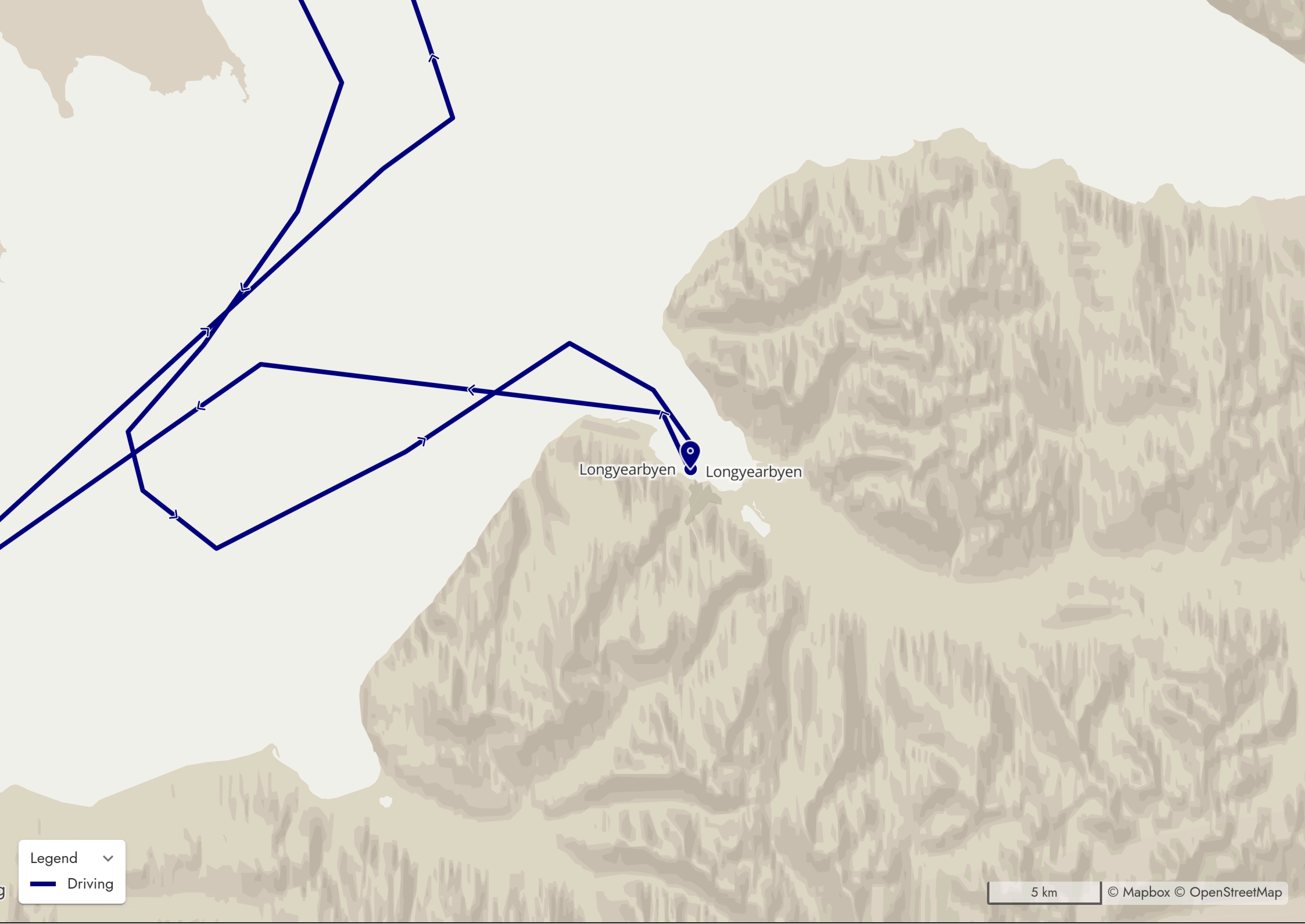




MS SPITSBERGEN

2025.06.17 - 2025.06.29





Legend ▾

■ Driving

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Embarkation Day – The Journey Begins

Embarkation day—surely a day filled with anticipation and quiet excitement. The morning began with the check-in, where the adventure started to feel real. Bags were handed over, lightening your load for the journey ahead.

Followed by an excursion which took you deeper into the Arctic spirit, with a visit to the atmospheric Camp Barentz—a place where wild stories and wilderness meet. And finally, as the day stretched toward late afternoon, the time had come. You stepped aboard a tender boat, gliding across the silvery waters toward the Spitsbergen, waiting patiently at anchor in the bay.

After a first inspection of your cabin—and perhaps a little exploration of the ship—it was time for the first official program: the mandatory safety drill. Once completed, a welcome cocktail awaited, setting the mood for the journey ahead, followed by a warm dinner to fill the

belly and hopefully a first taste of what will await you culinarily the next 12 days.

After dinner, the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader officially welcomed you aboard MS Spitsbergen with a presentation full of anticipation for the journey ahead. But the evening wasn't quite over yet.

You picked up your expedition jacket—hopefully your warm and faithful companion for the days to come—and received your sturdy boots, which will carry you across the Arctic landscapes throughout the voyage.

We hope you had a smooth and enjoyable embarkation day, filled with vivid and unforgettable impressions of both Longyearbyen and your new home at sea, the Spitsbergen.





Ny-Ålesund

Legend

Driving

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

A Bright Start in the Arctic

After a hopefully restful and smooth first night aboard MS Spitsbergen, you awoke to a stunning Arctic morning—bathed in sunshine, under clear skies, and surrounded by calm, silent air.

The morning was filled with presentations, including an introduction to AECO—the guidelines we follow to help us behave responsibly in this fragile environment. But even amidst that, nature had its own surprise in store: graceful belugas made an unexpected appearance, arching their gleaming white bodies out of the water to the delight of all who watched.

In the afternoon, we reached our first stop at a scientific settlement on this journey: Ny-Ålesund, the northernmost permanent research town

in the world.

You had the chance to explore this unique place—whether by walking to the 35-meter-high Amundsen mast, from which the legendary explorer set off toward the North Pole with the airship Norge in 1926, visiting the small museum, picking out a souvenir (hopefully the one with the correct coordinates: 78.55° N), sending a postcard from the iconic light-blue post office, or simply enjoying the raw beauty of the surrounding tundra.

All the while, the air was alive with the song of snow buntings and the cries of Arctic terns—now fiercely protective as the breeding season nears. A vivid reminder that life in the Arctic, no matter how delicate, is always determined.





Gravnesodden

Legend

Driving

Sun-Kissed at Gravnessoden

Bathed in golden morning light, we awoke to a perfect Arctic day. The sun gently warmed the deck as we stepped ashore for our first true landing — Gravneset, a quiet, windswept place where approximately 130 whalers found their final resting place. But it wasn't just about history: we also spotted, though at quite a distance, the

very first walruses of the trip.

Out on the water, our first group of kayakers glided silently between small icebergs, paddling through a dreamlike bay sculpted by glaciers in shades of blue and white.





Amsterdamsøya

Smeerenburg

Danskøya

Legend

Driving

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Blubber party at Smeerenburg!

Then, just after lunch — excitement rippled through the ship: a polar bear! Not just one, but a mother and her cub, strolling together along the coastline. From about a kilometre away, we watched in awe, the sun catching their fur as they moved with quiet power. Some of us watched from the deck, others curled up with a coffee inside, following their every step on the ship's live camera feed.

Later, we made our way to Smeerenburg, running a little late — for very good reasons. There, we were greeted once more by walrus, this time from much closer, their presence unmistakable... and yes, their scent too.

It was a day of sunlight and unforgettable, beastly-good encounters.



Nordvest-Spitsbergen
National Park

Monacobreen

Mushamna

Legend

Driving

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

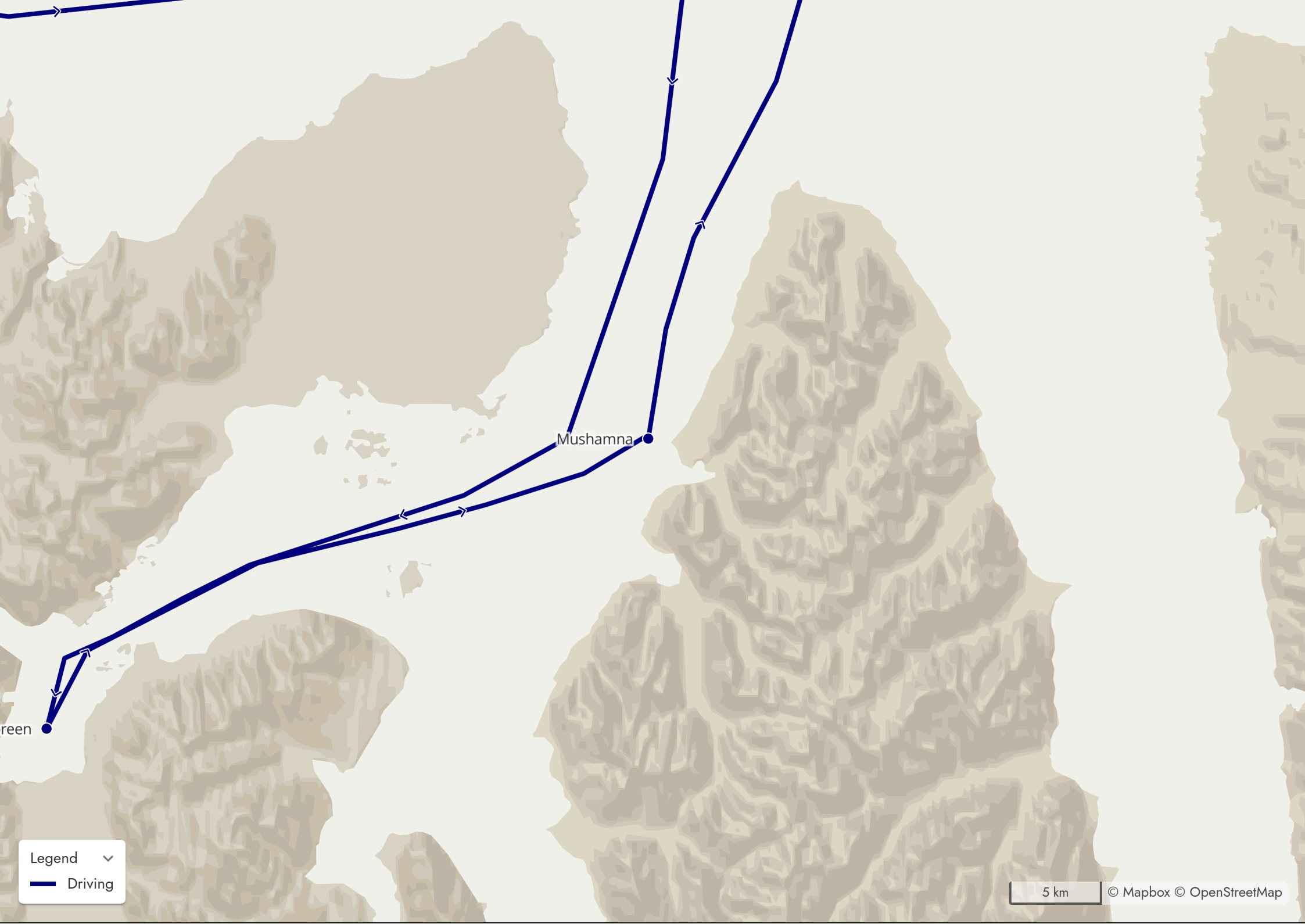
A Close Encounter With The Spectacular Monacobreen Glacier

It's now the third day in a row that we've been spoiled with glorious sunshine — what a great day, and not only because of the weather.

We started with scenic cruising in our Zodiacs at Monacobreen (named in honour of Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneering Arctic

explorer and oceanographer who conducted scientific expeditions to Svalbard in the early 1900s). The highlight? A bearded seal — basking on a small piece of ice, letting the sun warm its belly. It barely acknowledged our presence as we drifted nearby. That calm, quiet moment in the golden light felt almost magical.





Mushamna

reen

Legend

Driving

5 km

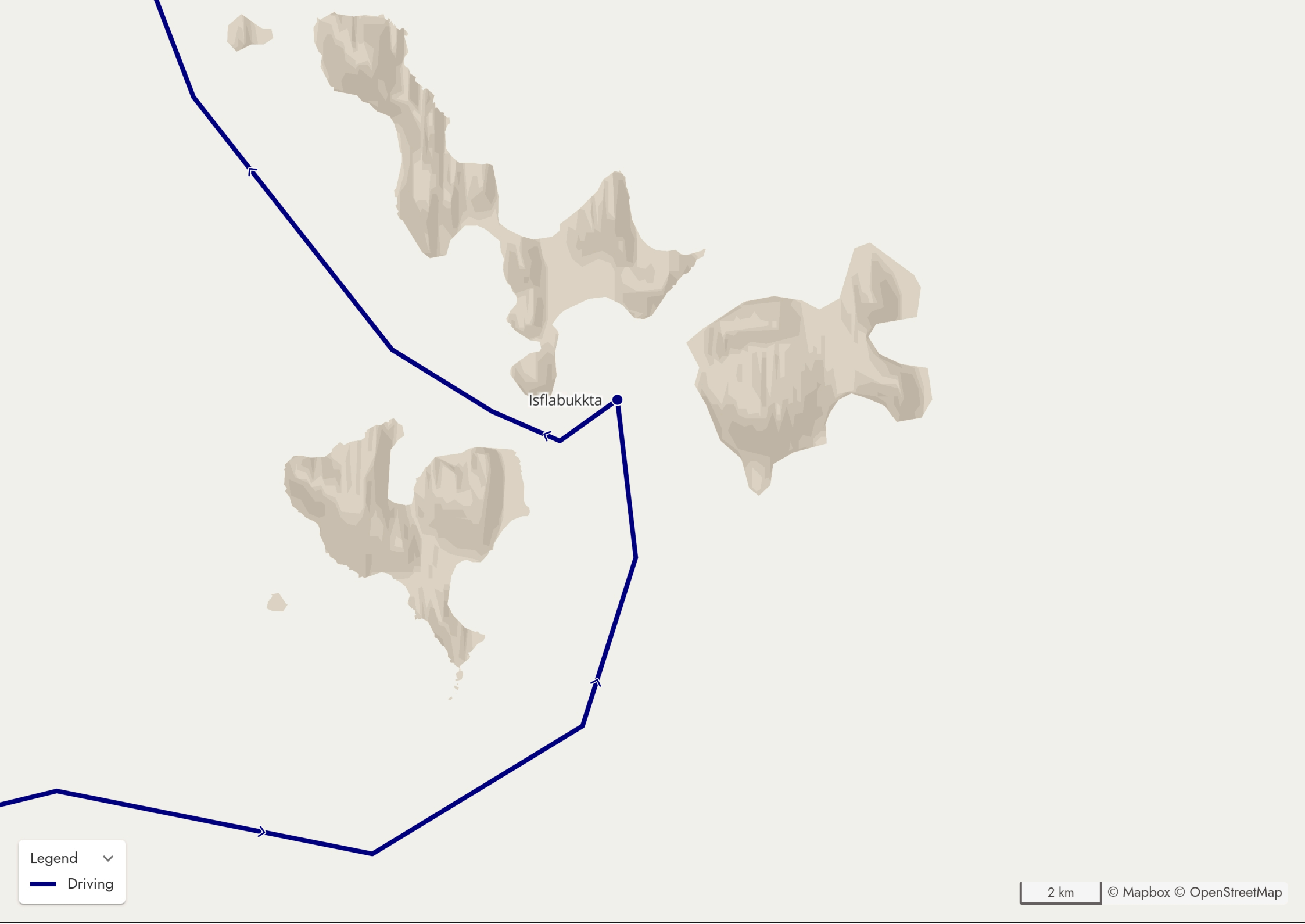
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Landing at Mushamna and Evening Walruses off Moffen

In the afternoon, we made our way to Mushamna, where we visited a trapper's hut built in 1987 by the Norwegian trapper and adventurer Kjell Reidar Hovelsrud, who constructed it from driftwood — a true Arctic outpost. What was meant to be a hike turned into an impromptu snowshoe adventure, as deep snow changed our plans. Spirits were high, though, and the unexpected twist only added to the fun.

But the real adventure came in the evening. We passed the 80° North latitude and reached Moffen Island, where we were greeted by a group of walruses, both lounging on the beach and swimming in the icy waters. Watching these massive, gentle creatures in their natural habitat was the perfect way to end such a spectacular day.





A Windy Start and a True Svalbard Day

This morning began with very authentic Svalbard weather — windy and overcast. For a moment, it was uncertain whether we'd be able to go ashore at all, as the bay was filled with sea ice. But eventually, we found a suitable spot and managed a beautiful, albeit breezy, landing.

Those who made it up to the viewpoint had to trek through snow, but

were rewarded with a stunning panorama — a beach on one side, icy wilderness on the other. The afternoon was spent on board with engaging lectures, entertainment, and waffles, as we continued our journey north toward the ice edge. We've now crossed 81° North, and tomorrow morning, we're hoping for clear skies and more spectacular ice ahead.



Legend

Driving



Ice Adventures at 81 Degrees North

We began our day right at the sea ice edge. The sky was a bit overcast, but this didn't affect us — things were looking promising, and we got everyone out on the Zodiacs for a true Arctic sea ice cruise at 81 degrees north.

Some of you may have noticed that part of the expedition team was standing on an ice floe — and no, it wasn't just for fun or practice. It was a genuine attempt to get everyone out onto the ice for a landing.

However, as we all quickly learned, the ice can be unpredictable, and today the wind wasn't on our side — nor was the ice.

Later in the afternoon, we continued ship cruising along the ice edge, enjoyed entertaining and educational lectures, and gathered on deck for a delicious Reindeer Hot Dog session — beer in hand, and hopefully not too chilly. A unique day, full of Arctic character.





Kinnvika

Vestfonna

Legend

Driving

Another Polar Plunge and Arctic Wildflowers

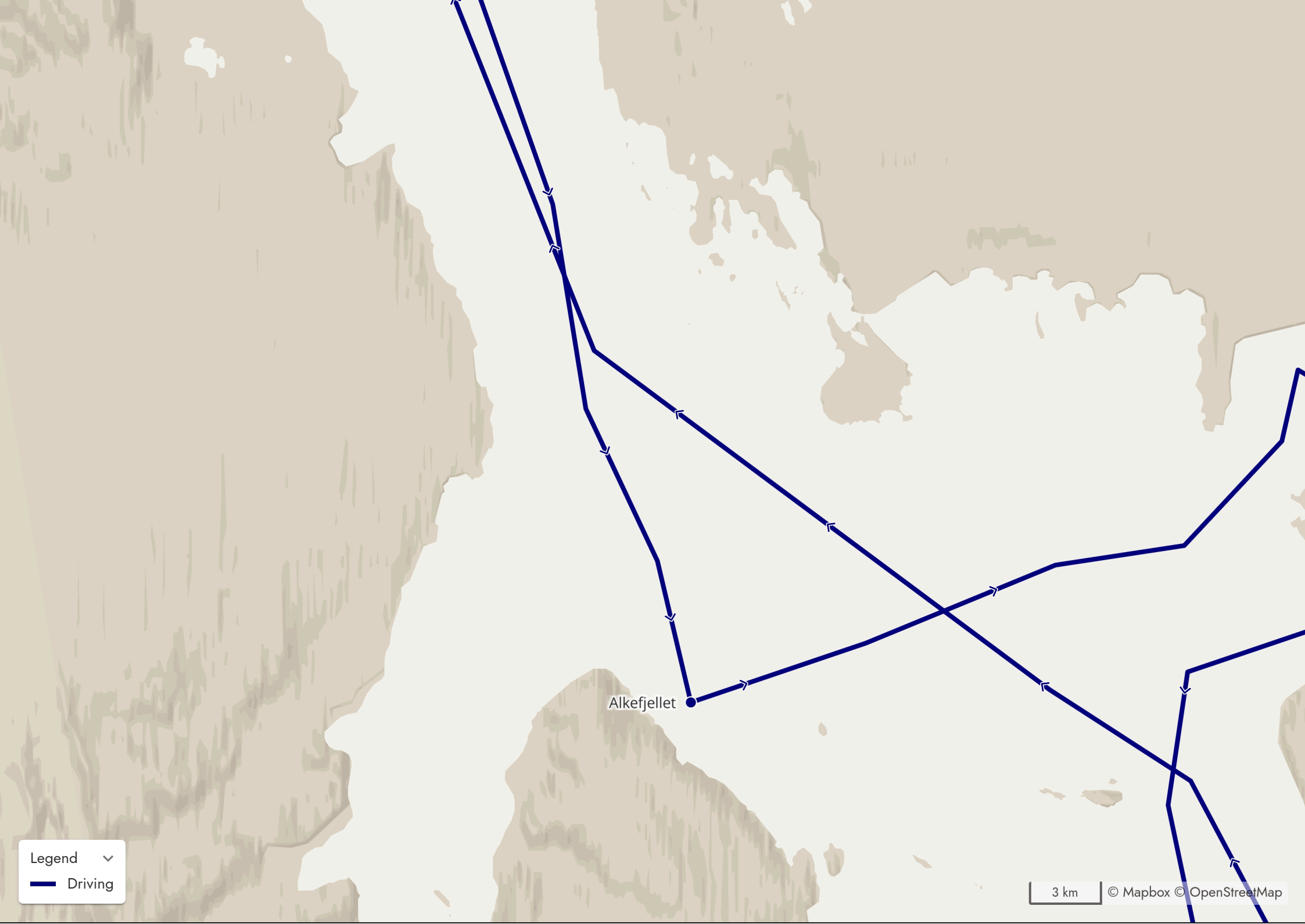
This morning, Kinnvika welcomed us with yet another opportunity for a Polar Plunge — for those brave enough to dive into the icy Arctic waters at 80 degrees North. Nearby, we explored abandoned huts dating back to the Scientific Polar Year of 1959, adding a fascinating historical touch to the morning.

For those who hiked up to the viewpoint, a stunning panoramic view was the reward. But those who lingered around the huts or examined the terrain more closely were in for another treat: Arctic wildflowers

beginning to emerge from the snow. While Purple Saxifrage — the beautiful pink ones — are common and among the first to blossom in Svalbard, we also spotted Scurvy Grass (tiny white flowers) and Tufted Cinquefoil (yellow flowers), two new floral additions for this journey.

The snow also preserved some polar bear tracks — a reminder of just how wild and untamed this place truly is. We even spotted fox tracks, possibly trailing the bear in hopes of leftovers.





Alkefjellet

Legend

Driving

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

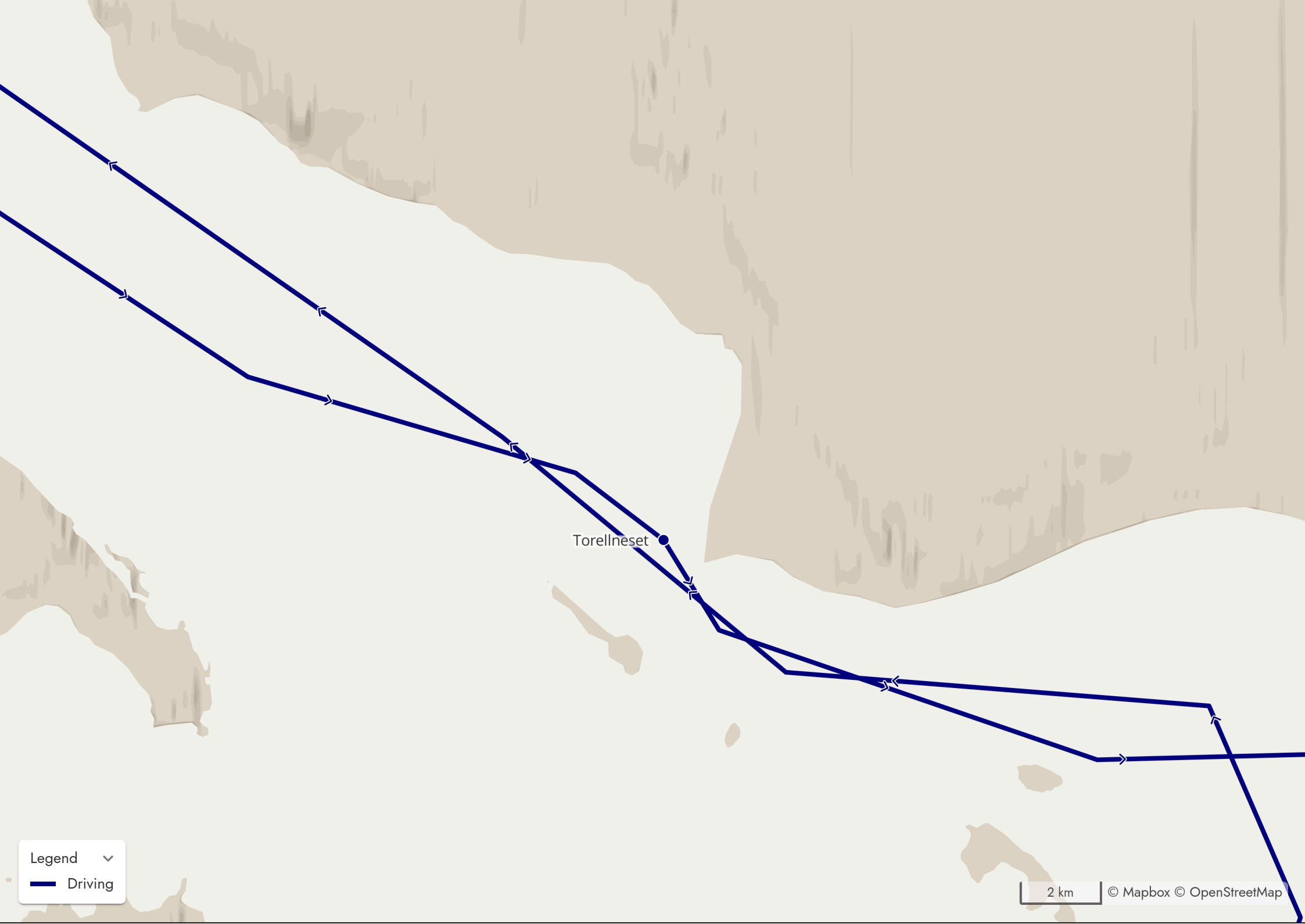
Sky Full of Birds

In the afternoon, we visited the spectacular cliffs of Alkefjellet, home to nesting seabirds including Brünnich's guillemots, kittiwakes, and various gulls. The air was alive with sound - wings flapping, birds calling, and the occasional squawk of alarm as a sly Arctic fox was spotted darting along the cliff edges, likely in search of eggs or

unwary prey.

The day ended with a peaceful cruise towards the nearby glacier Idunbreen - and a surprise sighting: a walrus sleeping on an ice floe, completely unbothered by our ship. It slumbered on peacefully, a calm and fitting close to a day full of life, both great and small.





Torellneset

Legend

Driving

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Arctic Wanderings: A Day of Ice, Wind, and Quiet Wonders

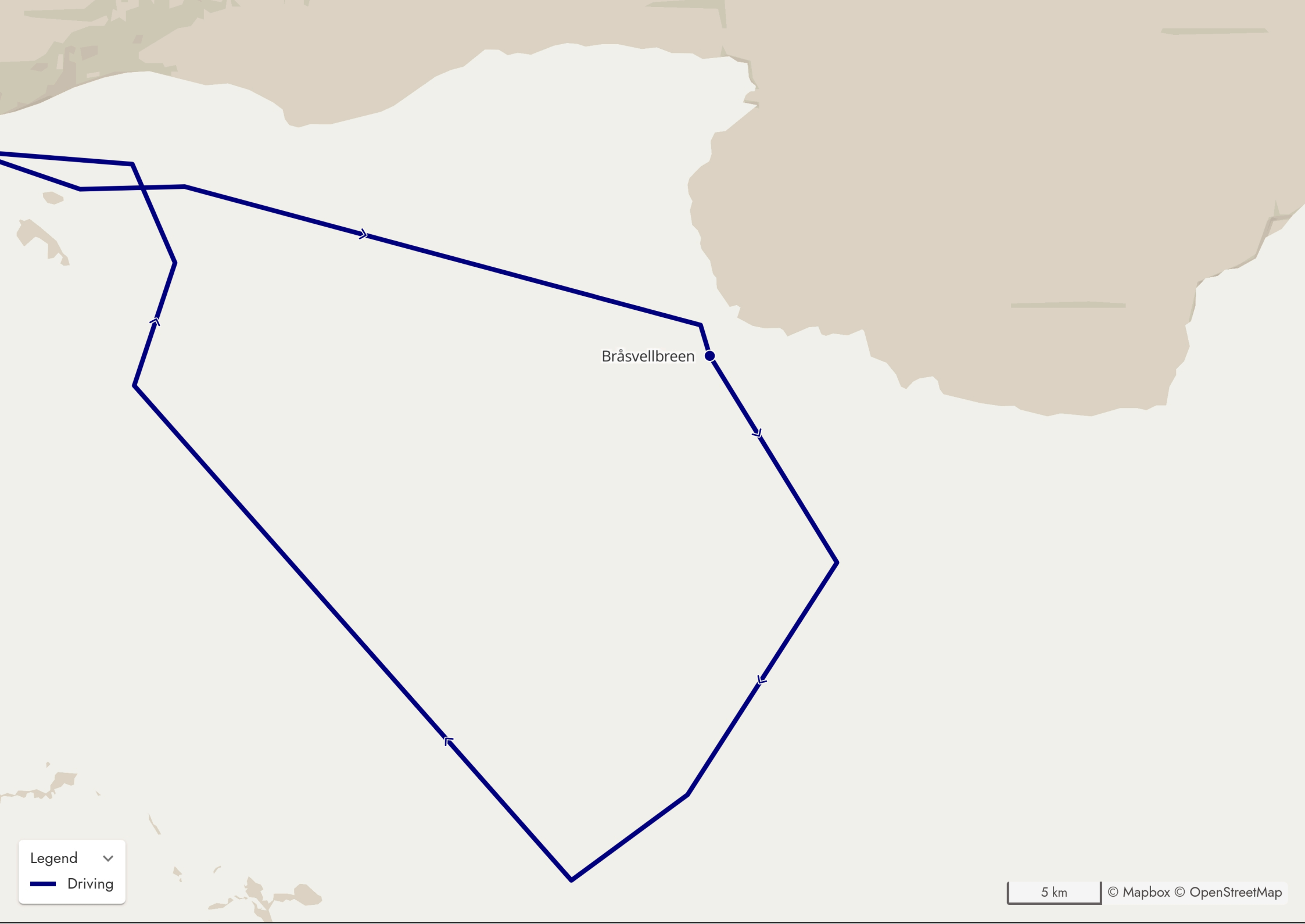
The barren Arctic desert greeted us this morning in Torellneset. And if you happened to think—"Wow, what a bleak and probably boring place"—you wouldn't have been entirely wrong at first glance. But if you took a closer look, there were surprises to be found.

Overhead, we spotted flocks of Brent Geese (the first ones of this trip!) passing by now and then. And for those of us who kept our eyes low to the ground, there were tiny patches of life clinging to the rocky

soil. Among them: scurvy grass, tufted saxifrage, the familiar bright purple saxifrage, and even alpine sorrel - a species we hadn't come across yet on this trip. It grew in sparse, shy little clusters tucked between the stones, as if trying not to be noticed.

Walking the square loop on the landing side hopefully refreshed your lungs with crisp polar air and offered a moment of calm - all while the walrus lounged lazily on the nearby beach.

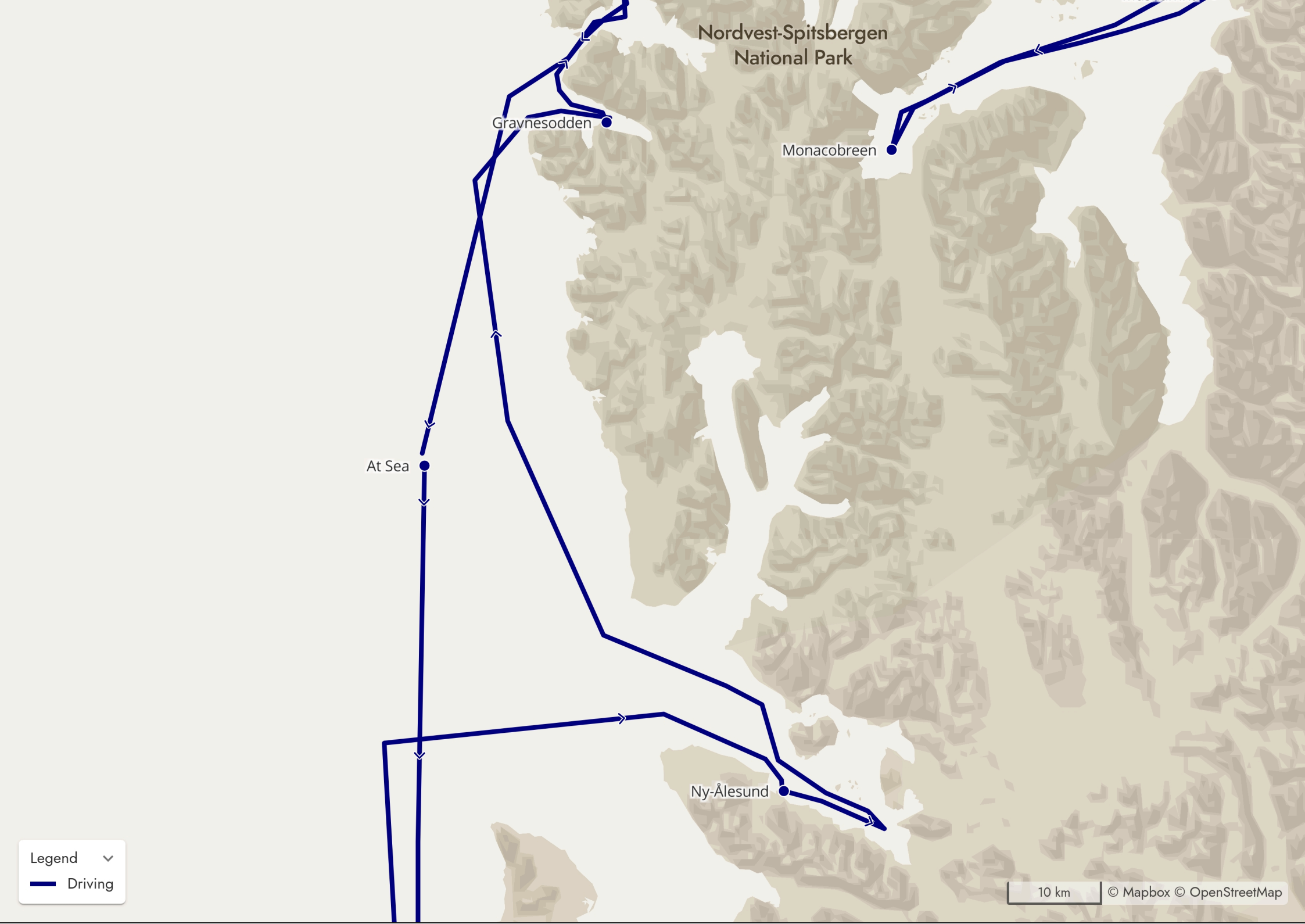




Bråsvellbreen

Legend

Driving



Nordvest-Spitsbergen
National Park

Graynesodden

Monacobreen

At Sea

Ny-Ålesund

Legend

Driving

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

The Big Ice Wall

Later in the afternoon, we took to the water again - either cruising or kayaking past the mighty Bråsvellbreen, a long, breathtaking glacier that seemed to stretch on forever. For a moment, it didn't feel like we were in Svalbard at all. If you imagined the glacier as a massive tabular iceberg, it was easy to believe we'd been dropped straight

into Antarctica. And anyone who's actually been to Antarctica might just agree with that.

And so, a long but beautiful and hopefully exciting—day came to a close. Onward we go, towards the next chapter of this icy journey.



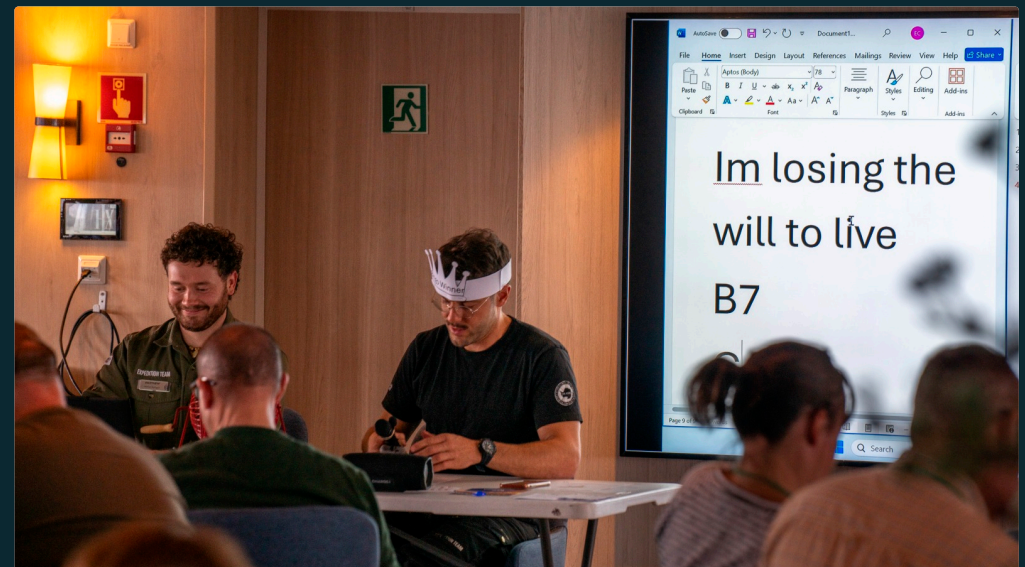
The Icy Scenic Route South

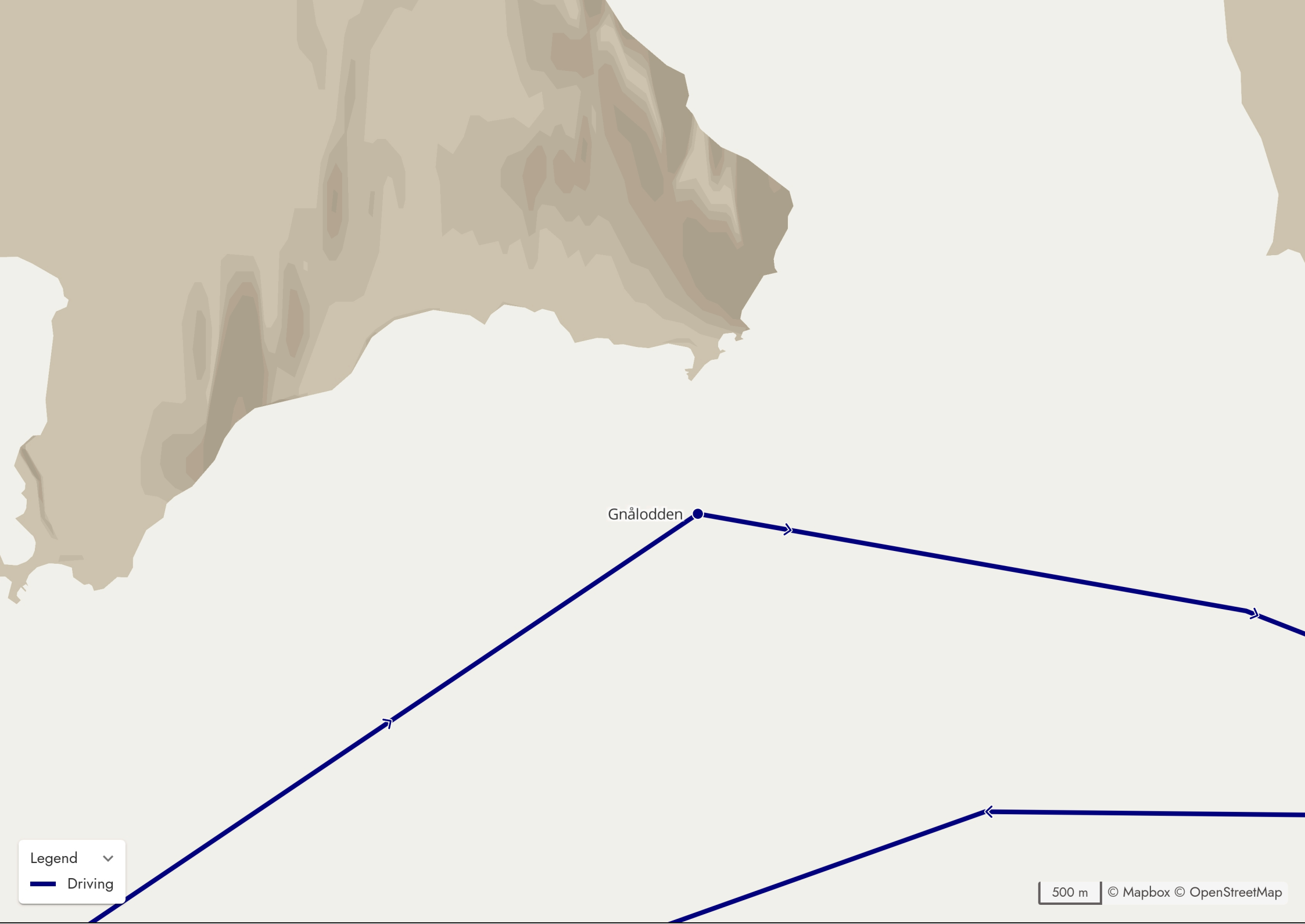
Since the ice in Hinlopen Strait didn't allow us to cross, we had to take a detour and spent a full day at sea. Hopefully, it was a relaxing one—a chance to recharge, unwind, enjoy the moment, maybe dive into a good book, or join in on our onboard programme.

The day kicked off with a workout for the brave-hearted, followed by an Art Corner for the creatively inclined. Chloe, our guest scientist, gave a fascinating talk on acoustics. In the afternoon, we gathered on

deck for hot chocolate, and later there was even a knot-tying workshop. Our day onboard finished with Bingo Night—"the highlight of the trip" for those who attended this particular evening event.

All in all, we hope it was a calm and enjoyable day at sea—the perfect chance to gather energy before heading ashore again the next day as we reach the south.





Gnålodden

Legend

Driving

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Into the Realm of Birds and Plants: A Day in Gnålodden

For all the early birds, the day began with a Wildlife Watch out on deck. For the late risers - hopefully well-rested, we stayed onboard throughout the morning as we continued our journey towards Hornsund, which, despite its name, is a fjord and not a sound.

Right on schedule, we arrived at Gnålodden. Just as the forecast had predicted, we were greeted by a slightly overcast sky and a bit of wind. A few of us caught a little splash or two while tendering - but in return, Gnålodden welcomed us in full beauty and surprise.

All across the tundra, small patches of Purple Saxifrage peeked through the soil. We spotted Tufted Saxifrage, Snowy Buttercups, and blooming Greenland Cochlearia. Nature is slowly waking up.

Near the hut, a pair of Arctic Skuas were fiercely guarding their nest. To respect their territory and avoid being dive-bombed - we took a

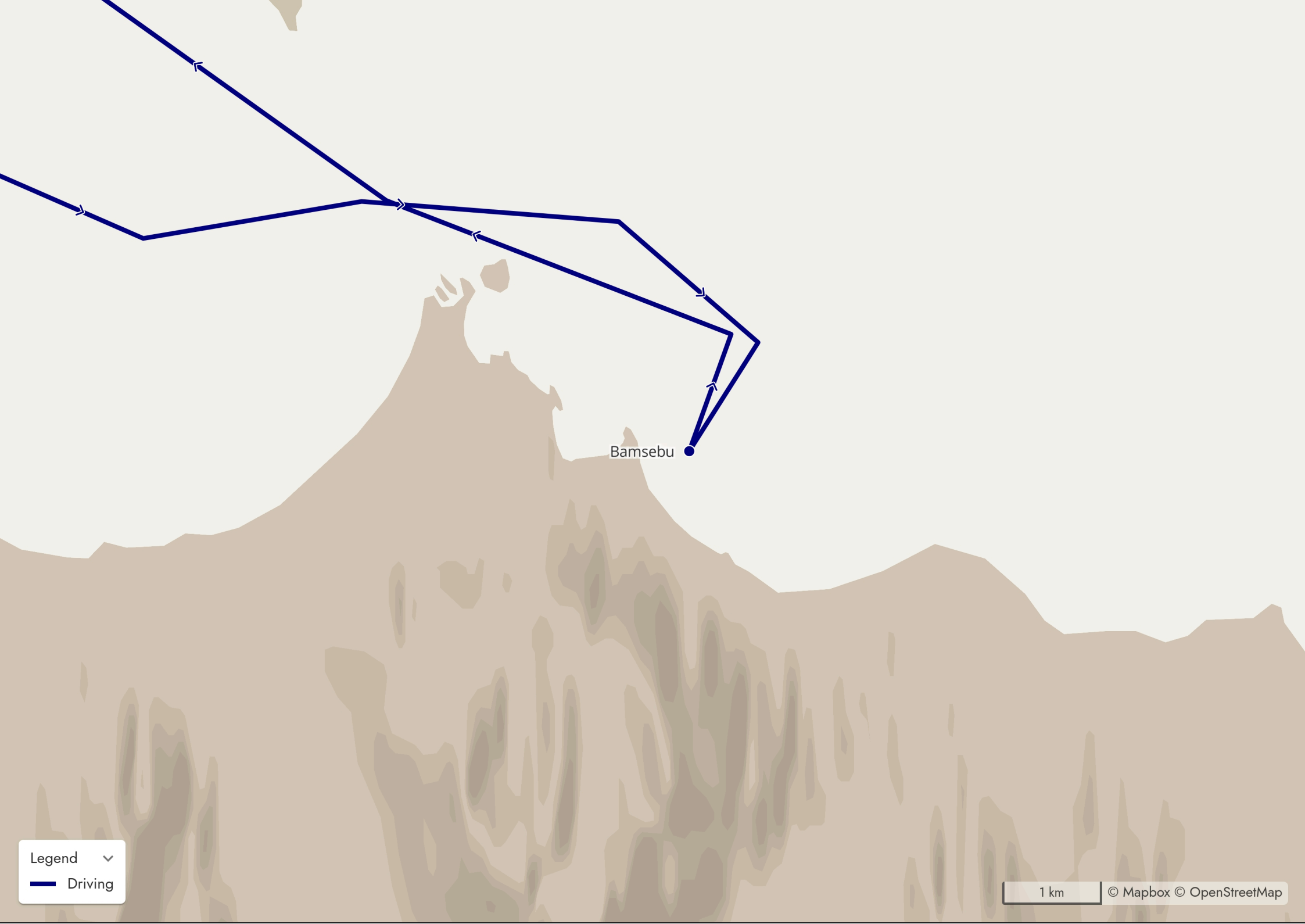
wide loop around the beach to approach the hut. But this is their land. A few extra steps were a small price to pay for harmony.

There was also a planned easy hike - but the remaining snow made it a bit more of an adventure than expected. In return, we were rewarded with a stunning viewpoint, and as we made our way back, the sun even broke through the clouds.

The dramatic, tooth-like mountain rose almost cloud-free in the background. Kittiwakes, Brünnich's Guillemots, and Fulmars soared in flocks above the cliffs, filling the air with a constant chorus of flapping wings and excited calls.

After dinner, we set out once more - this time toward the ice. We were lucky enough to spot several seals resting on the ice floes, all framed by the breathtaking backdrop of towering glaciers.





Bamsebu

Legend

Driving

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

A Day Full of Contrasts - Part One

In the morning, we visited Bamsebu, a place with a charming little cabin marked by a red heart on the door. But it's also a place of sad history - thousands of beluga bones lie scattered here, remnants of a time when they were hunted in great numbers. We went on a hike

despite the strong winds, and just as we were finishing, the sun finally broke through. Due to the waves, we had to do a stern landing to get back to the ship, which everyone handled really well.





Vårsolbukta

Legend ▾

— Driving

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

A Day Full of Contrasts - Part Two

In the afternoon, we landed at Varsulbukta and were greeted by a wonderful surprise—lots and lots of reindeer. There were babies, but also large, magnificent animals with beautiful antlers. The scenery was absolutely stunning, and everyone could roam quite freely and enjoy

the sunshine once again.

All in all, a beautiful and exciting day - filled with emotion, contrast, and unforgettable moments.



Hemsedalen

Legend

Driving

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

A Warm Last Landing

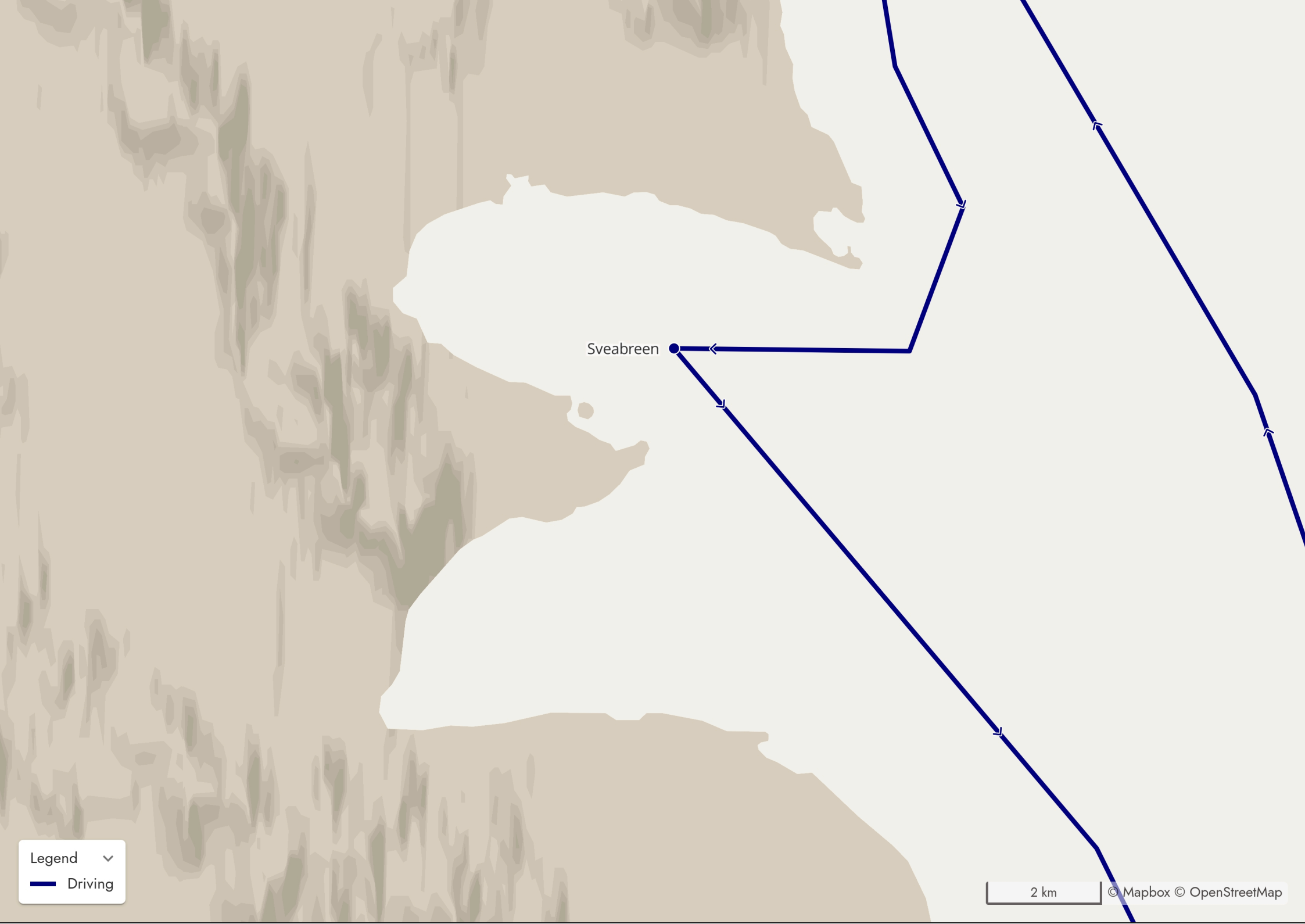
Our final day began with a landing at Hemsedalen - a stunning spot, bathed in sunshine once again. It was first a short walk on the pebble beach, then along the shoreline upward toward a waterfall, peacefully nestled in green surroundings. It was a perfect place to pause and take it all in.

Along the way, there was a variety of blooming flowers, and with a

keen eye, even some fossils hidden in the rocks. Every so often, we heard the cheerful song of a snow bunting, as if it were happy to have us there.

Some of the group hiked all the way to the top of the mountain, where they were rewarded with an incredible panoramic view - well worth the climb.





Sveabreen

Legend

Driving

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

A Beautiful Farewell

Later, we set off on one final cruise in Yoldiabukta, near the Sveabreen glacier - and were treated to a surprise: a bar boat appeared, offering hot tea as we gently drifted in the sunshine, watching the glacier one last time with the ocean swaying beneath us.

And just like that, an unforgettable journey came to an end - hopefully filled with memories, emotion, and joy that will stay with us for a long, long time.



MS Spitsbergen Farewell

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

the High Arctic. Though our journey ends here, the spirit of exploration and the breathtaking beauty of Spitsbergen will surely remain with everyone long after.



