

## MS SPITSBERGEN

20 July - 29 July, 2025

Greenland  
Sea

Svalbard

Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 1 - Embarkation in Longyearbyen

Our Arctic journey began today in Longyearbyen, the northernmost town in the world and the gateway to Svalbard. Under the soft light of the northern summer, we made our way to the pier where MS Spitsbergen was waiting for us. After boarding in the afternoon and settling into our cabins, we began to explore our new home for the days ahead.

Following the mandatory safety drill, we gathered in the Explorer Lounge for welcome presentations from our Expedition Leader and

Hotel Manager, setting the tone for the adventure that lies ahead. Soon after, we received our signature blue expedition jackets and rubber boots, essential gear for our landings in this remote and pristine archipelago.

As we set sail from Isfjorden, the excitement was palpable—new faces, new horizons, and a sense of anticipation in the air. The journey around Svalbard had officially begun.







14e Julibreen

Indre Wijdefjorden  
National Park

Ny-Ålesund

Spitsbergen

Prins Karls forland  
Forlandet National Park

Nordre Isfjorden  
National Park

Sassen – Bü  
Land Nationa

Longyearbyen

Barentsburg

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 Lounge for the Captain's Welcome and were introduced to the Expedition Team who will guide us through the days to come.

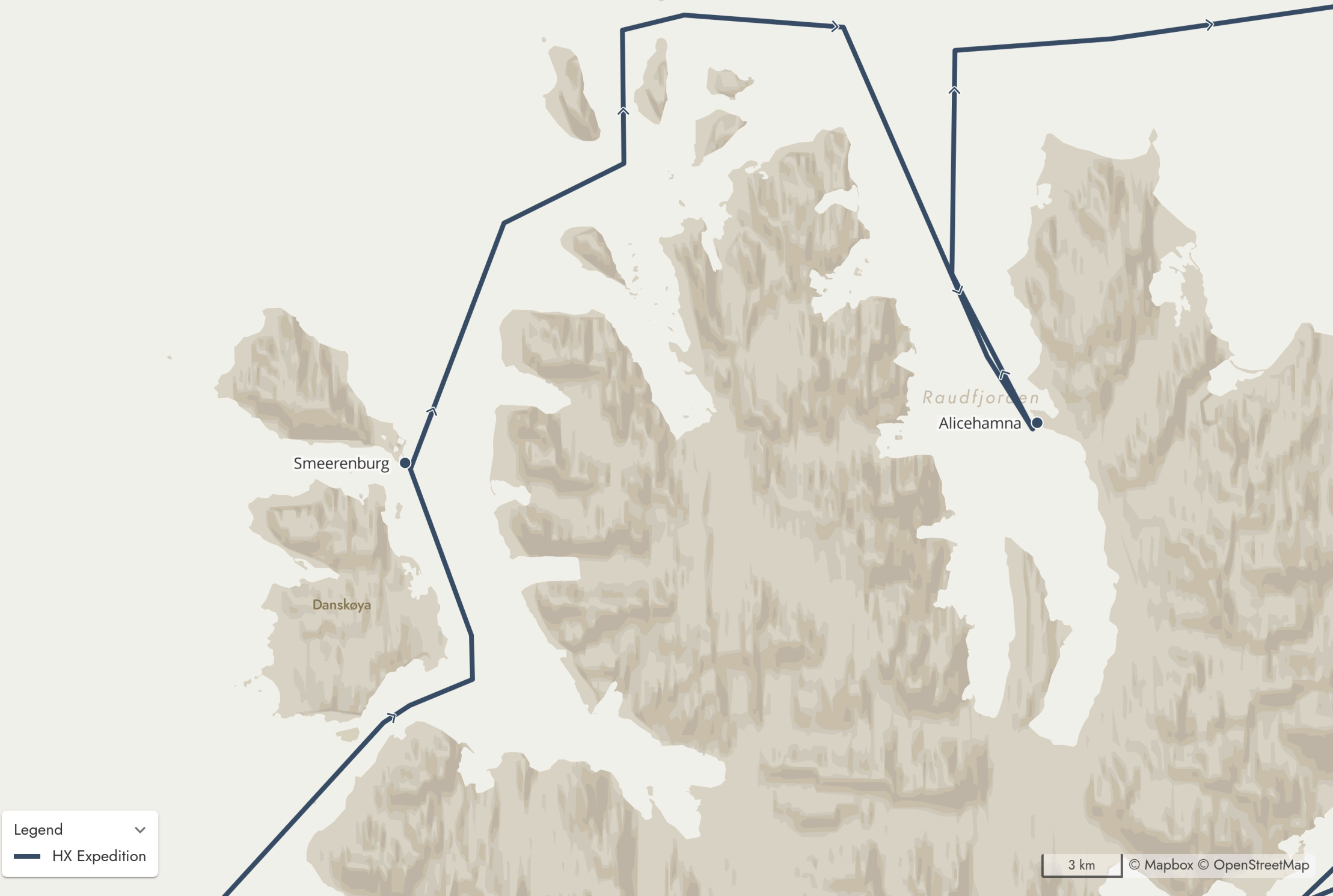


Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



14e Julibreen, Norway - Jul 21, 2025

## Day 2 - 14e Julibreen (Evening)

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After visiting Ny-Ålesund, we continued our journey into the nearby fjord known as Fjortende Julibukta. In the soft afternoon light, we sailed slowly past the stunning 14th of July Glacier—14e Julibreen—its brilliant blue ice framed by dramatic peaks and green slopes dotted with birdlife. The weather was clear, offering perfect conditions to

take in the full beauty of this iconic Svalbard landscape. From the outer decks, with binoculars or simply with our own eyes, we soaked up the peaceful scenery—a quiet, breathtaking moment that reminded us just how special this Arctic voyage truly is.

Smeerenburg, Norway - Jul 22, 2025

## Day 3 - Smeerenburg (AM)

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Early in the morning, we approached the historic headland of Smeerenburg on the island of Amsterdamøya. The calm conditions made for a smooth arrival, and we scanned the coastline in search of walruses, which are often seen in this area. We were in luck—several individuals were spotted in the water and slowly hauling themselves onto shore. From a respectful distance, we observed their movements and social interactions, a remarkable experience for many of us.

In addition to the wildlife, we explored the cultural landscape of Smeerenburg, once a bustling whaling station in the 17th century. The remains of this former Dutch settlement—foundations, tryworks, and other relics—gave us a glimpse into the harsh and industrious life of early Arctic whalers. Surrounded by the stark beauty of the landscape, this landing offered both a natural and historical highlight of our expedition.





## Day 3 - Alicehamna (PM)

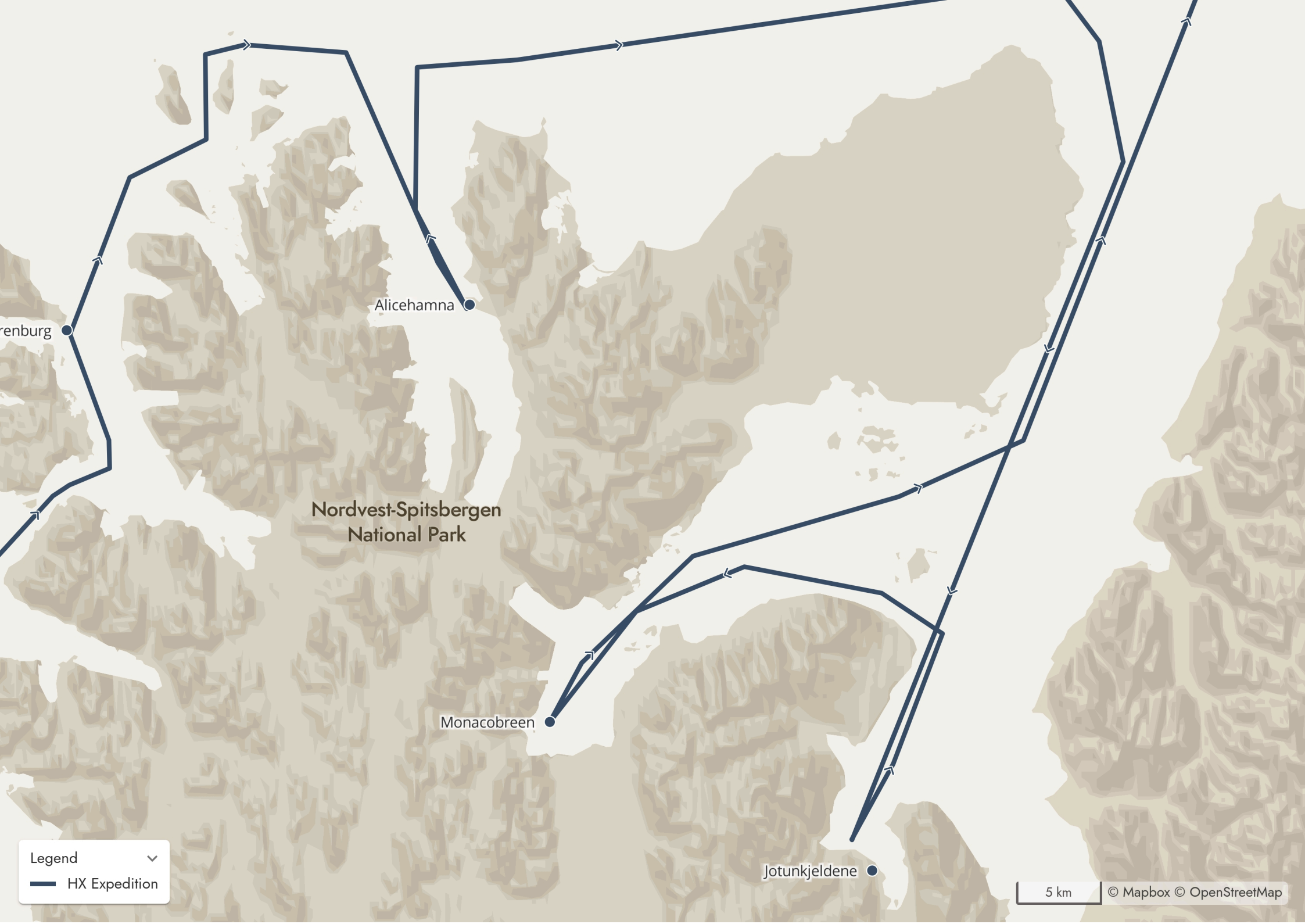
In the afternoon, under clear skies and with perfect conditions, we made our way to Alicehamna in the scenic Raudfjorden. This peaceful and striking location offered not only fantastic views of the fjord and surrounding peaks but also the chance to connect with some of the human history of Svalbard. Once ashore, we made our way up the gentle hill to visit the small cabin overlooking the bay, as well as two simple graves that silently mark the passage of earlier visitors to this

remote land.

Some of us ventured a little further on a guided hike beyond the immediate landing area, enjoying sweeping views and quiet solitude along the way. And for those looking for a thrill, this was also our first opportunity of the trip for a polar plunge—an invigorating dip in the icy Arctic waters that left us breathless and grinning. It was a memorable end to a rich and rewarding day in the high Arctic.







renburg

Alicehamna

Nordvest-Spitsbergen  
National Park

Monacobreen

Jotunkjeldene

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 4 - Jotunkjeldene (AM)

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. We explored the shoreline and surrounding landscape, learning

about the unique geology of the area and enjoying the quiet beauty of the fjord. With overcast skies but very calm conditions, it was the perfect setting to appreciate how dynamic and surprising the Arctic can be.





## Day 4 - Monacobreen (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued our journey into Liefdefjorden, setting out for a small boat cruising adventure in front of the majestic Monacobreen. Navigating through patches of sea ice and scattered icebergs, we made our way deeper into the fjord, eventually reaching the fronts of Seligerbreen and Emabreen.

The conditions couldn't have been better—calm waters, soft light, and a stunning panorama of icy blues and whites. Icebergs of all shapes

and shades floated around us, some carved into delicate arches or jagged spires, others smooth and glowing with that unmistakable glacial blue. Along the way, we spotted bearded seals lounging on the ice and seabirds soaring overhead or resting on small floes. It was a peaceful and awe-inspiring experience, surrounded by the quiet grandeur of Svalbard's high Arctic landscapes.







## Day 4 - Moffen (Evening)

Later in the evening, we reached Moffen Island, just above 80° North. Known for its resident walrus colony, the island greeted us with the unforgettable sight of these massive, social animals hauled out on the narrow shoreline. From the outer decks, we had excellent views—not only of the walrus but also of the waves crashing gently against the pebbled coast. The evening light added to the atmosphere, casting a

soft glow over the Arctic landscape. This marked our northernmost point so far, and as we stood outside taking it all in, we were reminded of how remote and wild this region truly is. It was a fitting way to close another remarkable day in Svalbard, with our thoughts now turning to the next chapter of the voyage: the edge of the ice.



Legend

— HX Expedition

Ice Edge

Moffen

Kinnvika

Vestfonna

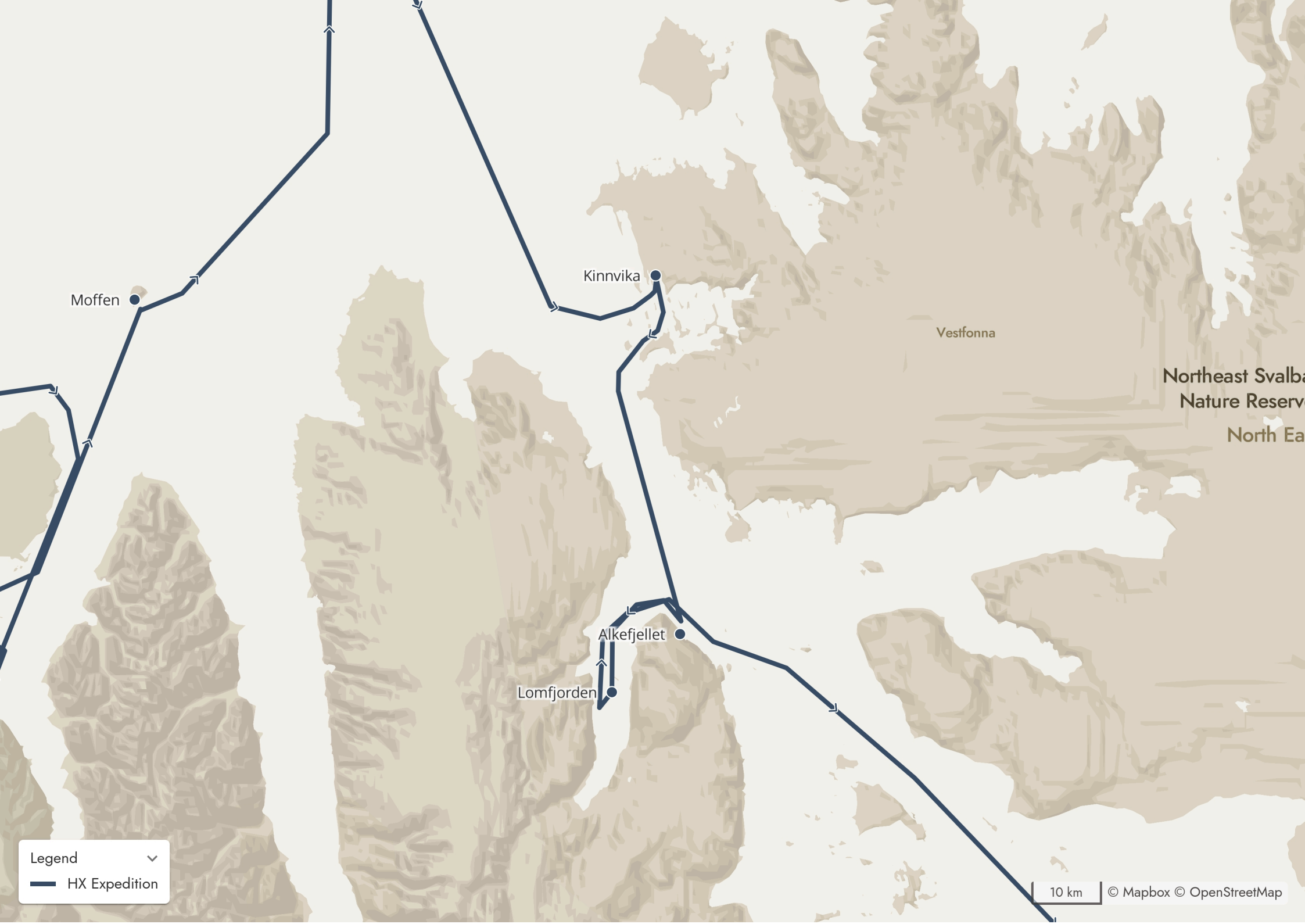
## Day 5 - Ice Edge

After visiting Moffen the evening before, we set our course northward toward one of the most anticipated highlights of the expedition—the ice edge. Around noon, we reached our position for the afternoon: 81°28' North, surrounded by a surreal Arctic seascape of drifting sea ice and soft fog that gave everything an otherworldly atmosphere. After lunch, we launched our small boats to get a closer look at the

ever-shifting edge of the pack ice. Gliding silently between the floes, we admired the textures and tones of the ice—from snow-dusted ridges to deep, glowing blues beneath the surface. The stillness and vastness of this environment reminded us just how remote and fragile the High Arctic truly is. It was a humbling and unforgettable moment at the very edge of the polar world.







Moffen

Kinnvika

Vestfonna

Northeast Svalbard  
Nature Reserve  
North East

Alkefjellet

Lomfjorden

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 6 - Kinnvika (AM)

This morning, we landed at Kinnvika under foggy conditions, which added a mysterious atmosphere to this historic site on the shores of Nordaustlandet. As we explored the area, the fog gradually lifted, revealing more of the stark and beautiful landscape around us. We walked among the well-preserved research station buildings, silent witnesses to the scientific efforts of the International

Geophysical Year in the 1950s. The wide, open landing site allowed us to take in the surroundings at a relaxed pace, with opportunities to appreciate the solitude and history of this northern outpost. To cap off the morning, a group of brave guests took on the challenge of the polar plunge, diving into the frigid Arctic waters at 80° North—a refreshing and unforgettable experience!





## Day 6 - Alkefjellet (PM)

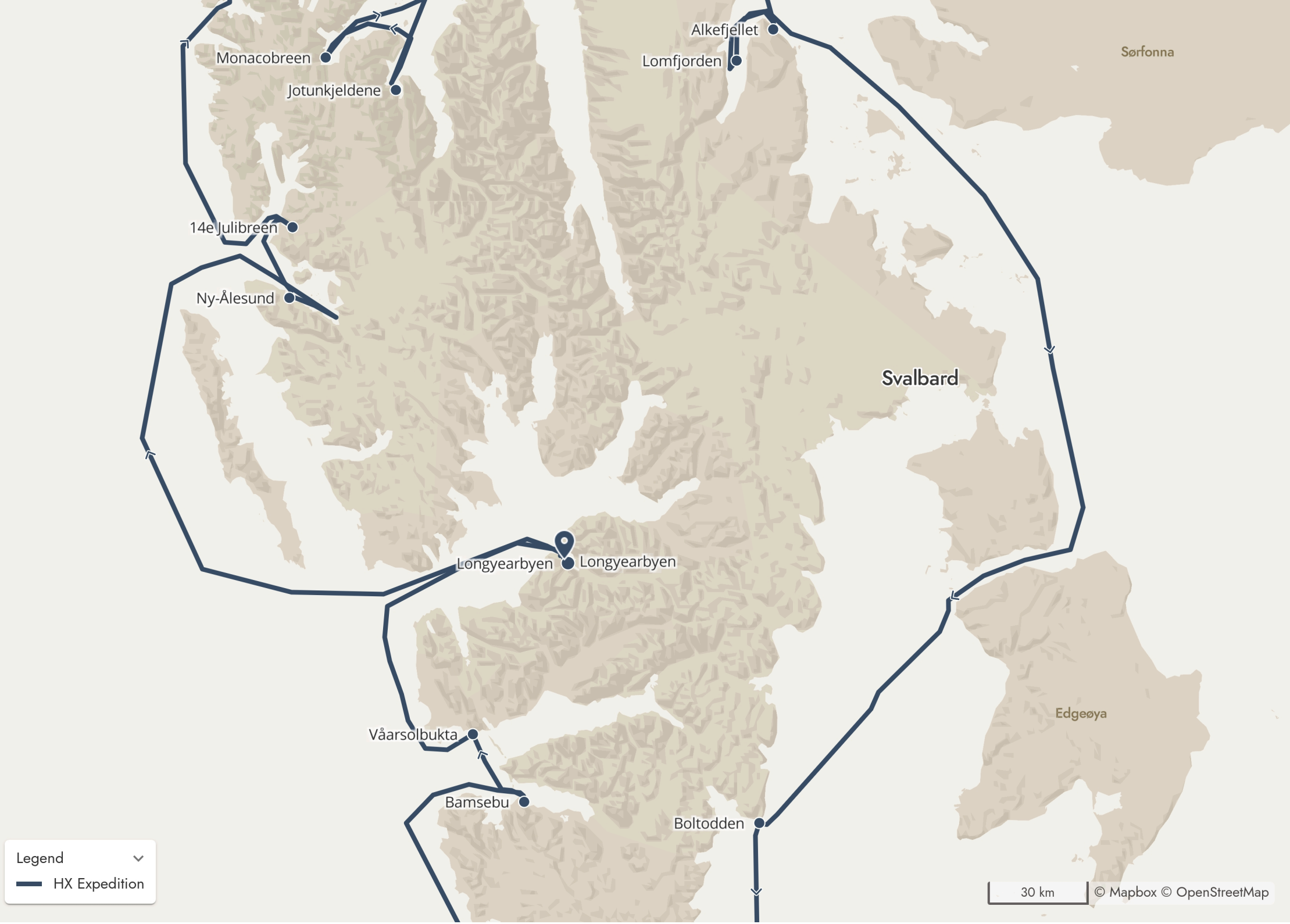
In the afternoon, we set course south towards Alkefjellet, known for its dramatic cliffs and dense bird colonies. Upon arrival, however, the sea conditions proved too challenging for our planned small boat cruising, with safety always being our top priority.

Just as we were adjusting our plans, excitement rippled through the ship—one of our guests had spotted two polar bears resting high up on the rocky slope, nestled in a patch of scurvy grass. Although distant and well camouflaged, the sight of a mother and her cub

thrilled us all. To improve our view, we sailed into nearby Lomfjorden for some ship cruising while giving the bears time to move.

Later, we returned to Alkefjellet, and our patience was rewarded. The bears had become more active and slightly more visible. Thanks to our GSS camera, everyone onboard could enjoy detailed views of this special moment without disturbing the animals—our first polar bear encounter of the voyage, and a truly spectacular way to close the day!







Lomfjorden, Norway - Jul 25, 2025

Boltodden, Norway - Jul 26, 2025

## Day 7 - Boltodden (PM)

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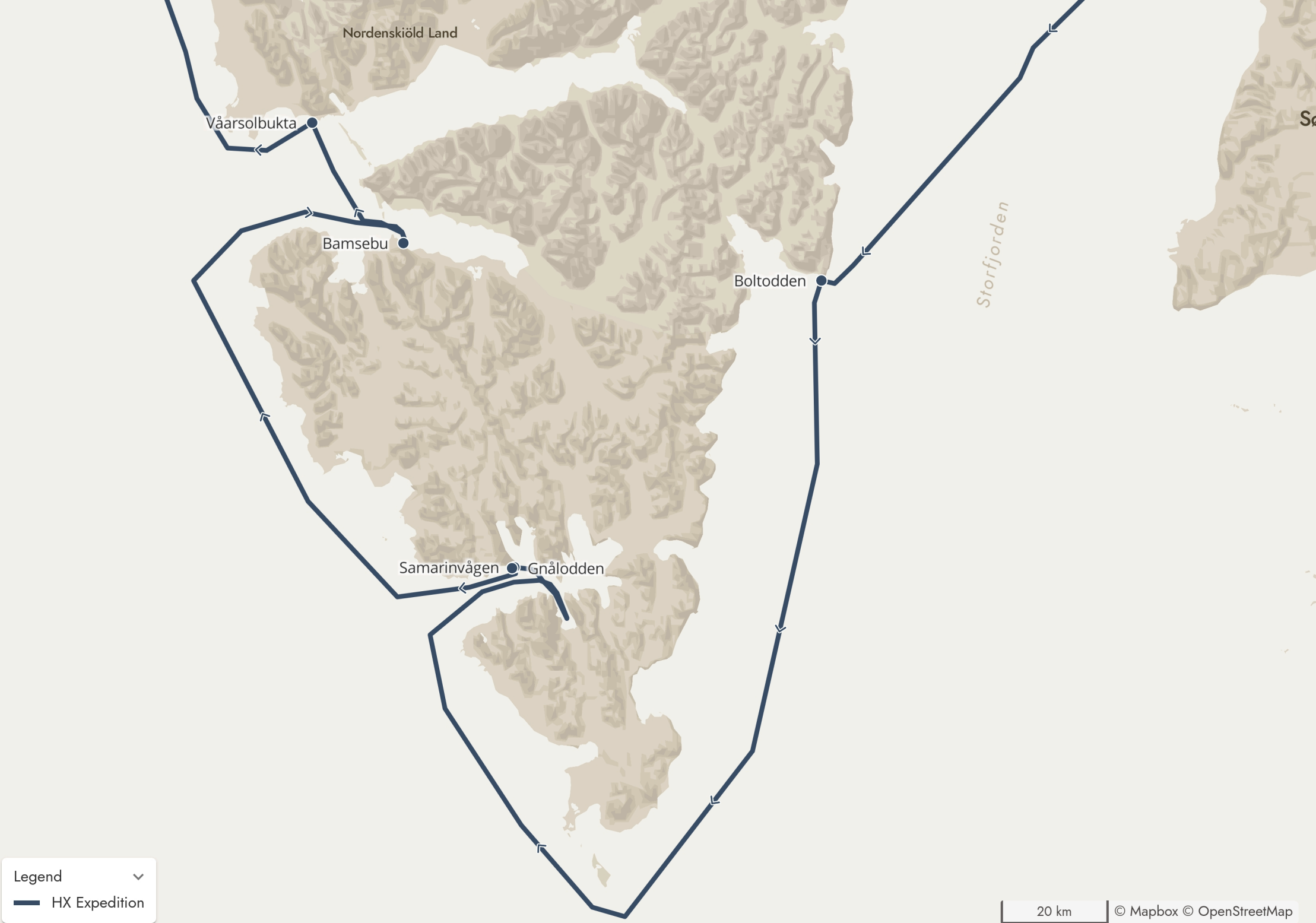
Early this morning, as we sailed along the Freemansundet, our day began with another incredible wildlife sighting. Near Sundneset, we spotted our third polar bear of the trip—a large male walking calmly along the hillside close to the old cabin located there. After a while, he sat down to rest, giving us the chance to admire him in great detail from a safe distance. It was a peaceful and unforgettable moment.

As we continued towards our scheduled landing at Kapp Lee, the surprises weren't over. Just as we were preparing for the operation, we spotted another polar bear, this time a female, feeding near the

landing site—and she wasn't alone. An arctic fox had joined her, likely hoping to share in the leftovers. With wildlife so close, landing here was no longer possible, and we adapted our plans accordingly. In the afternoon, we rerouted to Boltodden in Kvålvågen, a landing site that offered a completely different but equally fascinating experience. Here we discovered two historic cabins, striking geological formations, and—perhaps most impressively—dinosaur footprints embedded in the rocks. It was a special opportunity to reflect on both the human and natural history of Svalbard, making it another memorable stop on our journey.







## Day 8 - Samarinbreen (AM)

Our next day of adventures brought us into the stunning fjord of Hornsund, nestled in the southern reaches of Spitsbergen. We awoke to clear skies and remarkable visibility, revealing the dramatic, jagged peaks that make this area so iconic. Early in the morning, we sailed into Samarinfjorden and began our small boat cruising along the face of Samarinbreen, a glacier known for its towering ice front and active calving. The conditions could not have been better—calm waters,

bright light, and not a hint of wind. As we glided through the ice-filled waters, we were treated to the sight of seals lounging on floating ice, and several guests even caught the moment when huge chunks of the glacier dramatically broke off into the fjord. Adding to the Arctic magic, our bar boat served hot chocolate, making the experience feel as warm and welcoming as it was wild and remote.





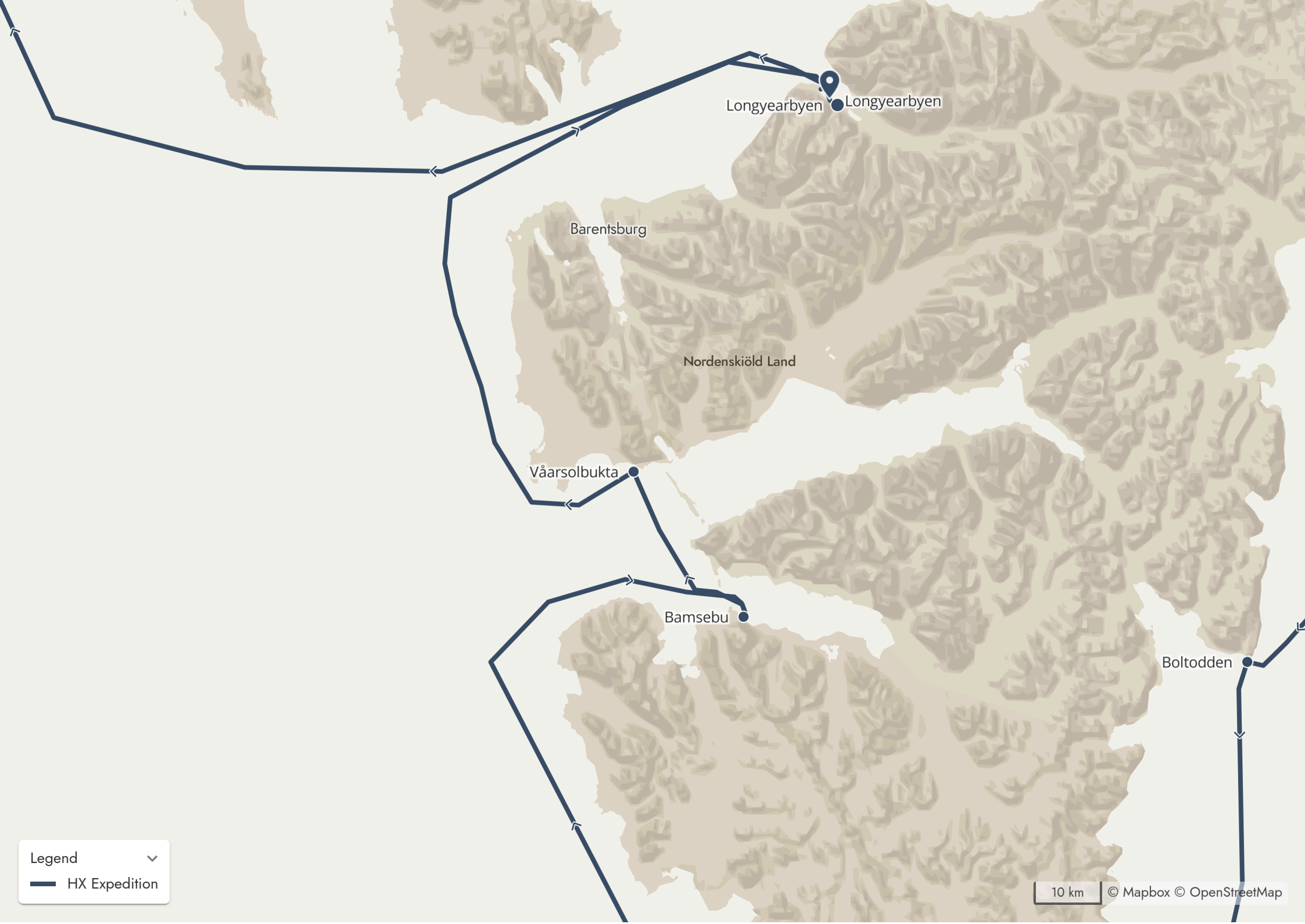
## Day 8 - Gnålodden (PM)

In the afternoon, our original plan was to land at Burgerbukta, on the other side of the fjord, but as we approached, it became clear that thick sea ice was blocking our landing site. Always ready to adapt, the Expedition Team turned to a fantastic alternative: Gnålodden. This area, rich in natural and human history, lies beneath towering cliffs that are home to thousands of nesting birds, including kittiwakes and guillemots, whose calls echoed across the landscape. From the shore, we could admire the imposing vertical wall of rock, teeming with life

and activity. Nearby, we visited the small hunter's cabin once inhabited by Wanny Woldstad, the first female trapper to overwinter in Svalbard in the 1930s.

With sunlight casting golden hues on the cliffs, calm conditions, and the sense of wild solitude that only places like Hornsund can offer, the day was a beautiful blend of nature, history, and exploration—a reminder of just how much this Arctic environment has to reveal.





Longyearbyen

Barentsburg

Nordenskiöld Land

Vårsølbukta

Bamsebu

Boltodden

Legend  
HX Expedition

10 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 9 - Bamsebu (AM)

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This morning we landed at Bamsebu, a site that always evokes a strong sense of Arctic history. The surrounding mountains were shrouded in low-hanging clouds, giving the landscape a dramatic and moody feel, which only added to the atmosphere of this remote corner of Svalbard. Landing conditions were excellent, allowing us to make the most of our time ashore.

Once on land, we explored the historic whaling station, where the namesake cabin, Bamsebu, still stands. This place is closely tied to the whaling activities of the 20th century, especially beluga whaling, evidenced by the many whale bones still scattered along the shore—a stark reminder of Svalbard's more industrial past. Some of us walked across the open landscape to see these remains up close, while

taking in the rugged beauty of the area.

A group of guests joined a guided hike, venturing a bit further inland to enjoy panoramic views of the coastline and surrounding terrain. The crisp air, the distant call of seabirds, and the wide-open spaces made it a memorable trek. Meanwhile, others participated in a Science Boat session, collecting data and contributing to ongoing Citizen Science projects related to marine ecosystems and ocean health.

The combination of history, science, and natural beauty made our visit to Bamsebu a meaningful and well-rounded experience. It was a morning that perfectly captured the spirit of Arctic exploration.





## Day 9 - Vårsolbukta (PM)

Our final stop in Svalbard took us to Vårsolbukta, a quiet and scenic bay that offered us one last memorable experience in the High Arctic. The skies were once again clear and bright, and the landscape glowed under the late-season sun. As we stepped ashore, it didn't take long before we spotted reindeers grazing nearby, giving us a special opportunity to observe these iconic Arctic animals from a remarkably close distance.

This site is also known for its rich birdlife, and many of us enjoyed simply pausing to take in the calls and flights of the various species

that nest in the area. With a free-roaming landing, we had the chance to explore the terrain at our own pace, including the remains of early 20th-century gold mining—weathered structures and relics that tell a lesser-known story of Svalbard's industrial past.

As we made our way back to the ship, a bit of swell at the beach made for an adventurous return, with stern boardings adding a touch of excitement to our final moments ashore. Spirits were high and smiles all around—it was a fittingly joyful and wild ending to our time exploring the incredible archipelago of Svalbard.





## Day 10 - Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

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After many days exploring the far reaches of the Svalbard archipelago, it was finally time to say goodbye. As we arrived back in Longyearbyen, where our adventure had begun, a mix of emotions filled the air—a quiet reflection on all we had seen, and a deep sense of gratitude for the journey we had shared.

Together we had reached the ice edge at 81°28' North, stood on remote Arctic shores, and spotted polar bears, walruses, seals, reindeer, foxes, and countless seabirds. We had explored historic sites, walked through landscapes shaped by ice and time, cruised in front of massive glaciers, and warmed ourselves with waffles, hot chocolate, and shared stories. We weathered fog and sun, wind and

calm seas, and along the way, built memories that will stay with us long after we leave the Arctic behind.

The raw beauty of Svalbard—the majesty of the glaciers, the silence of the ice, the drama of the wildlife encounters, and the camaraderie aboard MS Spitsbergen—reminded us of the fragility and wonder of this unique corner of the world.

As we disembarked this morning and stepped back into the world beyond the Arctic Circle, we did so changed—a bit more curious, more aware, and more connected to the wild places we were privileged to witness.





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