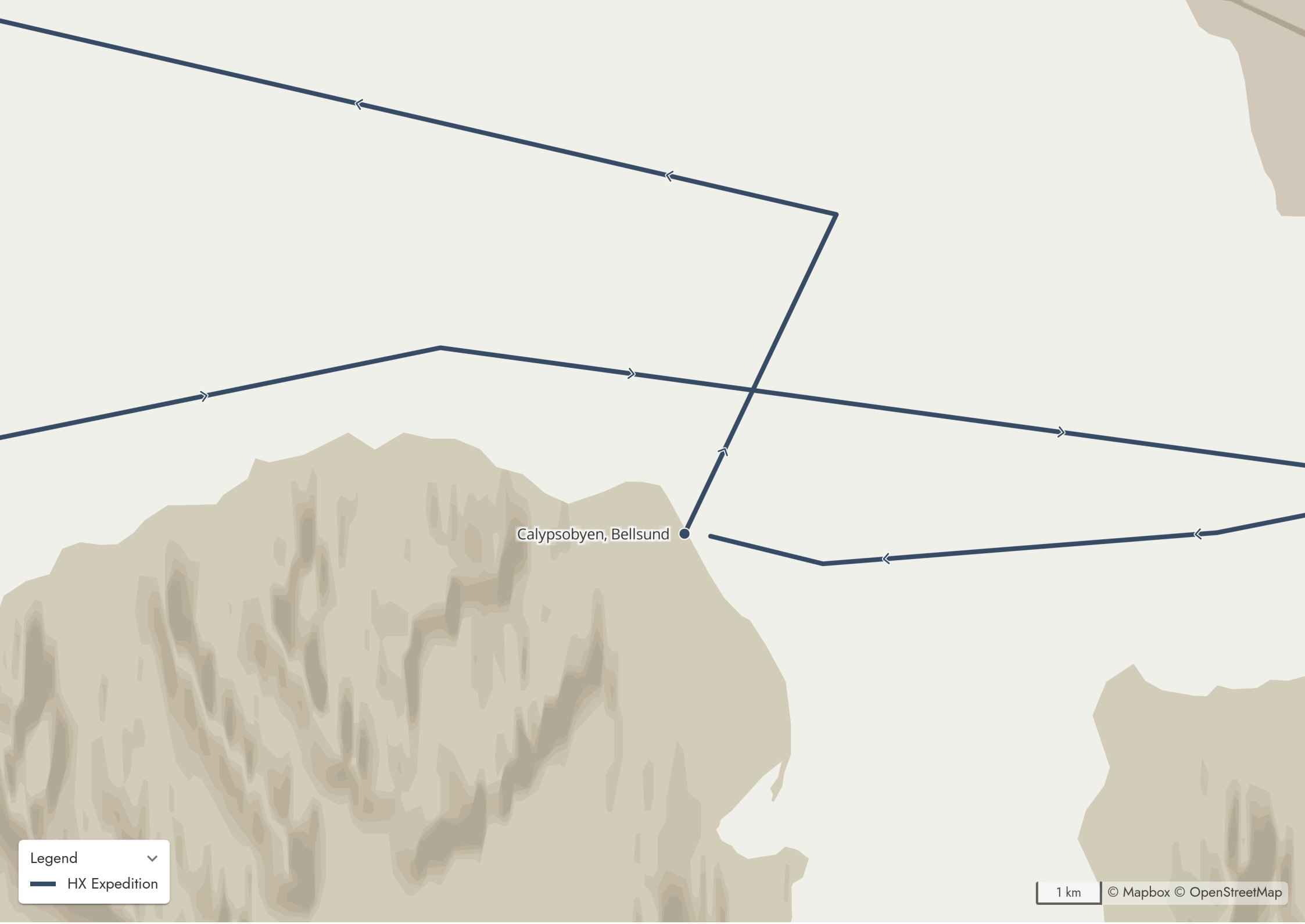
clearly with the naked eye, the bear was visible through our long-lens camera, offering a rare glimpse of the Arctic's most iconic predator: a powerful reminder that we are now deep in polar bear country.

Beautiful Bellsund!

The next morning welcomed us with calm seas and a soft Arctic light as we entered Bellsund, one of Svalbard's broad fjord systems. Our landing took place at Bamsebu, a site rich in both natural beauty and cultural history. Ashore, we explored the well-preserved trapper's cabin from the 1930s and the remains of a former beluga whaling station. Scattered whale bones still rest along the beach, a stark reminder of the area's whaling past.

After a short introduction to the site, guests had the opportunity to join a guided hike across the gently rolling tundra. As we walked, the landscape revealed its quiet wonders: reindeer grazed at a distance and Arctic terns danced in the sky above. The hike offered not only stunning views of the surrounding mountains and coastline, but also a chance to feel fully immersed in the silence and solitude of the High Arctic.





— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Landing at Calypsobyen

In the afternoon, we continued our journey with a landing at Calypsobyen, located on the north side of Van Mijenfjord. This site, once home to a coal mining settlement, offers a fascinating blend of industrial heritage and striking Arctic scenery. Rusted remnants of machinery and collapsed buildings hint at the lives once lived here, slowly being reclaimed by nature.

After a brief introduction to the site's history, guests had the option to join a guided hike across the surrounding tundra or enjoy some free

roaming within the landing zone. The hike offered elevated views over the fjord, where patches of snow still clung to the slopes and reindeer could be seen foraging in the distance. Those who chose to explore independently wandered among old mining relics, observed birdlife along the shoreline, and soaked in the stillness of this abandoned outpost.

It was a day rich in contrasts - history and wilderness, solitude and discovery, all under the wide Arctic sky.



Amsterdamøya

Smeerenburg

Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Blubber party at Smeerenburg!

The next morning, we arrived at one of Svalbard's most storied historical sites, Smeerenburg, on the northwest coast of Spitsbergen. Once a bustling 17th-century whaling station operated by Dutch whalers, today it stands silent, with only scattered remains of blubber ovens and structures hinting at its dramatic past. As we stepped ashore under calm skies and crisp Arctic air, we took time to explore the historic area and reflect on the intense human activity that once

defined this remote corner of the Arctic. While walking along the shore and taking in the sweeping views toward Amsterdamøya, we were treated to a special sight: four walrus slowly swimming just offshore. Their massive shapes and curious eyes drew smiles and lenses alike, as they occasionally surfaced with a puff of breath before slipping beneath the waves again. It was a beautiful blend of history and wildlife—a moment that truly captured the essence of the Arctic.



Gravneset

Polar Plunge at Gravneset!

In the afternoon, we landed at Gravneset, a breathtaking site at the entrance of Magdalenefjorden, where Arctic history and dramatic landscapes meet - under clear blue skies and with the sun shining brightly.

Guests visited a 17th-century whalers' cemetery, one of the oldest in Svalbard, quietly perched above the shoreline. Meanwhile, others took to the calm, mirror-like waters in kayaks, gliding along the

stunning coastline beneath snow-dusted peaks and past small icebergs adrift in the fjord.

To top it all off, many guests embraced the challenge of the polar plunge! Cheered on by their fellow travellers and our enthusiastic team, they took the leap into the icy Arctic waters. With sunshine, stunning views, and adventurous spirits all around, it was a picture-perfect afternoon in the High Arctic.



Ice Edge

Smeerenburg

Aliceha

Bjørnfjorden

Gravneset

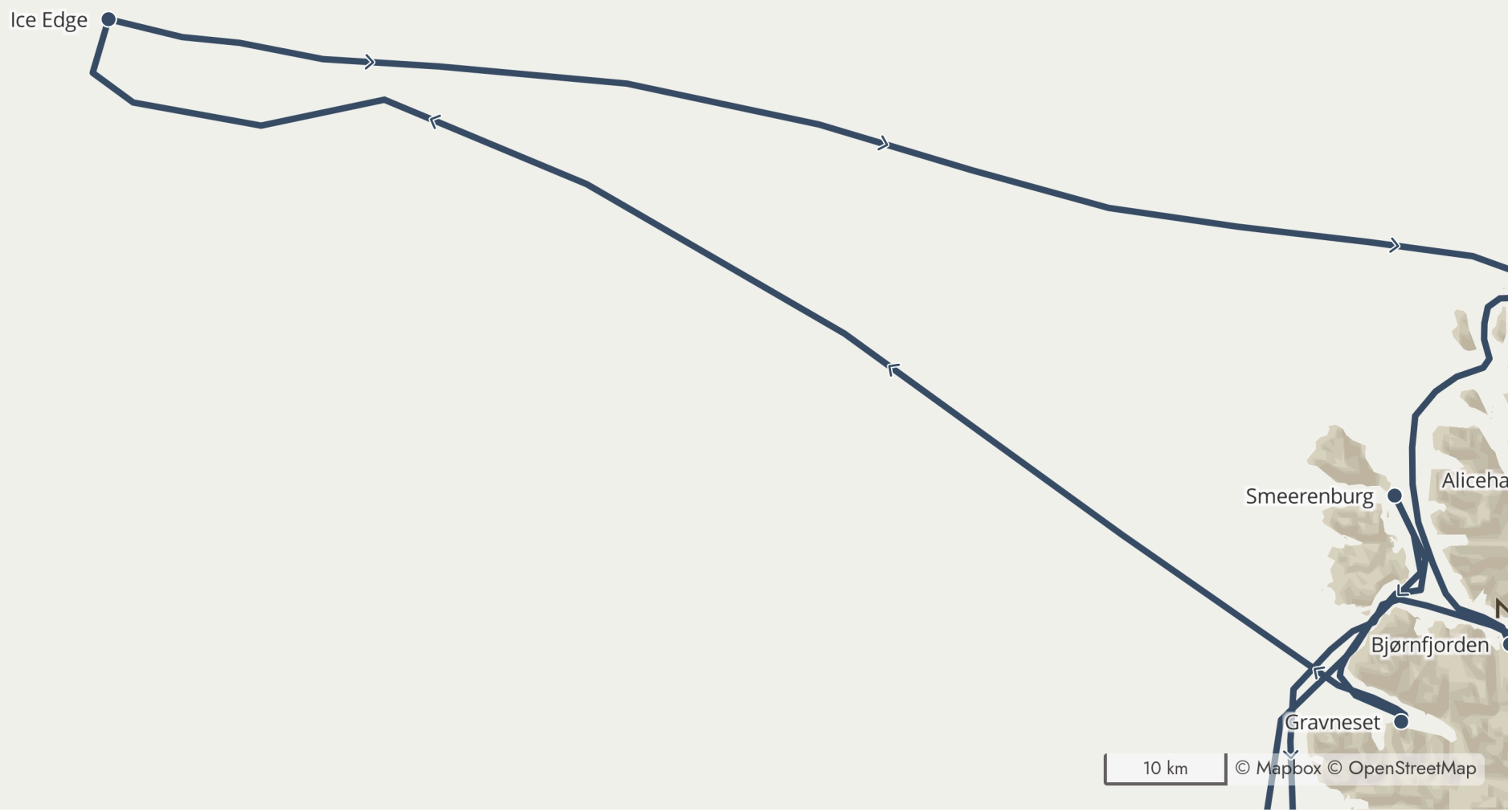
Legend



— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Exploration day above 80 degrees north!

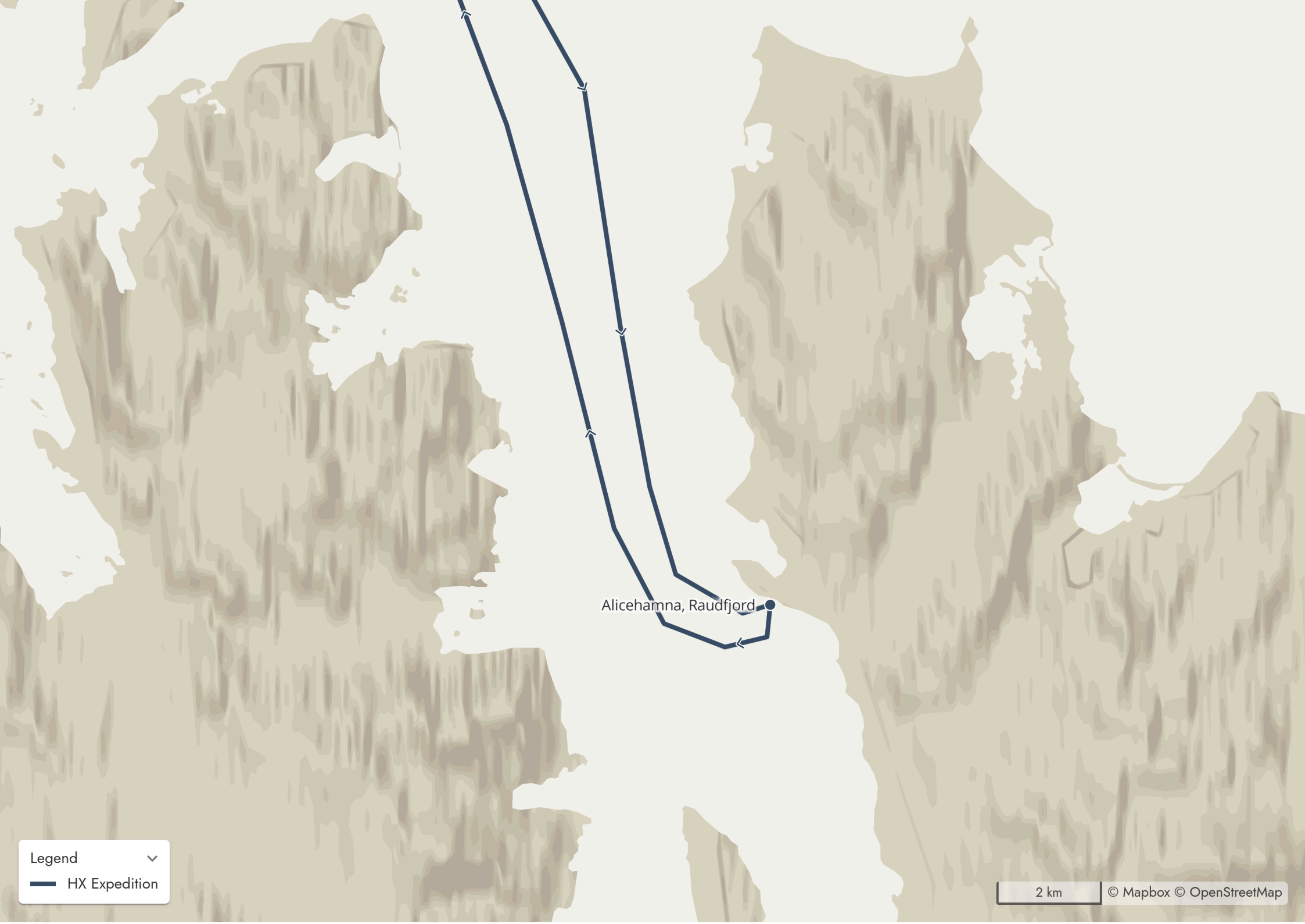
The next day, we ventured further north to reach the dramatic ice edge at 80 degrees north - the true frontier of the Arctic wilderness. The landscape here was otherworldly: vast stretches of pristine sea ice extended as far as the eye could see, glistening under a bright Arctic sun.

Our Zodiac boats slipped quietly through narrow channels and around towering ice floes, offering up-close encounters with this

fragile, frozen world. The silence was profound, broken only by the gentle lapping of water and the distant calls of seabirds. Guests marvelled at the intricate patterns and textures of the ice.

This day at the ice edge was a powerful reminder of the raw beauty and isolation of the High Arctic - a place where nature still reigns supreme.





Alicehamna, Raudfjord

Legend

HX Expedition

2 km

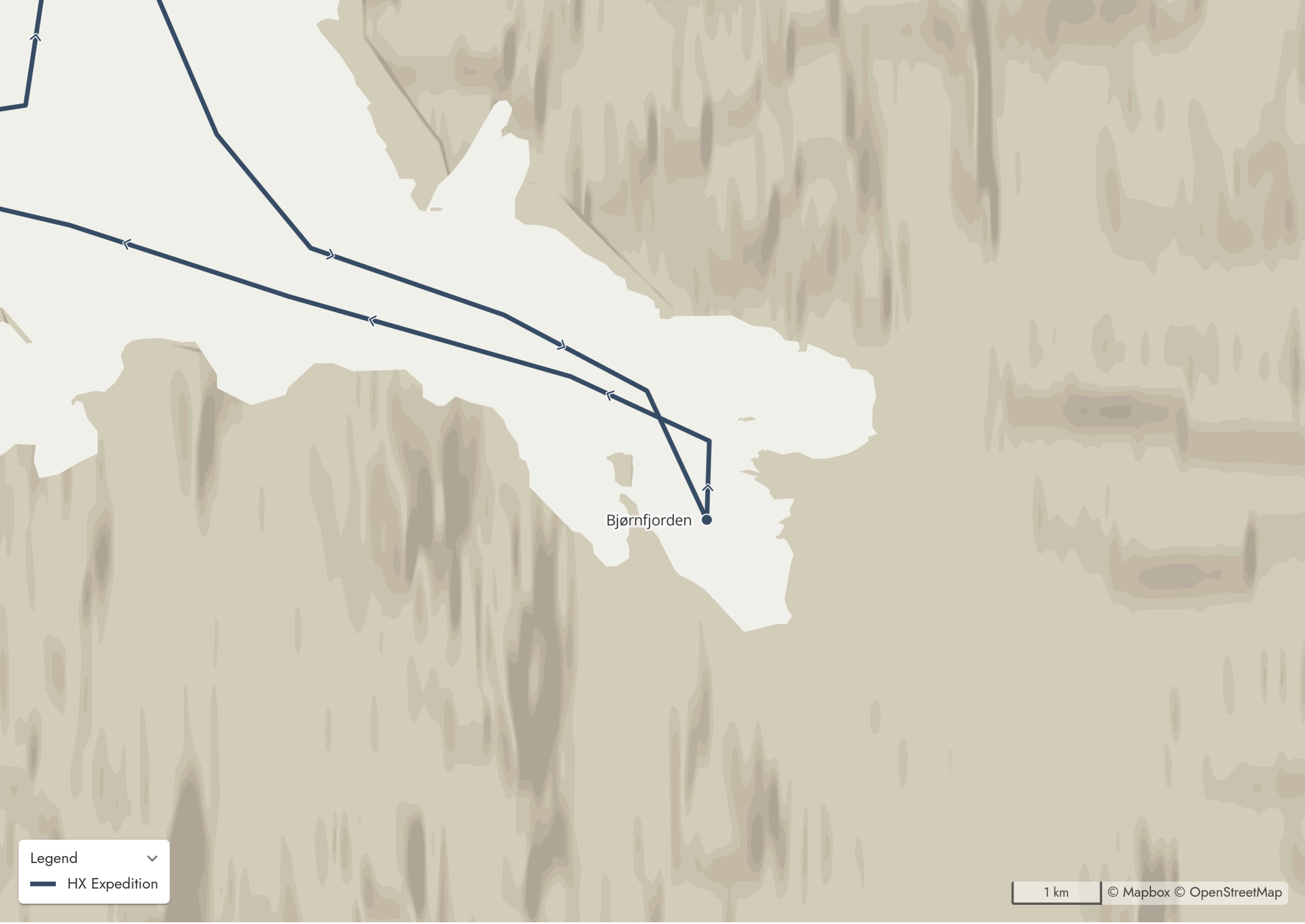
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Icy landing at Alicehamna!

The next morning, we arrived at Alicehamna in the stunning Raudfjord, where large chunks of sea ice and patches of snow still covered the shoreline - creating a striking, pristine Arctic landscape at our landing site. After stepping ashore, guests set out on a scenic walk to a nearby viewpoint, trekking across snow-covered tundra framed by towering glaciers and rugged peaks.

The hike rewarded us with sweeping panoramas of the fjord's icy waters and dramatic surroundings, all beneath a crisp, clear Arctic sky. Back on the beach, a few adventurous guests embraced the cold once more with a thrilling polar plunge from the snow-dusted shore, greeted by cheers and laughter that echoed across the fjord. It was a perfect blend of breathtaking scenery, physical challenge, and Arctic adventure - an unforgettable moment in the heart of the High Arctic.





Bjørnfjorden

Legend

HX Expedition

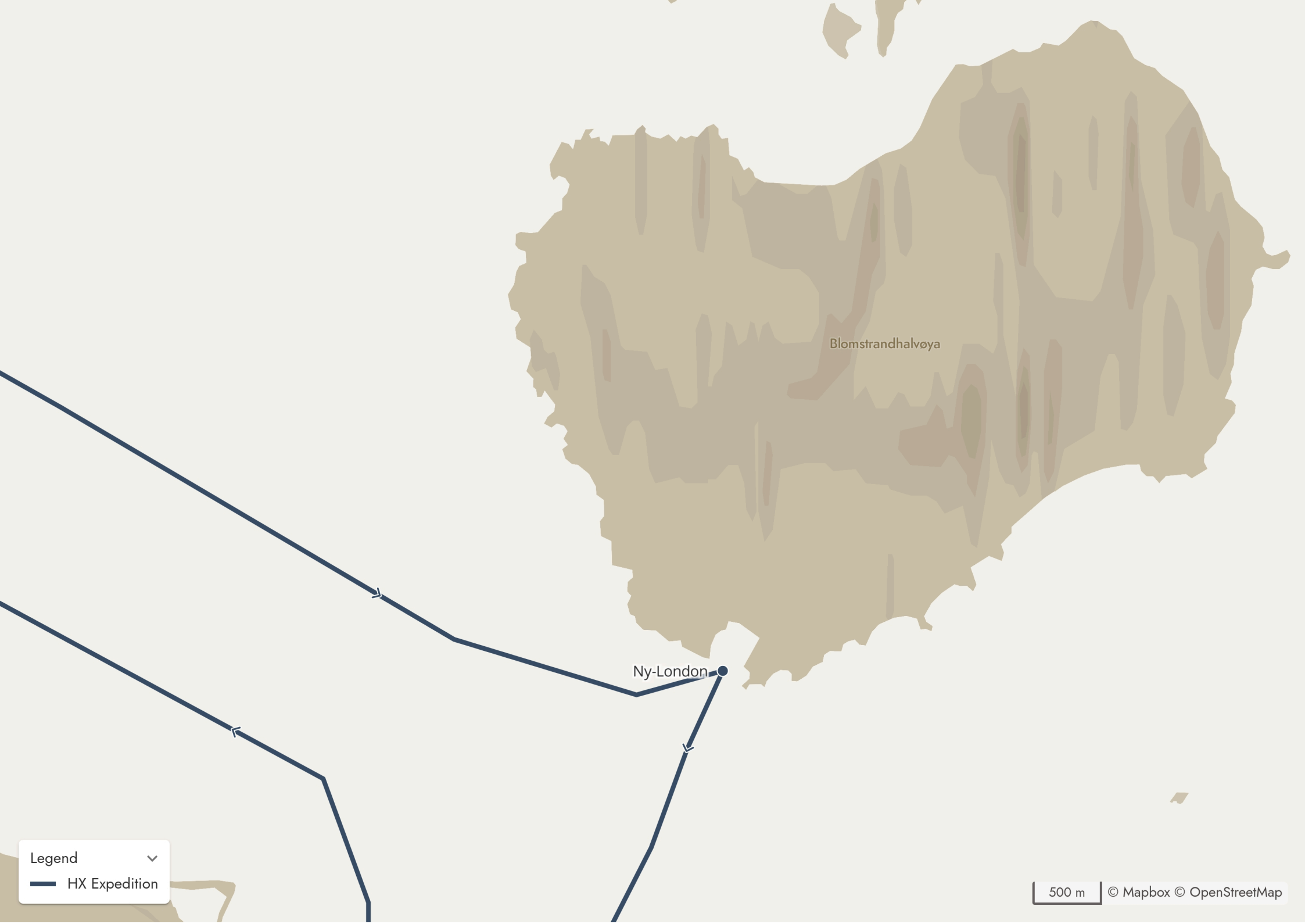
Glacier zodiac cruise!

In the afternoon, we set out for zodiac cruising and kayaking at Smeerenburgreen, the spectacular glacier fronting Bjørnfjorden. Towering ice cliffs glowed brilliant white and blue in the soft Arctic light, while small icebergs drifted gently across the fjord waters. Some guests kayaked alongside floating ice, navigating peaceful channels framed by rugged mountains and listening to the distant creaks and cracks of the glacier. During the cruise, a few fortunate guests spotted a minke whale surfacing nearby. Meanwhile, zodiac

boats offered a closer look at the glacier's imposing face, where occasional calving sent shimmering ice chunks crashing into the water below—a vivid reminder of the dynamic power of this frozen wilderness.

The serene beauty and raw energy of the glacier created a truly unforgettable afternoon, deepening our connection to the wild and fragile Arctic environment.





Blomstrandhalvøya

Ny-London

Legend
HX Expedition

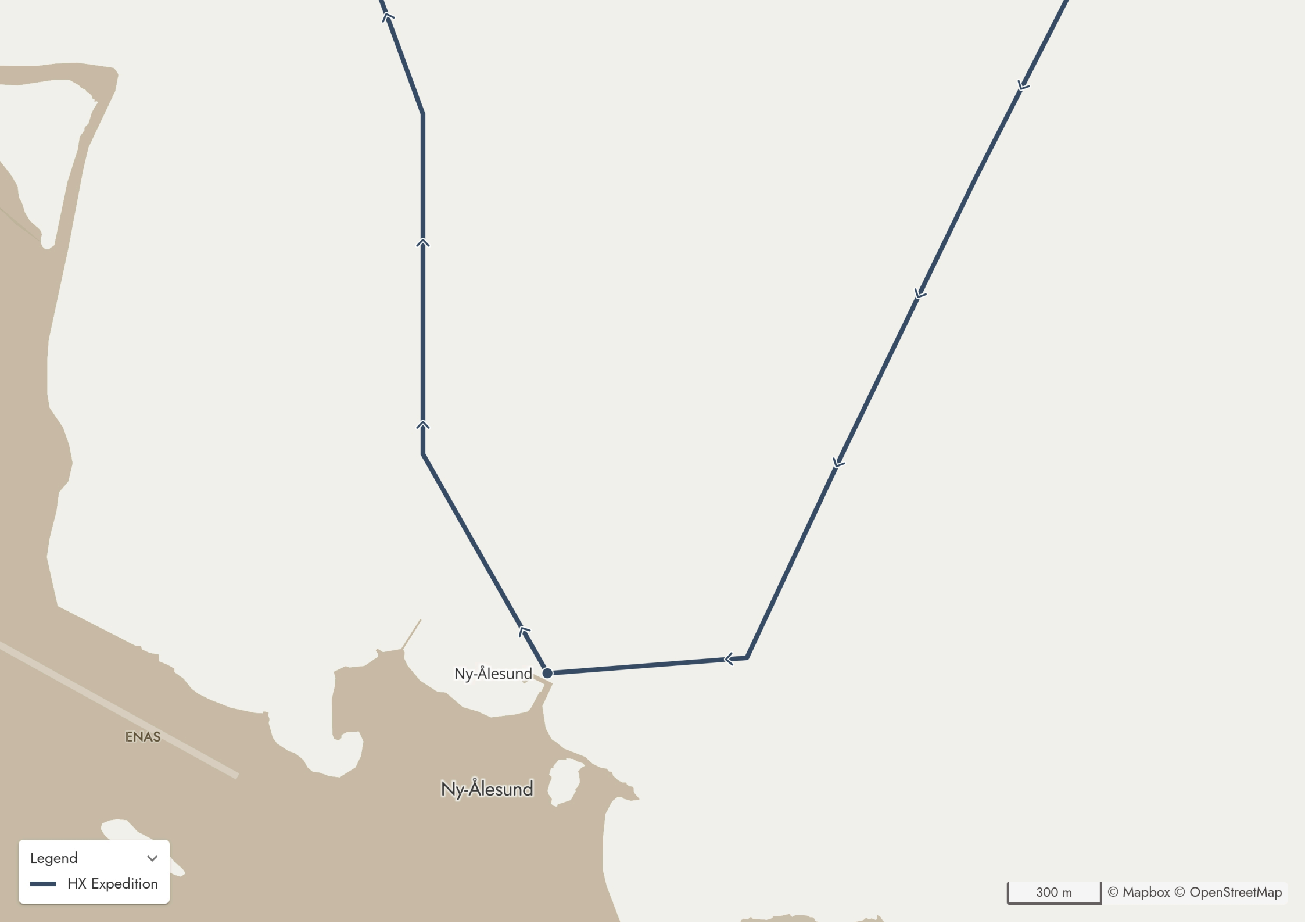
Reindeers at Ny-London!

On our final morning, we made a memorable landing at Ny-London in Kongsfjorden - a historic site nestled among dramatic mountains and shimmering Arctic waters. This former coal mining settlement, now silent and slowly reclaimed by nature, offers a poignant glimpse into the challenging lives of those who once called it home.

As guests explored the weathered ruins of miners' cabins and

scattered industrial relics across the tundra, several reindeer were spotted grazing nearby, adding a vibrant touch of Arctic wildlife to the scene. The crisp air and quiet solitude of the landscape invited reflection on our incredible journey through Spitsbergen's wild and captivating environment.





Legend

— HX Expedition

Beluga Whales and Shopping at 79 Degrees North!

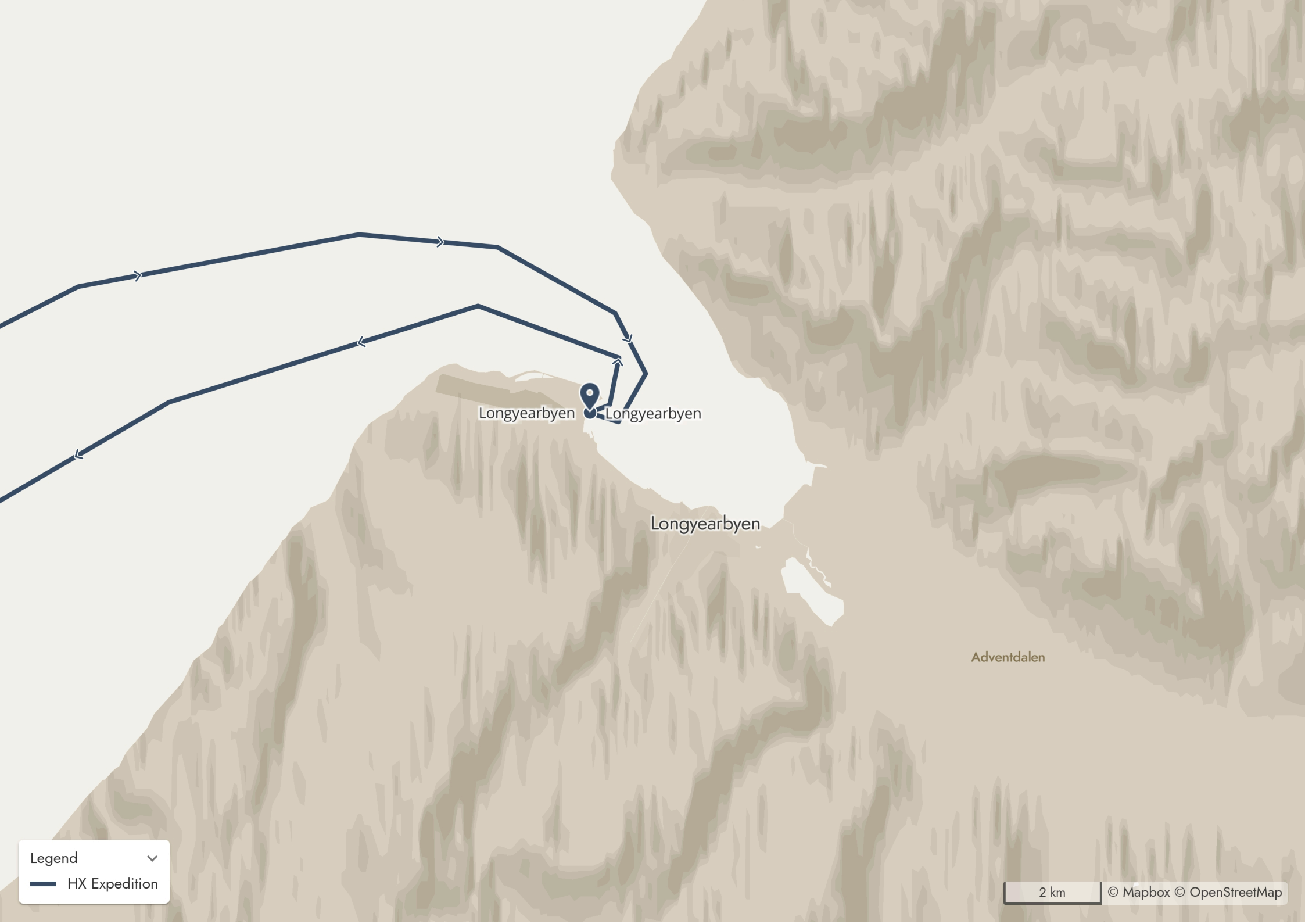
On our final afternoon, we visited Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost settlements and a hub for Arctic research and exploration. This charming village, nestled along the shores of Kongsfjorden, offers a unique blend of history, science, and breathtaking scenery.

As guests strolled through the quiet streets, some were lucky enough to spot a pod of beluga whales swimming gracefully in the icy waters nearby - a magical final wildlife encounter to cap off the expedition.

Visitors also had the opportunity to browse the local souvenir shop and send postcards home - perfect mementos to share the spirit of this unforgettable Arctic journey.

Surrounded by towering mountains and icy fjords, Ny-Ålesund provided a fitting and heartfelt conclusion to our expedition - a place where the past, present, and future of polar exploration beautifully converge.





— HX Expedition

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Expedition Team farewell!

We arrived back in Longyearbyen, bringing our unforgettable Arctic expedition to a close. As the ship docked, guests prepared to disembark, carrying with them memories of spectacular landscapes, incredible wildlife encounters, and shared adventures in the High

Arctic. The expedition team gathered to bid farewell, offering heartfelt thanks and warm wishes to each guest. Though our journey ended here, the spirit of exploration — and the breathtaking beauty of Spitsbergen — will surely stay with everyone long after.





logbook.travelmap.net/20250610-sbspi2507