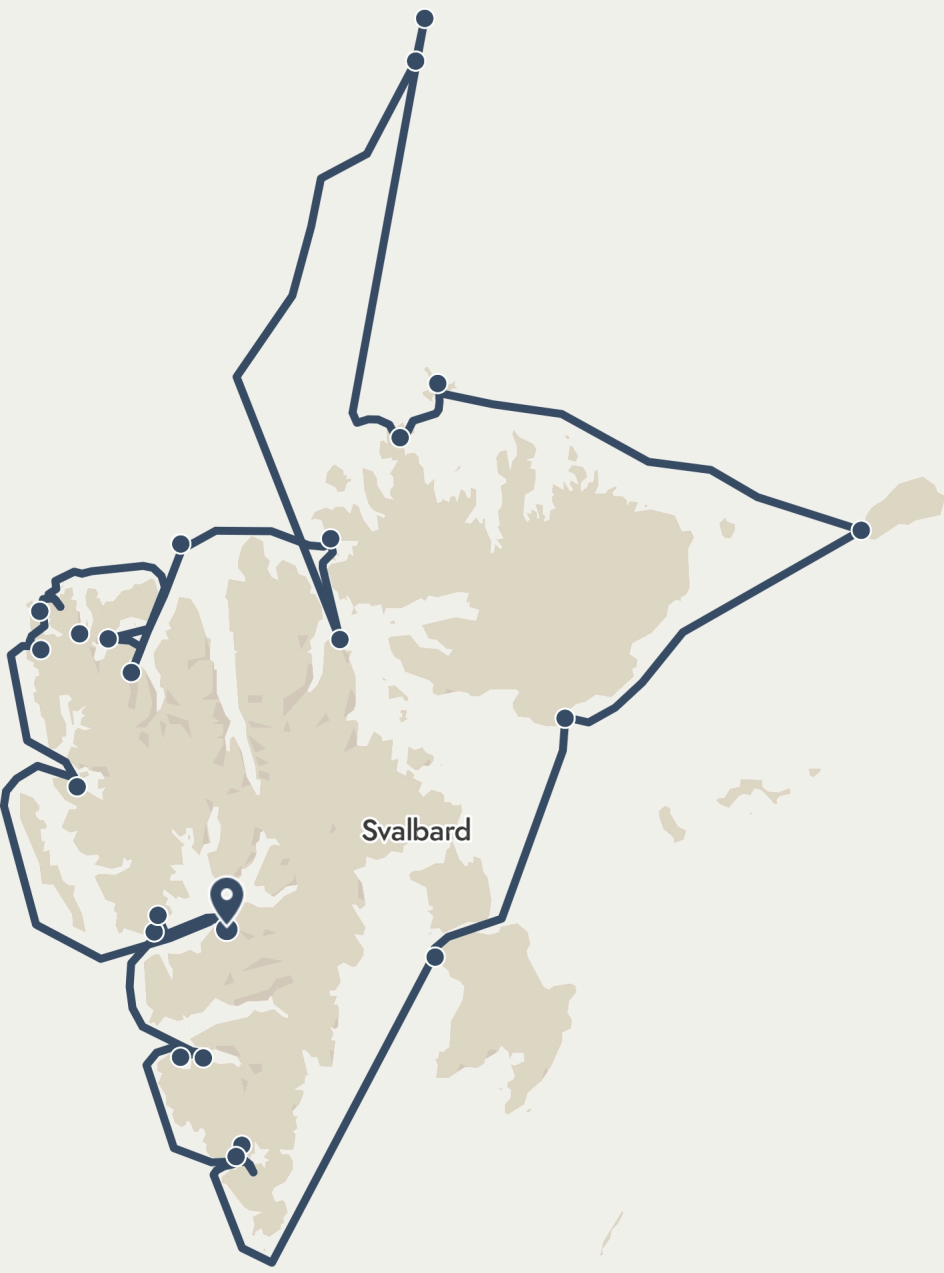


## MS SPITSBERGEN

2025.07.08 - 2025.07.20



Greenland  
Sea

Barents  
Sea

Legend

HX Expedition

## Day 1 - Embarkation in Longyearbyen

Our adventure around the Svalbard archipelago began in Longyearbyen, we boarded MS Spitsbergen in the afternoon and started settling into what will be our floating home for the days ahead. Once on board, we gathered for the mandatory safety drill before heading into our first dinner together. As the ship sailed out of Isfjorden, our Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager welcomed us

with an introductory presentation, setting the tone for the voyage to come. The evening continued with the distribution of our blue expedition jackets and rubber boots—essentials for the Arctic landings ahead. With spirits high and anticipation building, we turned in for the "night", ready for what lies beyond the horizon.







Ny-Ålesund

Prins Karls forland

Forlandet National Park

Ymerbukta

Trygghamna

Barentsburg

Nordre Isfjorden  
National Park

Spitsbergen

Indre Wijdefjorden  
National Park

Sasse  
Land

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

Legend



— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

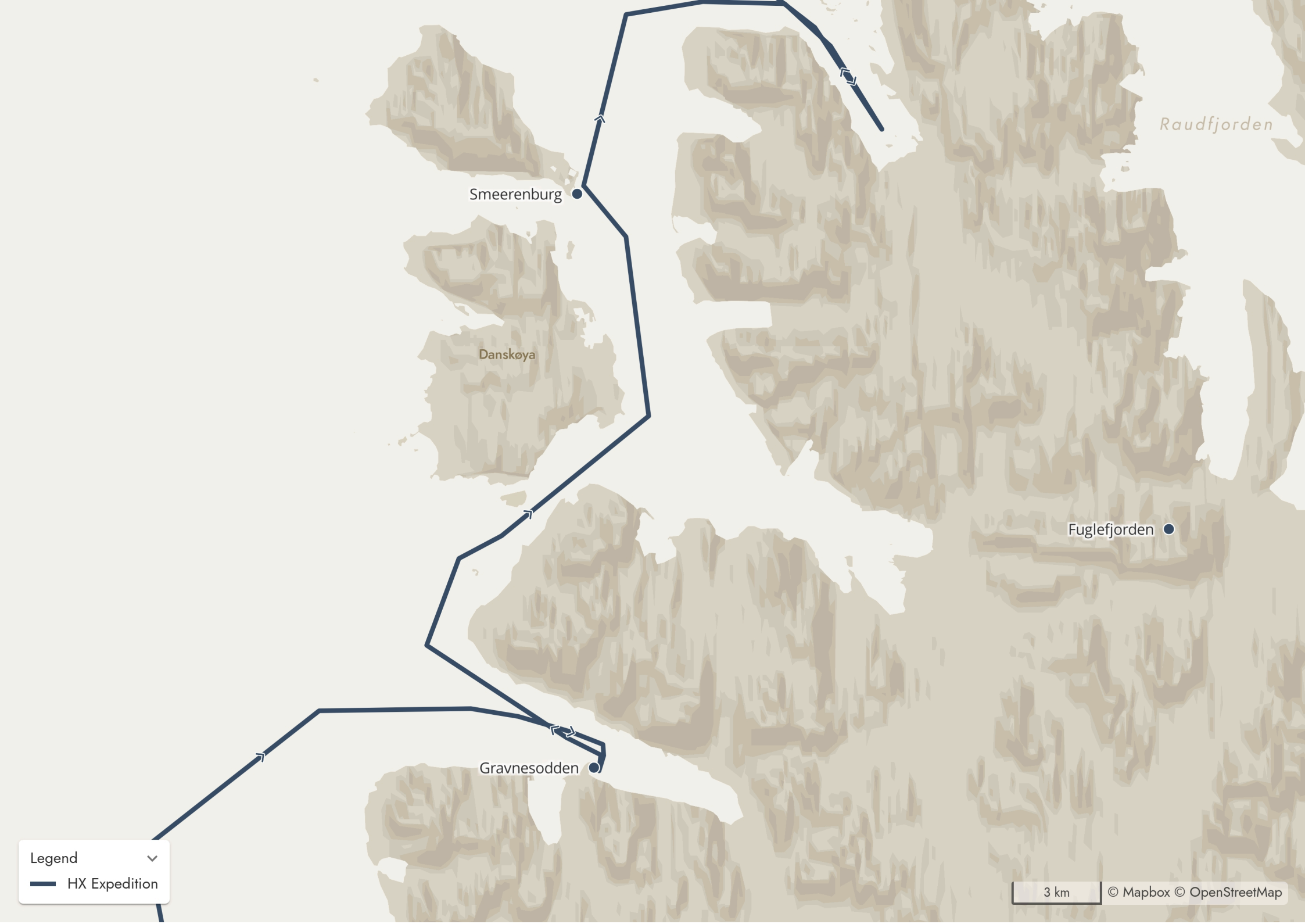


## Day 2 - Ny-Ålesund

Our first full day of the expedition began with important preparations. After breakfast, we gathered for the mandatory AECO briefing and the kayak briefing, getting us ready for safe and responsible exploration in the Arctic. By early afternoon, we had docked in Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost settlements. Most of us joined the guided walks with the Expedition Team, learning about the rich history of this former mining town turned research hub. We

walked past colourful buildings, met curious Arctic terns, and reached the historic airship mast from which Roald Amundsen launched his daring journey to the North Pole in 1926. The weather outside was brisk but comfortable, adding to the atmosphere of this remarkable place. Back on board in the evening, we gathered in the Explorer Bar for the Captain's Welcome and were introduced to the Expedition Team who will guide us through the days to come.





Raudfjorden

Smeerenburg

Danskøya

Fuglefjorden

Gravnesodden

Legend  
HX Expedition

3 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 3 - Gravnesodden (AM)

What a day in the High Arctic! In the morning, we stepped ashore for our first nature landing of the voyage at Gravnesodden in the stunning Magdalenafjorden. Surrounded by dramatic peaks and glaciers, we explored this historic site with its old whaling remains,

under slightly breezy but otherwise pleasant weather. For the brave among us, it was also the moment to take the first polar plunge of the trip—an invigorating experience, to say the least!





## Day 3 - Smeerenburg (PM)

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In the afternoon, we approached Smeerenburg hoping to land near the walrus colony, but the day had other plans. A Polar Bear had claimed the area, and though we couldn't land for safety reasons, we

were treated to an unforgettable sighting from the ship. It was our first bear of the trip and a moment of true Arctic magic.





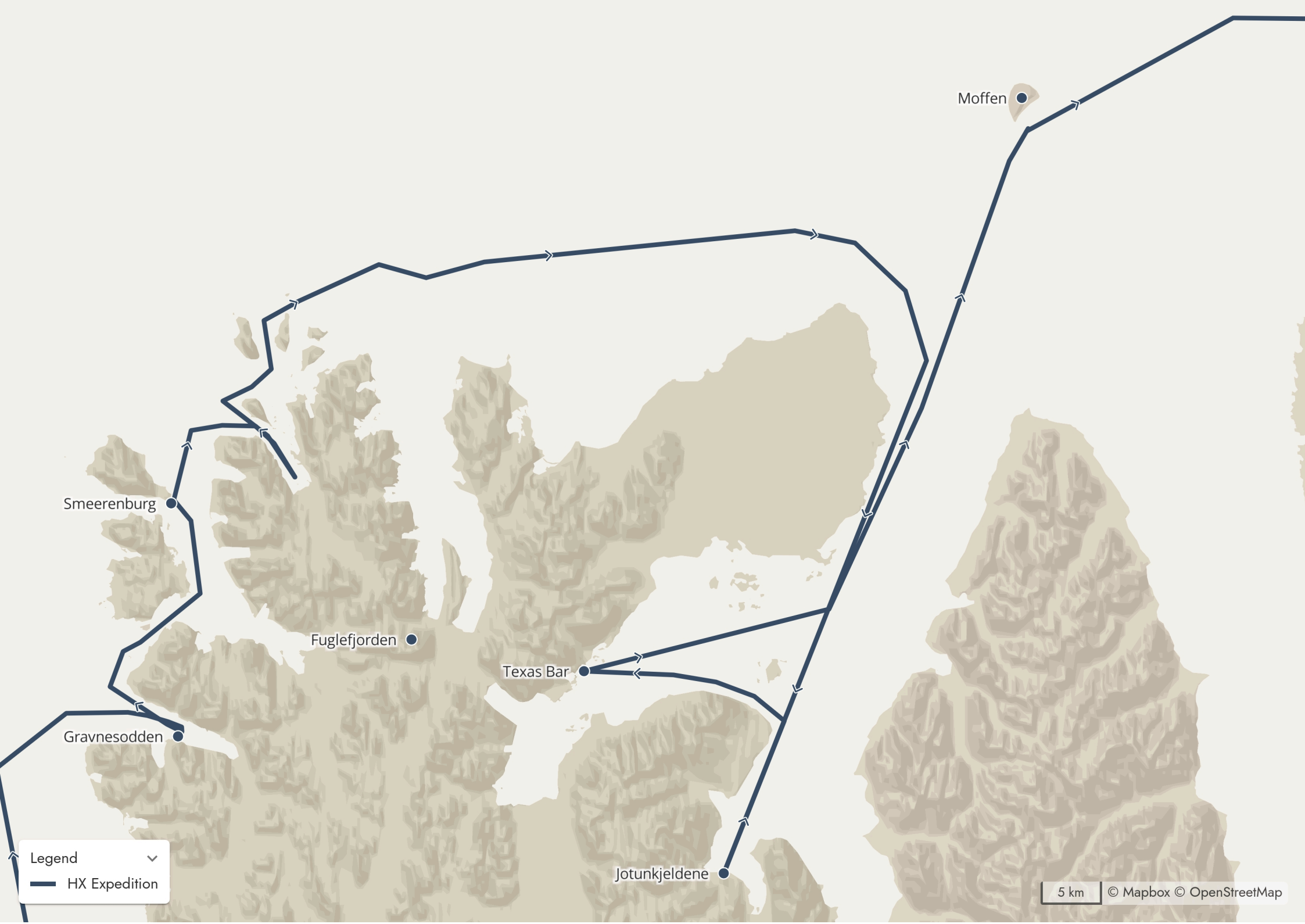
## Day 3 - Fuglefjorden

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As the day continued, we sailed into the majestic Fuglefjorden where we admired the beautiful Svitjodbreen glacier. Conditions were just

right to launch our first group of kayakers into the water—a serene way to end an already spectacular day.





Smeerenburg

Fuglefjorden

Texas Bar

Gravnesodden

Jotunkjeldene

Moffen

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 4 - Jotunkjeldene (AM)

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We woke up to another beautiful Arctic morning, this time surrounded by the stunning scenery of Bockfjorden. Our landing site was Jotunkjeldene, a place of striking contrasts where geothermal activity gives rise to hot springs—something quite rare this far north. The warm waters coming from the earth stood in sharp contrast to the

icy peaks and glaciers around us.

We explored the shoreline and surrounding landscape, learning about the unique geology of the area and enjoying the quiet beauty of the fjord. With clear skies and calm conditions, it was the perfect setting to appreciate how dynamic and surprising the Arctic can be.

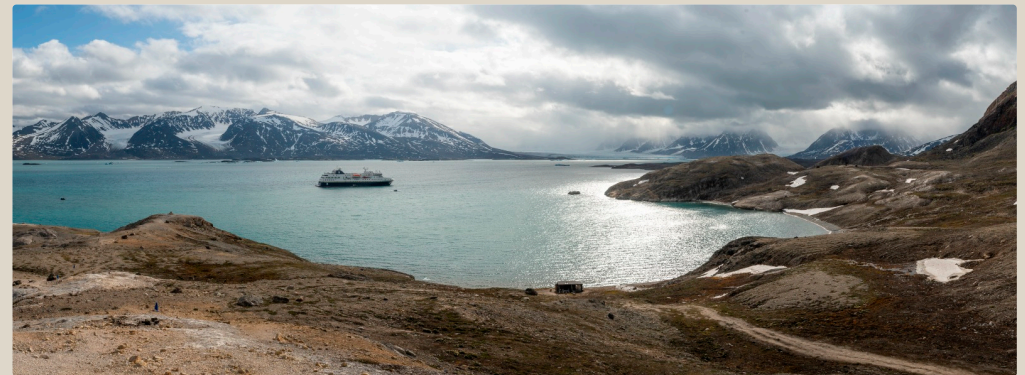


## Day 4 - Texas Bar (PM)

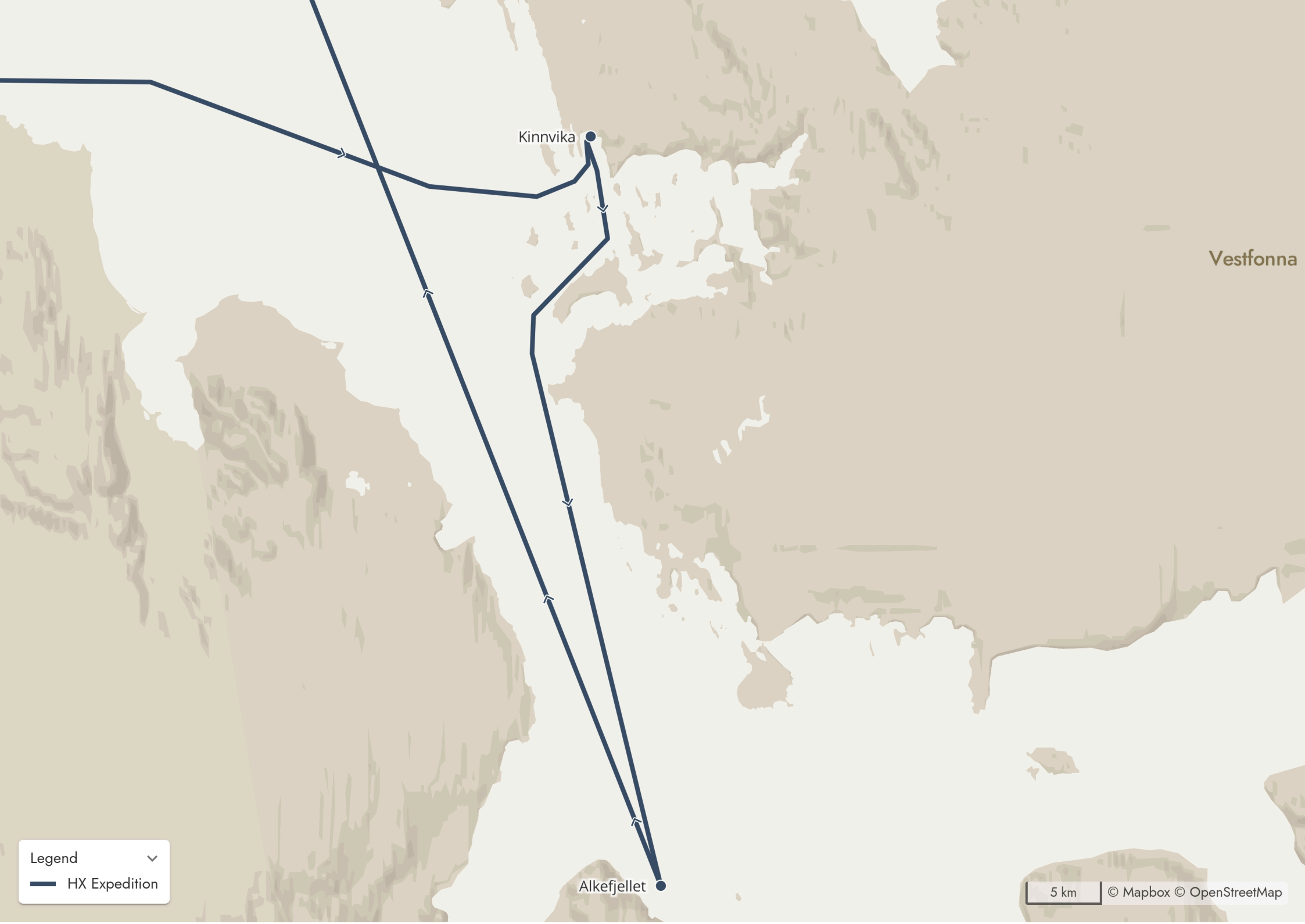
In the afternoon, we continued our journey into Liefdefjorden and made a landing at Texas Bar, an old trapper's cabin tucked into a scenic stretch of coastline. With the sun still shining and the weather on our side, we split into different groups—some of us set out on a longer hike into the surrounding hills, taking in sweeping views of the

fjord, while others joined the first Science Boat outing, contributing to our Citizen Science efforts by collecting valuable data.

The cabin itself, with its layers of history, offered a glimpse into the early days of human activity in this remote region. It was a peaceful, beautiful way to wrap up another full Arctic day.







Kinnvika

Vestfonna

Alkefjellet

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 4 - Moffen (PM)

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Later in the evening, we reached Moffen Island, just above 80° North. Known for its resident walrus colony, the island welcomed us with the sight of these impressive animals resting on the shore. From the outer

decks, we had excellent views, and the GSS camera brought us even closer, offering an incredible level of detail without disturbing the wildlife.

## Day 5 - Kinnvika (AM)

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This morning we landed at Kinnvika, a former research station nestled in the high Arctic landscape of Nordaustlandet. As we set foot ashore, the skies began to open, revealing the dramatic beauty of the area. We wandered among the old wooden buildings, remnants of scientific exploration from decades past. The landing site offered a wide, open terrain to explore, and some of us ventured further afield

on a longer hike that rewarded us with sweeping views from the surrounding hills. A few brave souls took it a step further and plunged into the frigid Arctic waters—our northernmost polar plunge of the voyage, right at 80 degrees North. It was a peaceful, evocative visit—one that connected us to both nature and history in this remote part of Svalbard.

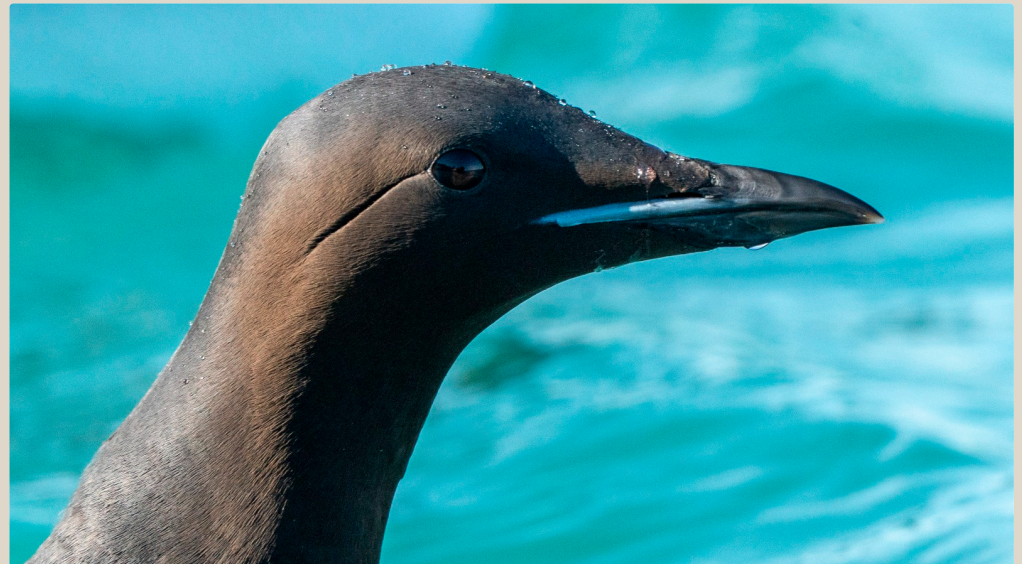




## Day 5 - Alkefjellet (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued our journey south through Hinlopenstretet and arrived at one of Svalbard's most dramatic bird cliffs—Alkefjellet. From our small boats, we cruised beneath towering basalt walls teeming with life. Thousands upon thousands of birds filled the air and clung to the steep rock faces, creating a spectacle of sound and motion. Brünnich's guillemots dominated the scene, while

kittiwakes and other seabird species added to the activity all around us. With calm seas and clear skies, we were treated to ideal conditions for observing and photographing this vibrant display of Arctic wildlife. It was a powerful reminder of the richness of life that thrives in these remote places.







Ice Edge - Jul 13, 2025

Ice Edge - Jul 13, 2025

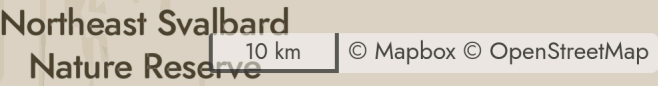
## Day 6 - Ice Edge at 82 degrees North

Today was a day for the history books. At around 12:30, we reached the ice edge at an astonishing 82° North—setting a new record as the farthest north ever reached by a ship in the HX fleet. The feeling of entering this frozen world was simply unforgettable. Towering sheets of sea ice stretched out to the horizon in all directions, reflecting the Arctic light in a surreal display of whites and blues. As we slowly navigated along the edge, a few curious seals were spotted swimming

nearby, occasionally popping up between the ice floes.

We spent the entire day along the edge, soaking in the serene beauty of the High Arctic. In the afternoon, we gathered for waffles—a fitting treat to celebrate such a remarkable moment. Later in the evening, we began heading back south, ready to continue our exploration of the eastern side of the Svalbard archipelago.







## Day 7 - Chermsideøya (AM)

This morning we made it to the southern shore of Chermsideøya, nestled along the Beverlysundet. Despite a bit of a swell, conditions allowed us to disembark and explore this rarely visited island. The landing was a unique one—what makes this place truly special is the presence of historic geoglyphs etched into the landscape. These markings, left by various Arctic expeditions dating back to the 19th century, offer a fascinating glimpse into the legacy of explorers who

passed through before us.

It was a thought-provoking visit, standing among these traces of human history in such a remote and rugged setting. The Arctic wind and waves added to the atmosphere, reminding us of both the challenges and the wonders of venturing into this high-latitude frontier.



## Day 7 - Isflakbukta (PM)

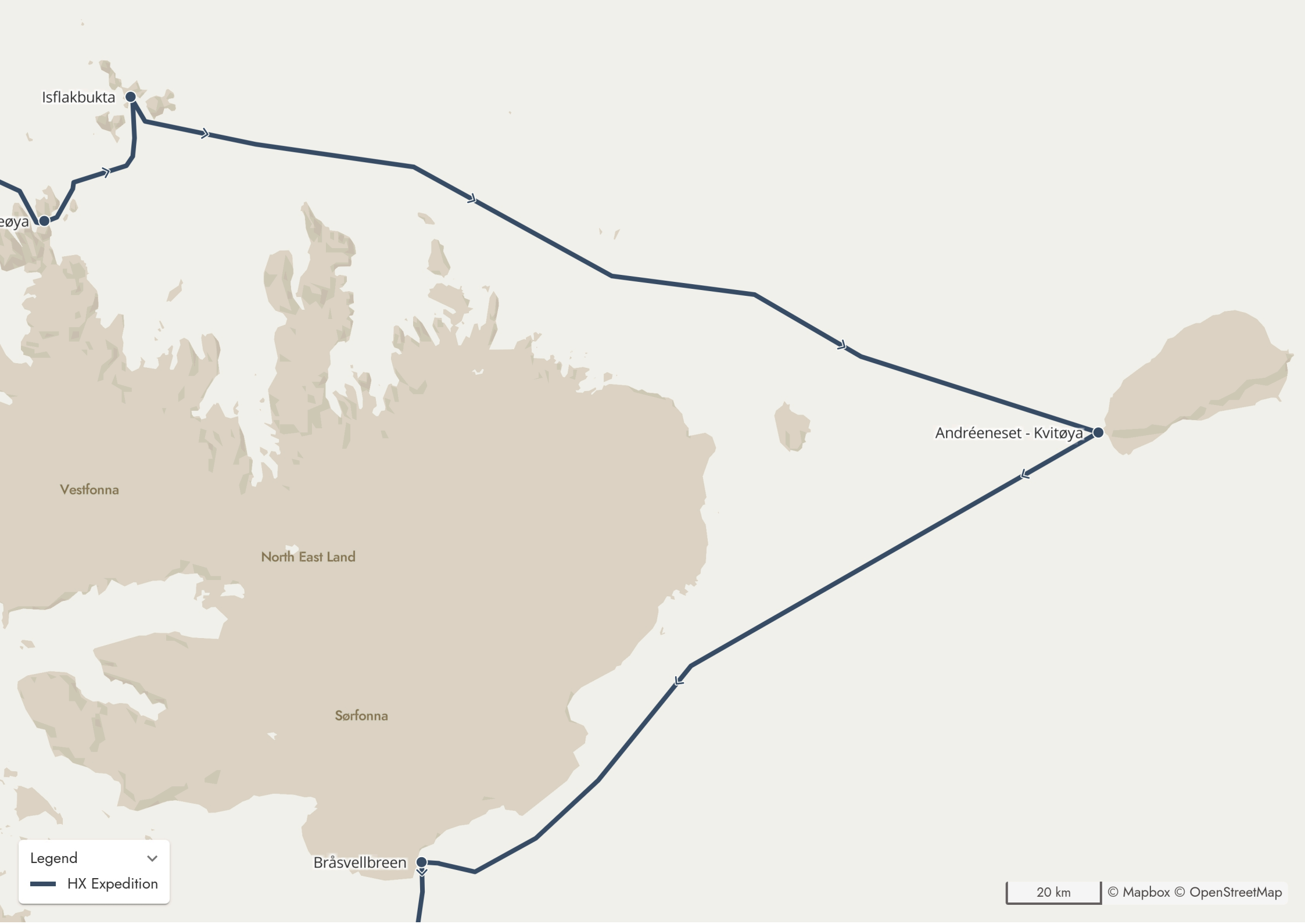
In the afternoon, we made our way to Isflakbukta on the island of Phippsøya. As we neared the landing site, the wind and fog gave the approach a slightly dramatic feel, but we landed without any difficulties. Once ashore, we took part in an important clean-up effort along the beach—an unfortunate but necessary reminder of the global reach of marine pollution. In total, we collected around 90

kilograms of debris, all brought here by ocean currents from far beyond the Arctic.

We also visited the northernmost cabin in all of Svalbard, standing stoically in this isolated landscape. The experience offered both a sense of accomplishment and reflection, as we contributed in a small way to preserving this pristine environment.







Isflakbukta

Kvitøya

Vestfonna

North East Land

Sørfonna

Bråsvellbreen

Andréeneset - Kvitøya

Legend



— HX Expedition

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 8- Kvitøya (AM)

We woke up to a truly unforgettable Arctic scene as MS Spitsbergen approached the easternmost island of the Svalbard archipelago—Kvitøya. The conditions couldn't have been better: calm seas, crisp air, and good visibility. As we neared Andréeneset, the historic site of Andrée's ill-fated balloon expedition, the excitement on board grew quickly. First, we spotted one polar bear roaming the icy coastline... then another... and another. In total, we counted six polar bears, a

remarkable and rare sight.

As we quietly observed them from the decks, one bear entered the water and swam close to the ship, giving us a heart-pounding, up-close experience we will never forget. The stillness of the surroundings made the moment feel even more surreal. It was a powerful reminder of the pristine wilderness we're privileged to explore—and of the extraordinary wildlife that calls it home.





## Day 8 - Bråsvellbreen (PM)

During the afternoon, we continued sailing south along the east coast of Nordaustlandet, with calm seas and clear skies accompanying us throughout the journey. On board, the day was filled with activities—engaging lectures, photo sessions, and time to reflect on the incredible experiences of the past days.

By around 21:00 hrs, we reached the awe-inspiring front of Bråsvellbreen, one of the longest glacier fronts in the Northern Hemisphere, stretching over 180 km. The scale was truly overwhelming, a shimmering wall of ice bathed in the soft Arctic

evening light. From several points along the glacier face, towering waterfalls cascaded straight into the ocean—formed by meltwater traveling beneath the ice and bursting out at the edge.

With barely a breeze and only a few scattered clouds above, we took our time admiring the scene, surrounded by silence broken only by the occasional sound of cracking ice or distant bird calls. It was one of those rare, quiet moments where the majesty of the polar world speaks for itself—a perfect close to an unforgettable day.







orden  
ark

en

earbyen

Bråsvellbreen

Svalbard

Barents Island

Sassen — Bünsow  
Land National Park

Kapp Lee

Legend

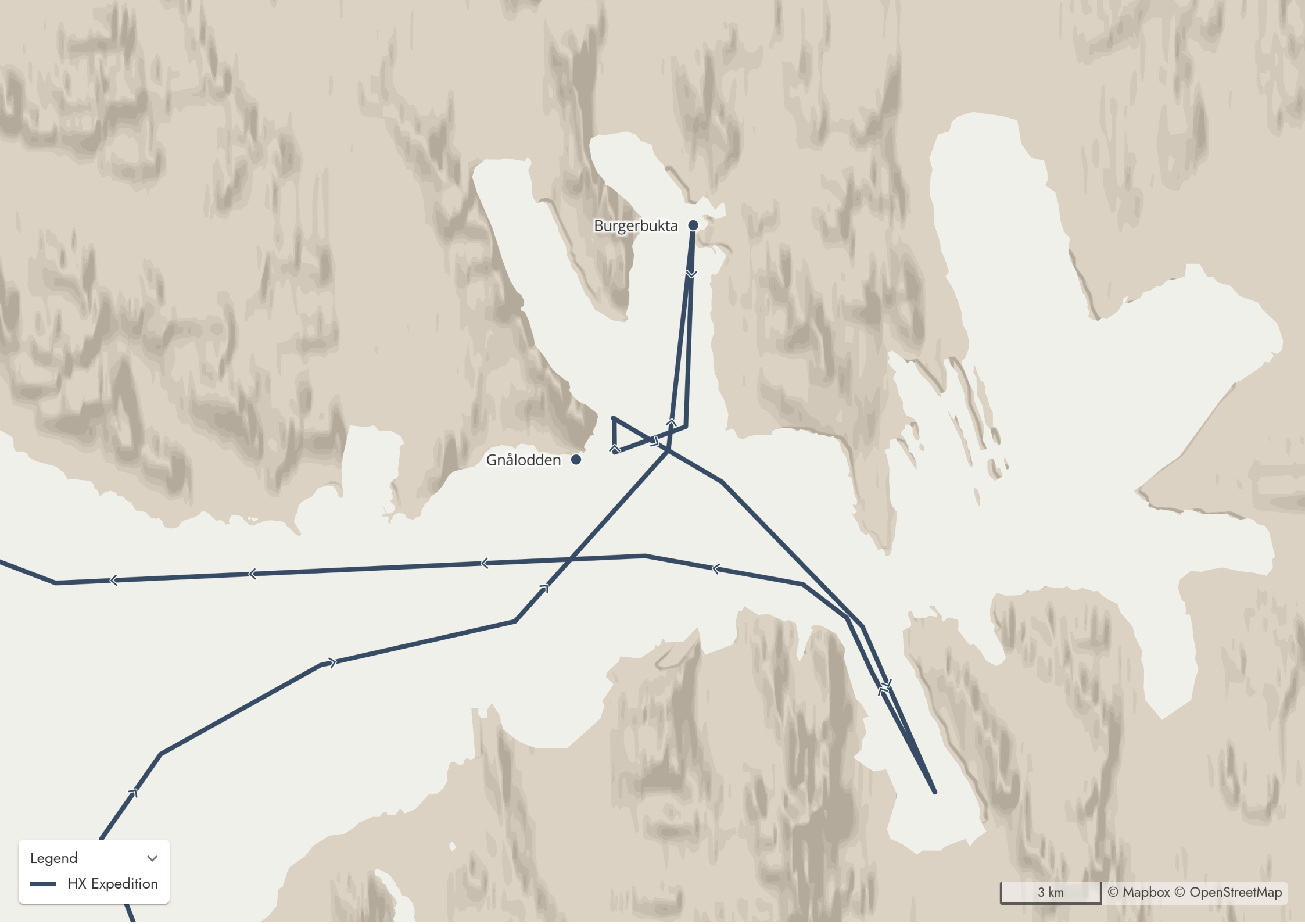
HX Expedition

## Day 9 - Kapp Lee

Our next stop brought us to Dolleritneset in Kapp Lee, on the northeastern tip of Edgeøya. With calm conditions in our favor, we were able to land and visit the colony of walrus that often hauls out on the beach here. Keeping a respectful distance, we observed these massive animals resting together in groups, occasionally shifting and grunting as they interacted on land. A few could also be seen in the water—rolling, diving, and seemingly playing just offshore.

The landing site is also rich in cultural history. We had the opportunity to see some of the old trappers' cabins from the outside, as well as remnants of the earlier Pomor presence in the area— silent echoes of a time long past. To top it off, a young Arctic fox cub made a brief appearance, curiously trotting along the edge of the site, adding a special touch to an already memorable visit.





Burgerbukta

Gnålodden

Legend

— HX Expedition



## Day 10 - Burgerbukta (AM)

We entered the stunning Hornsund early in the morning under calm conditions, with scattered clouds revealing patches of blue sky—a perfect setting for our landing in Burgerbukta. Once ashore, we followed a route that led us along a glacial moraine, offering sweeping views of the dramatic landscape and the impressive front of Kvalfangerbreen glacier. The quiet stillness of the fjord, broken only by the occasional crack of distant ice, reminded us once again of the

raw beauty of Svalbard.

For those seeking a jolt of Arctic adrenaline, there was one more opportunity to take the polar plunge. With the sun peeking through and the water just as icy as expected, several brave souls took the leap, cheered on by their fellow adventurers. All in all, a fantastic way to start the day in one of Svalbard's most scenic fjords.





## Day 10 - Gnålodden (PM)

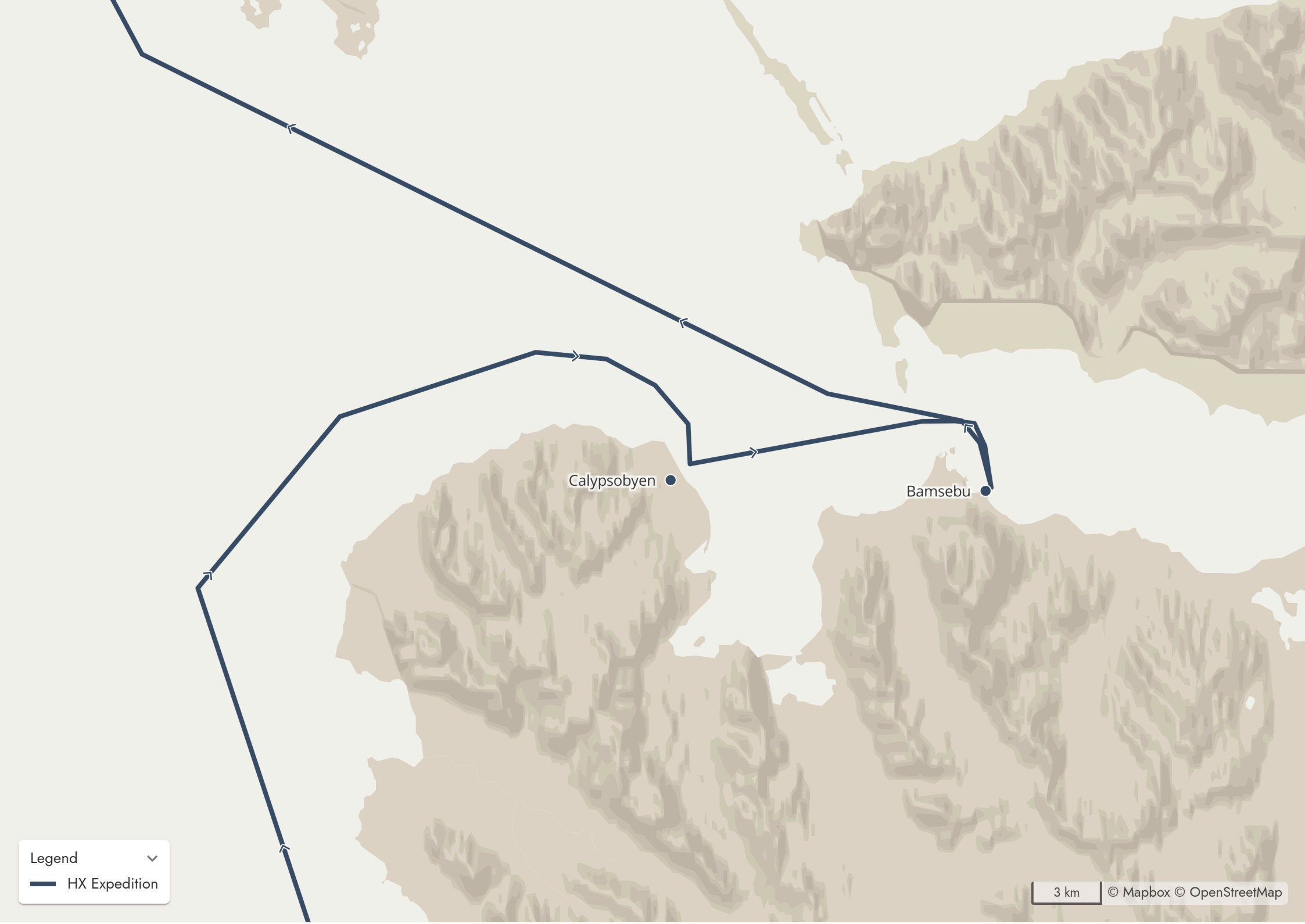
In the afternoon, we repositioned slightly southwest to reach the dramatic landing site of Gnålodden. Towering bird cliffs greeted us, alive with the sounds and sights of thousands of nesting seabirds—kittiwakes, guillemots, and others soaring overhead or clinging to narrow ledges. The energy of the place was palpable, with life bursting from every crevice.

We also had the chance to visit the historic trappers' cabin nestled

below the cliffs, once used by Wanny Woldstad—the first female trapper to overwinter in Svalbard. Her remarkable story added a human dimension to this wild and remote setting. With calm conditions and spectacular views all around, this landing was a perfect mix of nature and history, closing our day on a truly memorable note.







Calypsobyen

Bamsebu

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 11 - Calypsobyen (AM)

This morning, we landed at Calypsobyen, a site rich in cultural and industrial history. Once home to the Northern Exploration Company's coal extraction efforts, the area still holds many remnants of that era—wooden buildings, rusted machinery, and the quiet echo of a time when industry tried to take hold in the High Arctic.

We walked among the historical structures, observing them from the

outside while imagining the life of those who once worked and lived here. Alongside these traces of the past, nature added its vibrant touch: Arctic terns nested nearby, their calls a constant presence, and the tundra was dotted with colourful summer flowers. A fascinating mix of human history and Arctic wilderness.



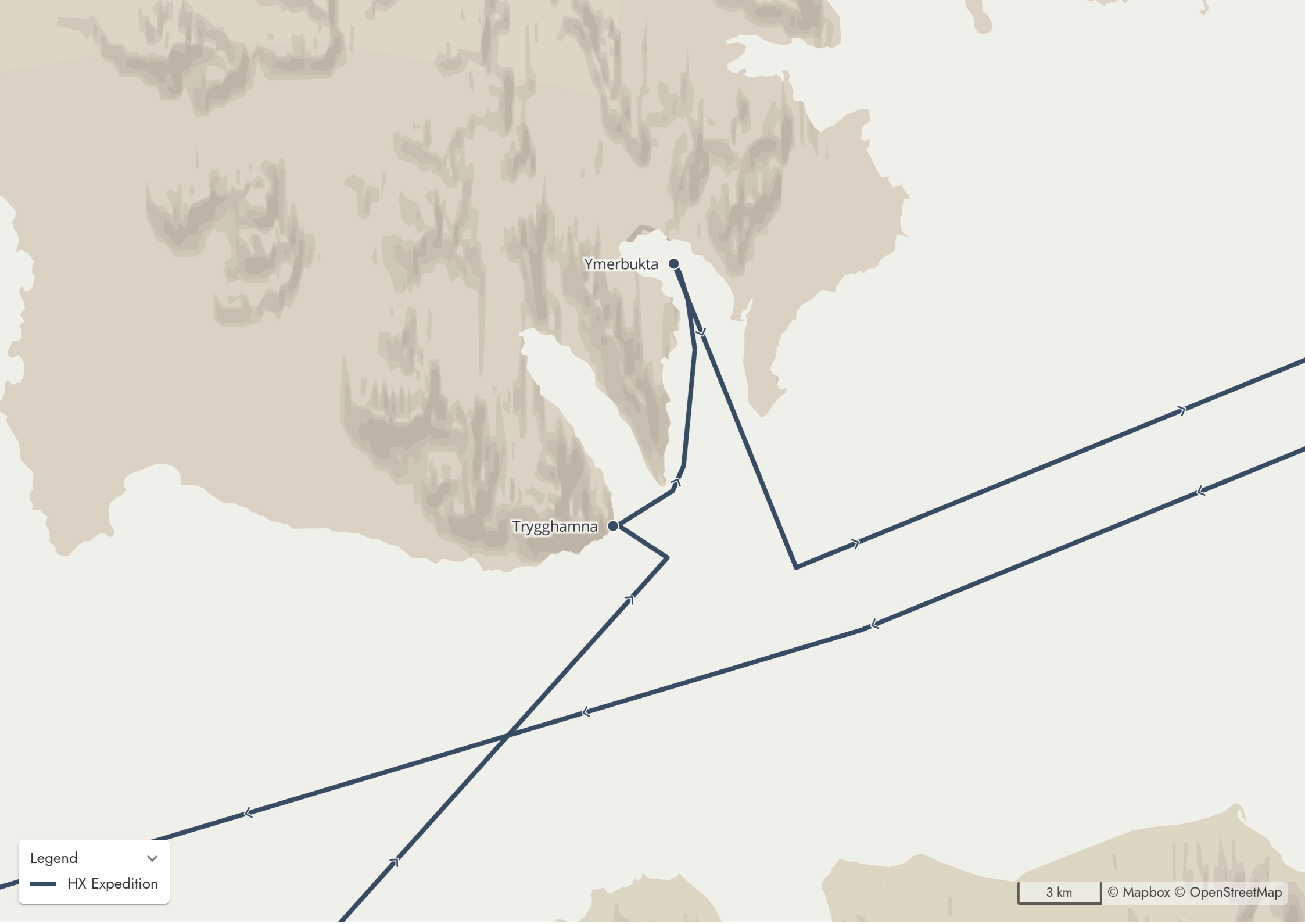


## Day 11 - Bamsebu (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued our journey a bit further east to Bamsebu, a site steeped in the more recent history of whaling in Svalbard. Scattered along the shore, the weathered bones of belugas offered a stark reminder of the activity that once took place here. Nearby, the cabin that gives the site its name—Bamsebu—still stands as a silent witness to those times.

As we explored the area, we spotted a few reindeer grazing peacefully in the distance, their presence a gentle contrast to the rugged, dramatic mountains that framed the landscape. It was a powerful place, where natural beauty and human history come together in the high Arctic.





Ymerbukta

Trygghamna

Legend



— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 12 - Trygghamna (AM)

This morning we landed at Alkhorneret in Trygghamna under a calm sky with light overcast and no wind—ideal conditions for our last landing of the voyage. Towering above us, the dramatic cliffs of Alkhorneret hosted an impressive nesting site for around 10,000 pairs of seabirds. Their constant calls and busy flights filled the air with life.

On the slopes below, several reindeer grazed peacefully, offering wonderful wildlife sightings against a backdrop of sweeping views down the fjord. The landscape, with its mix of birdlife, tundra, and sheer cliffs, was a perfect example of Svalbard's wild beauty and a fitting final landing before our afternoon cruise.



## Day 12 - Ymerbukta (PM)

After lunch we ventured into Ymerbukta for our final activity of the voyage: a small boat cruise in front of the impressive Esmarkbreen glacier. Calm waters and clear views made for a wonderful outing as we approached the towering front wall of ice. The lateral moraines lining the glacier revealed just how powerfully these ice masses shape

the land around them.

It was a peaceful and awe-inspiring way to close our time in the wilderness, surrounded by the silence of the bay broken only by the occasional call of seabirds overhead. A beautiful and contemplative farewell to Svalbard.







## Day 13 - Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

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As evening settled in, we reached Longyearbyen and docked quietly at Kullkaia, marking the end of our unforgettable journey around the Svalbard archipelago. Early the next morning, under soft Arctic light, we prepared to say farewell—not only to MS Spitsbergen and the Expedition Team, but also to the remote landscapes, wildlife encounters, and moments of wonder that had defined our days. This voyage had taken us to the edge of the known world—across shimmering fjords, beside towering glaciers, through drifting ice, and into the presence of polar bears, walruses, whales, and countless

seabirds. Each landing, each sail-by, each moment of silence on the deck brought with it a sense of awe, curiosity, and sometimes humility in the face of such powerful nature.

We disembarked with hearts full—of memories, of shared stories, of laughter and learning. Many of us had fulfilled dreams we carried for years. Others discovered something new, whether in the Arctic light or in themselves. And as we left Longyearbyen behind, we knew that this was not just the end of a journey, but the beginning of a lifelong connection to the High Arctic.



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