



MS SPITSBERGEN

31.1 – 7.2.2026

Legend

HX Expedition

Vestfjorden

Leknes

Svolvær

Stoknangen

Sortland

Hinnøya

Harstad

Narvik

Rohkunborri
nasjonalpark

Senja

Finnesnes

Troisø

30 km

Kiruna
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1 - Embarkation in Tromsø

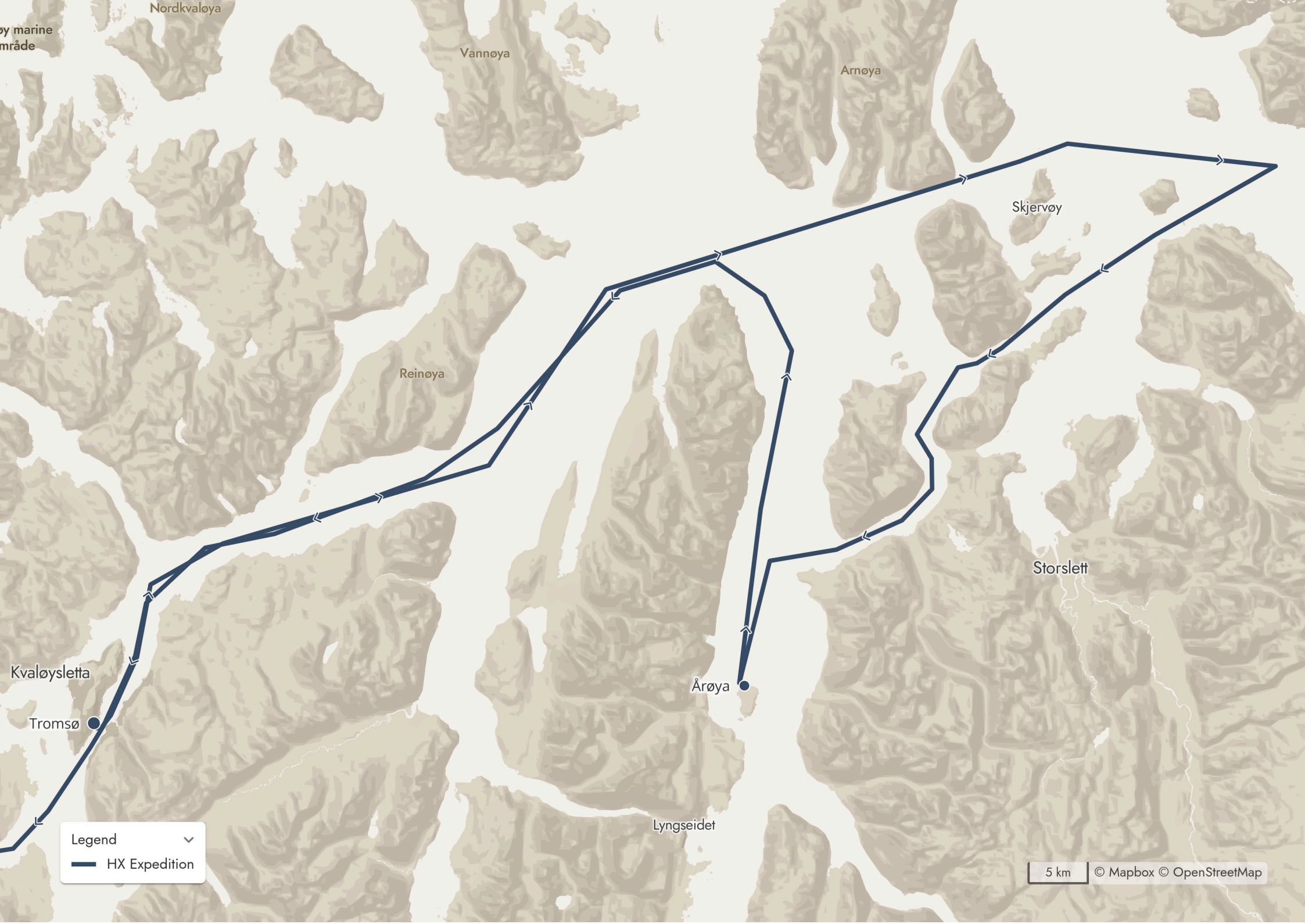
Our journey began in Tromsø, under a typically northern sky—overcast, calm, and cold, setting the tone for a winter expedition in Arctic Norway. Throughout the afternoon, guests boarded MS Spitsbergen, making their way to their cabins and taking time to explore the ship as it became their home for the days ahead.

After dinner, we gathered for the mandatory safety drill, an important first step before heading into Arctic waters. The evening continued

with the Captain's Welcome, followed by an information meeting led by the Hotel Manager and the Expedition Leader, where guests learned more about life on board and the plans for the voyage ahead.

As we departed Tromsø and the city lights gradually faded behind us, the overcast sky and quiet harbour marked a calm and steady beginning to our winter journey along the Norwegian coast.





Day 2 - Årøya

Our second day brought us to Årøya, where we made our first landing under overcast skies and with a bit of wind. Still, with no snowfall and good visibility, the atmosphere felt quiet and still as our guests disembarked using the floating jetty and stepped ashore. Once on land, they spread out across the area at a relaxed pace. Some joined a snowshoe walk with the Activity Guides, heading into the forest to explore the snow-covered terrain and enjoy the silence of the winter landscape. Others chose to follow marked trails on their own, moving through the surroundings at a slower rhythm and taking

in the details of this remote island.

At the heart of the landing, bonfires provided warmth and a natural gathering point. We paused here to warm up, share impressions, and enjoy hot soup before making our way back to the landing site. With steady conditions and a calm mood, Årøya offered a rewarding and atmospheric first encounter with Arctic Norway — an unhurried introduction to winter exploration.



The map displays the HX Expedition route in a stylized, topographic representation of the Arctic region. The route is marked by a dark blue line with white arrowheads indicating the direction of travel. The route begins at the bottom left, proceeds northwards, then turns eastwards, passing near the location of Gammelsæter. It then turns southwards, passing near Tranøya, before continuing eastwards. The map includes a legend in the bottom left corner, a scale bar (500 m) in the bottom right corner, and copyright information (© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap) in the bottom right corner.

The map displays the HX Expedition route in a stylized, topographic representation of the Arctic region. The route is marked by a dark blue line with white arrowheads indicating the direction of travel. The route begins at the bottom left, proceeds northwards, then turns eastwards, passing near the location of Gammelsæter and Tranøya. The terrain is shown in shades of brown and tan, with white areas representing snow or ice. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the blue line as the 'HX Expedition'. A scale bar in the bottom right corner indicates a distance of 500 meters. Copyright information for Mapbox and OpenStreetMap is also present in the bottom right corner.

This map illustrates the HX Expedition route in the Arctic region. The route is shown as a dark blue line with arrows indicating the direction of travel. The expedition starts from the bottom left, moves north, then east, and finally south, ending near the island of Tranøya. Key locations marked on the map include Gammelsæter and Tranøya. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the blue line as the 'HX Expedition'. A scale bar in the bottom right corner indicates a distance of 500 meters. The map is credited to Mapbox and OpenStreetMap.

Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

500 m | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 - Tranøya

We awoke with Tranøya ahead of us, and we were ready for another full day ashore in this historic and atmospheric setting. After landing, we were welcomed at a traditional farm and settlement, where stories of daily life in this remote part of Northern Norway offered a glimpse into a slower, resilient way of living shaped by the seasons.

Throughout the day, activities unfolded at a comfortable pace. Two groups set off on snowshoe walks, exploring the snowy terrain and forested surroundings, while another group took to the water for a kayaking excursion, enjoying a close-to-the-surface perspective of the coastline and its winter stillness. Between activities, many gathered around the bonfire, warming up and enjoying cinnamon buns and

mulled wine while taking in the peaceful atmosphere.

A special wildlife moment added an unexpected highlight to the day, as some were lucky enough to observe moose swimming across from a nearby island toward Tranøya, a rare and memorable sight that perfectly captured the wild character of the region.

With culture, an outdoor activity, and a touch of Arctic wildlife all coming together, Tranøya offered a rich and rewarding day — one that reflected both the human history and the natural rhythms of this northern landscape.



Sund, landing in Stormarkpollen ●

Moskenes

Lofotodden
nasjonalpark

Reine

Sørvågen

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4 - Sund, Landing in Stormarkpollen

Today we arrived in Sund, located along the rugged coastline of the Lofoten Islands, an area renowned for its dramatic mountains rising straight from the sea. We were greeted by excellent conditions, with calm waters and no wind at all, making for a smooth and relaxed landing.

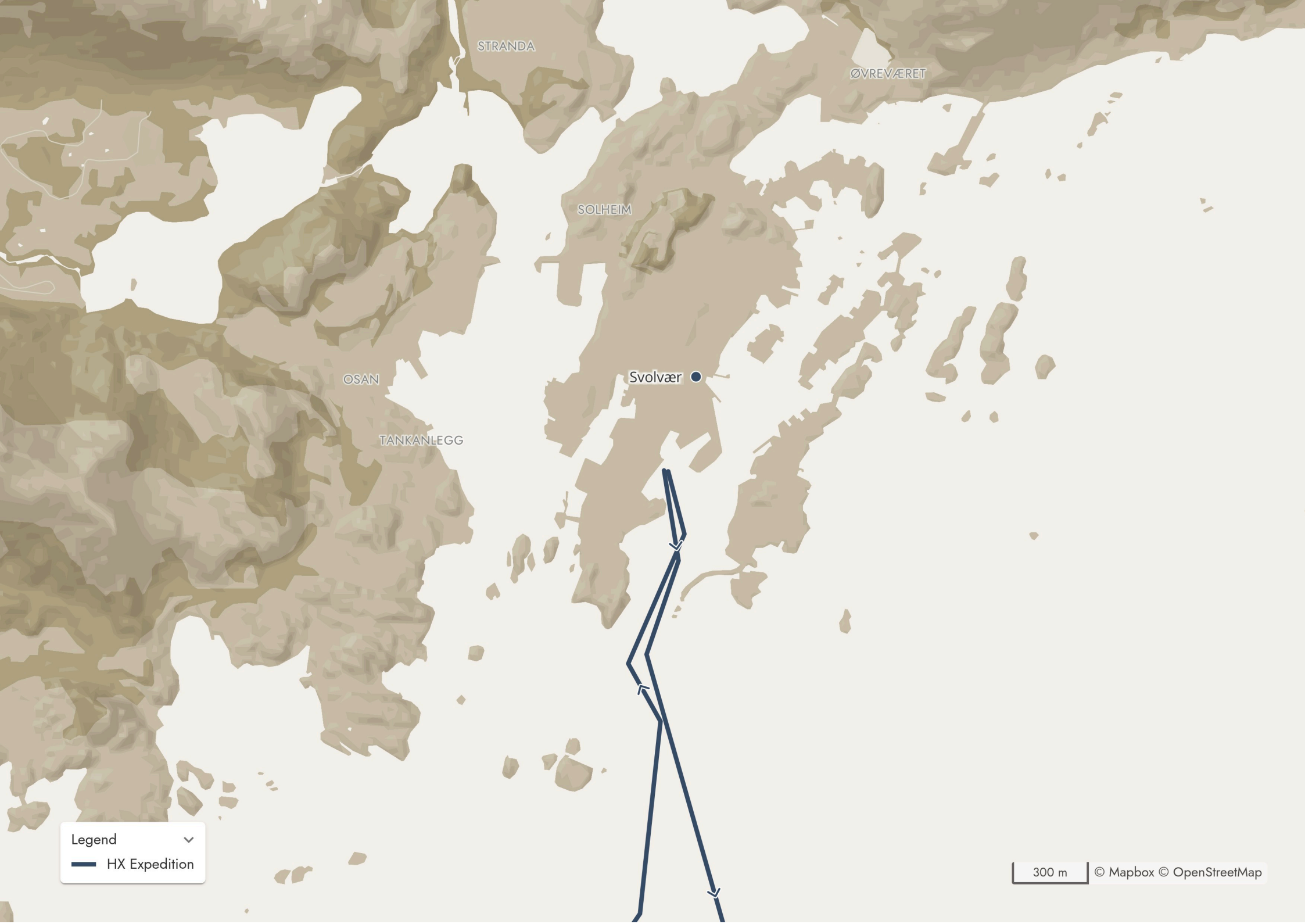
Ashore, we explored the area at an unhurried pace, enjoying the stillness that surrounded us. The calm air allowed the landscape to fully reveal itself — snow-covered ground, sharp mountain silhouettes, and the distinctive character of the Lofoten coastline. With time to wander and take in the views, the landing felt especially peaceful, offering space to connect with the scenery and the quiet rhythm of

this northern environment.

As evening fell and darkness settled in, the day saved one more reward. The Northern Lights made their first appearance of the voyage. Though faint, soft green arcs slowly emerged in the sky, drawing many of us outside. After days of anticipation, finally seeing the aurora — however subtle — felt like a small celebration and a promising sign of what the Arctic nights might still bring.

A calm day in Lofoten, crowned by our first glimpse of the aurora, made Sund a memorable and atmospheric stop on our journey.





Legend

HX Expedition

Day 5 - Svolvær

We arrived alongside in Svolvær, right in the heart of the Lofoten Islands, ready for a full day of exploration. Docking early in the morning allowed us to make the most of everything this vibrant Arctic town and its surroundings have to offer.

Throughout the day, we spread out across a wide range of excursions. Some joined a Fishing Heritage Walk, gaining insight into the long-standing relationship between the people of Lofoten and the sea. Others enjoyed A Taste of Lofoten, sampling local products and flavours, while several guests ventured out on the Arctic Sea Eagle Experience, observing these impressive birds in their natural environment. Additional options included exploring the picturesque fishing village of Henningsvær, as well as embracing Nordic wellness

with a sauna followed by a polar plunge.

With time also to wander through town at their own pace, guests were able to fully enjoy the lively yet relaxed atmosphere of Svolvær, framed by steep mountains and sheltered waters. The day offered a well-balanced mix of culture, nature, and local life.

Later in the evening, after departing, the sky once again rewarded us. The Northern Lights appeared, noticeably stronger than previous nights, with clearer shapes and brighter colours dancing above the town and surrounding peaks. Many gathered outside to watch the display, bringing a spectacular and memorable close to our day in Svolvær.





Legend

— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 6 - Ulvøya (AM)

The following day we spent the morning cruising around Ulvøya, greeted by overcast skies and very calm conditions. With almost no wind, the sea remained smooth, creating a quiet and contemplative atmosphere as we moved along the island's rugged coastline.

We headed out in our expedition boats to explore the area at close range, enjoying the subdued winter light and the stillness that defines these remote corners of Northern Norway. The muted colours of the landscape — dark rock, snow-covered slopes, and low clouds — gave

the morning a distinctly Arctic feel.

One group took the opportunity to go kayaking, gliding silently across the calm water and experiencing the surroundings from a low, intimate perspective. The quiet conditions allowed for an especially peaceful outing, perfectly suited to this secluded setting.

Though understated, the morning around Ulvøya was deeply atmospheric — proof that even under grey skies, Arctic Norway offers moments of calm beauty and connection with the landscape.





Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 6 - Panoramic Sailing in Trollfjord & Raftsundet, Stokmarknes (PM)

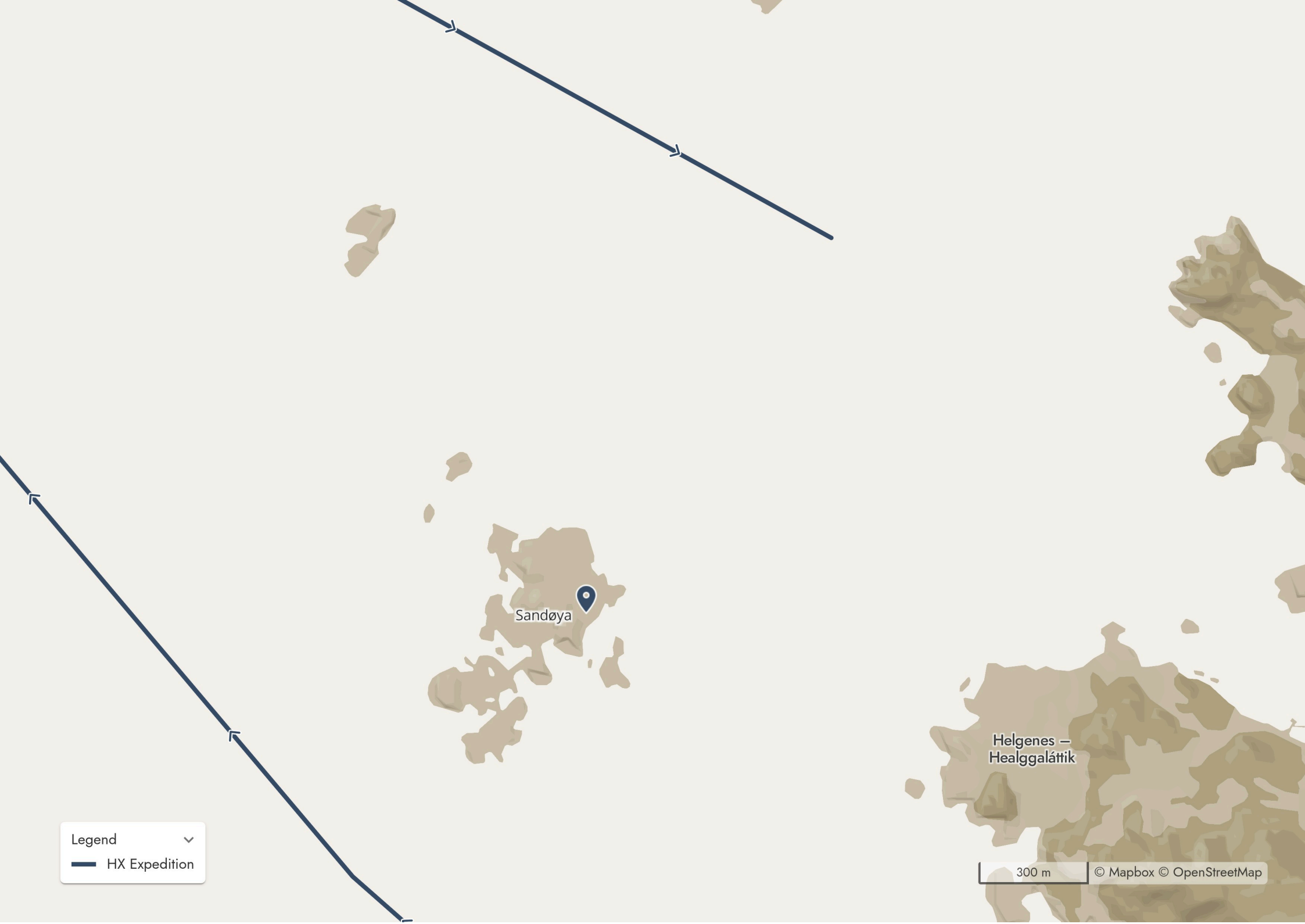
During the afternoon, conditions remained stable with low wind and overcast skies, ideal for scenic sailing. We made our way into dramatic Trollfjord, where steep mountain walls closed in around the ship as MS Spitsbergen carefully navigated the narrow entrance. The stillness of the water and the muted light gave the fjord a powerful, almost theatrical atmosphere before we slowly turned and sailed back out.

From there, we continued along Raftsundet, enjoying more of Arctic Norway's striking coastal scenery as mountains and shoreline unfolded steadily around us. The calm conditions allowed us to fully

appreciate this stretch of water from deck and lounge areas alike.

Around 4pm, we arrived in Stokmarknes, where a special evening awaited us. Stepping ashore, we walked directly to the Hurtigruten Museum, where we were welcomed and guided through the exhibits that tell the story of Norway's coastal routes and the ships that have connected communities along this rugged coastline for generations. The visit was followed by a dinner in this historic setting, bringing together maritime heritage, local atmosphere, and good company. It was a fitting and memorable way to close a calm and scenic day along the Norwegian coast.





Sandøya

Helgenes –
Healggaláttik

Legend



— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Day 7 - Sandøya

Our final day ashore brought us to Sandøya, where we made a landing directly on the white sand beach under slightly overcast skies. From time to time, soft sunrays broke through the clouds, illuminating the island and creating a beautiful, gentle Arctic light. Conditions were excellent, allowing everyone to enjoy the landing fully and at an unhurried pace.

Once ashore, we roamed the island, exploring the surroundings and soaking in the calm atmosphere of this quiet place. A bonfire on the beach became a natural gathering point where we enjoyed hot dogs, warmth, and conversation while taking in the views around us.

For those who wished to add one last Arctic challenge to the journey, there was the another opportunity to take part in a polar plunge. With cheers from shore and smiles all around, participants embraced the cold waters, making for a lively and memorable moment.

With its peaceful setting, beautiful light, and shared moments by the bonfire, Sandøya offered a perfect ending to our time ashore – a relaxed and rewarding final day that captured the spirit of this winter voyage through Northern Norway.

Later in the day, back on board, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell, a warm and reflective moment that marked the gentle close of our voyage. This was followed by the slideshow of the trip, prepared by our ship's photographer, bringing together highlights from snowy landings, quiet fjords, bonfires, kayaking, and nights beneath the Northern Lights. Watching these moments unfold on screen was a wonderful way to relive the journey we had shared and to begin saying goodbye to an unforgettable winter adventure in Northern Norway.





logbook.travelmap.net/20260131-sbnor2622