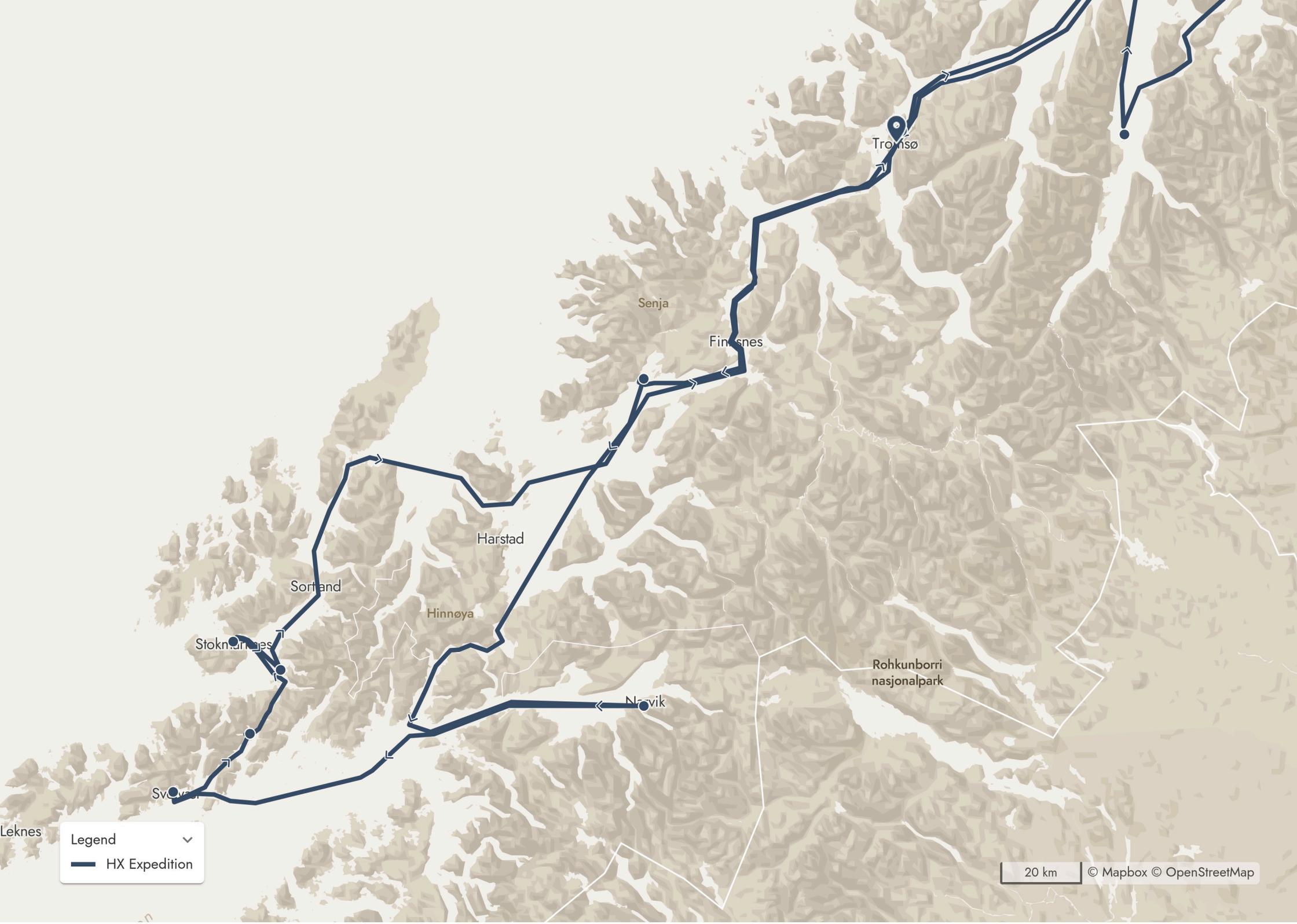




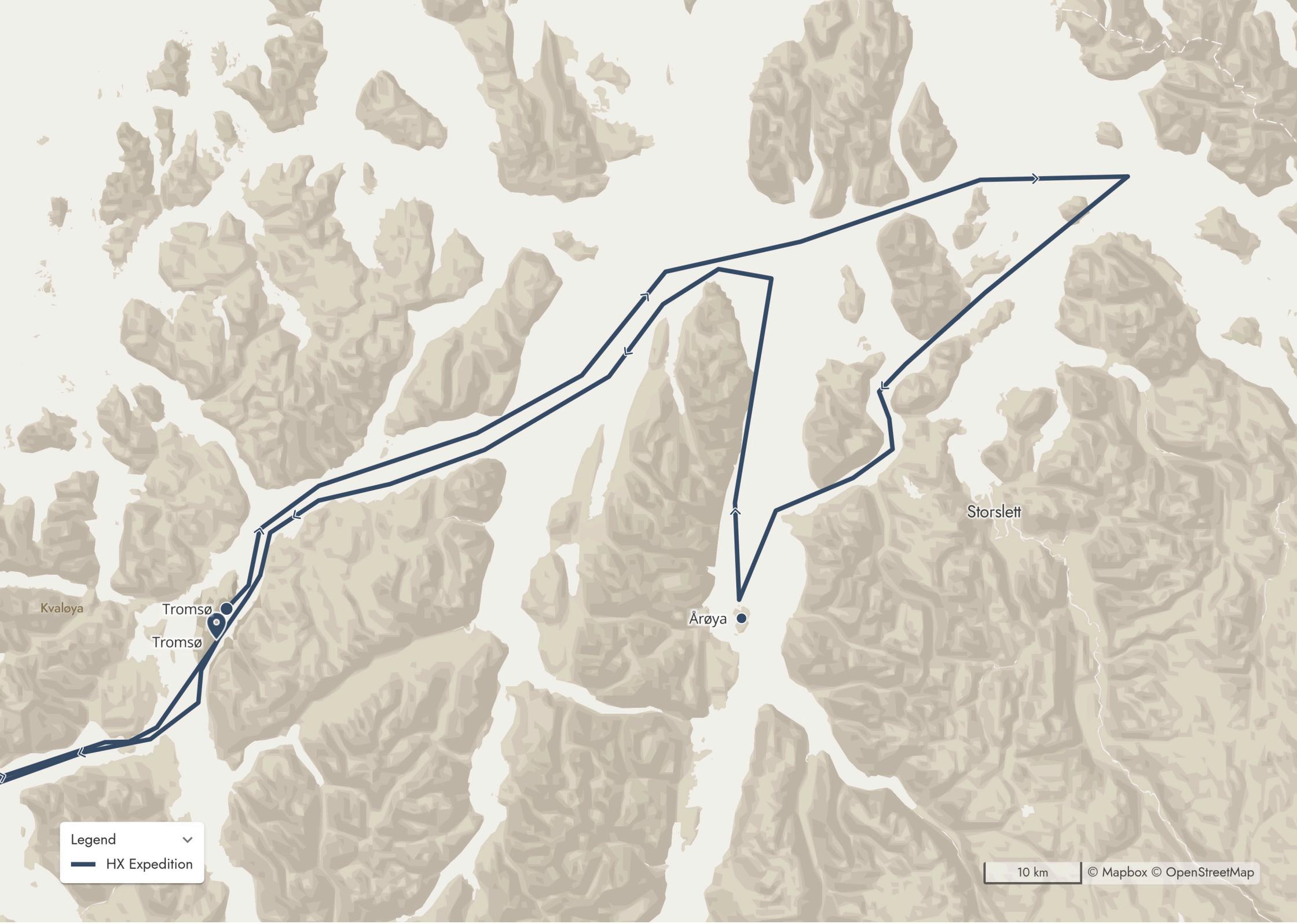
MS SPITSBERGEN

14.2 – 21.2.2026



Legend

 HX Expedition



Kvaløya

Tromsø

Tromsø

Årøya

Storslett

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1- Tromsø

Our adventure began in Tromsø, where our guests were welcomed not by calm winter weather, but by softly falling snow that made their arrival feel truly magical. Snowflakes drifted through the harbour as they reached the pier and stepped aboard MS Spitsbergen, their home for the days ahead. After settling into their cabins, guests took time to explore the ship.

Following dinner, guests gathered for the mandatory safety briefing, an essential introduction to life on board. The evening continued with

the Captain's Welcome, and an informative session led by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader, who shared insights about the voyage ahead and what we could expect while exploring Northern Norway.

As we set sail from Tromsø, the city gradually disappeared into the snowy Arctic twilight. Despite the wintry weather, the sea remained calm, giving us a smooth and memorable beginning to our expedition along the Norwegian coast.

Day 2 - Årøya

On our second day, we arrived at Årøya under crisp winter skies and calm conditions perfect for our first landing of the voyage. With good visibility and a fresh Arctic chill in the air, we disembarked via the floating jetty and stepped onto the snow-blanketed island, fully

embracing the feeling of being in the Far North.

Once ashore, everyone set out to experience the landscape in their own way. One group strapped on snowshoes and headed into the

forest with the Activity Guides, moving steadily through the quiet terrain. The hike itself was beautiful, but the most thrilling highlight came at the very end with a slide down the hill. Others chose to explore independently along marked paths, enjoying the serenity and freedom of the snowy surroundings at their own pace.

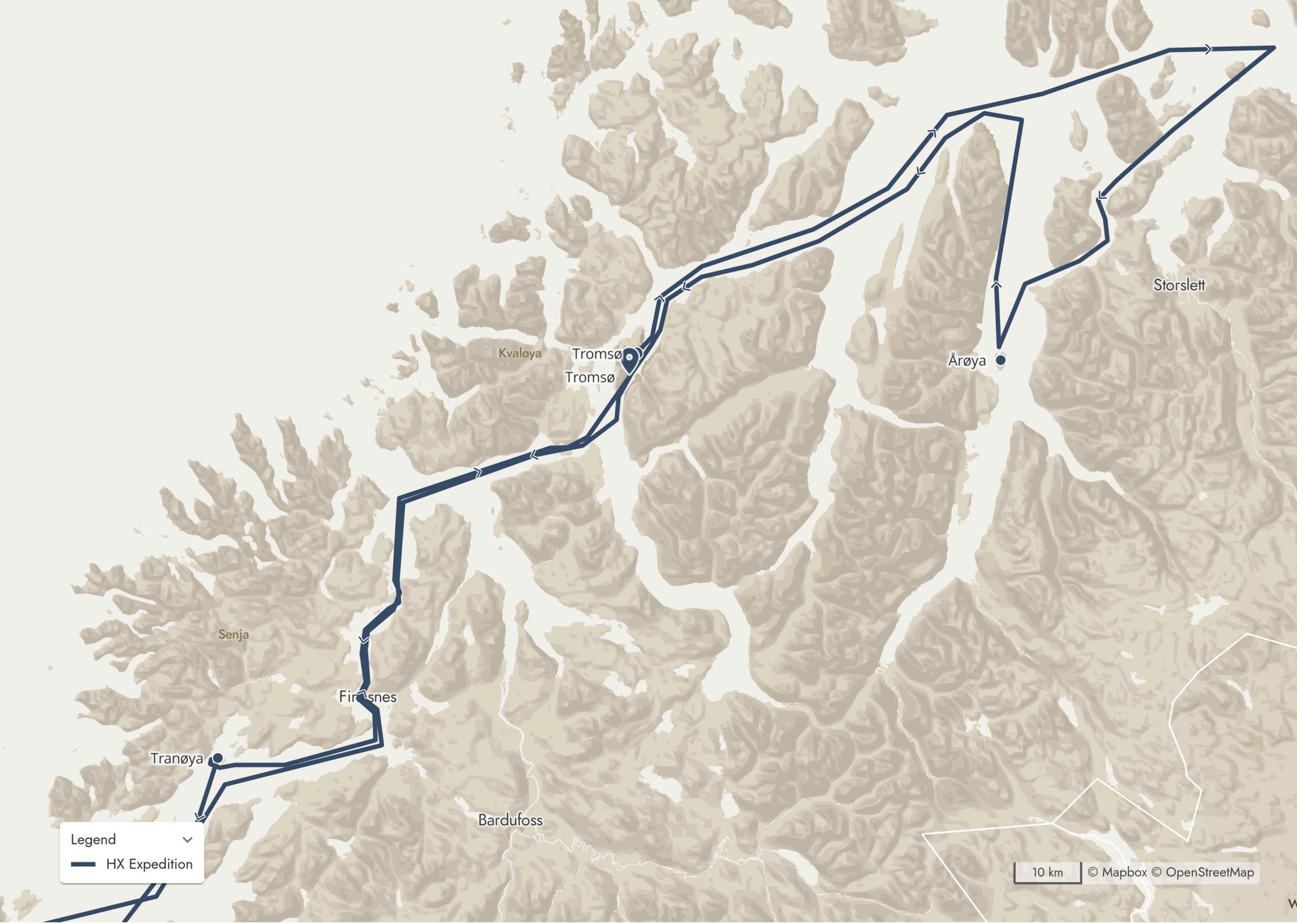
Some made our way up to the nearby hilltop viewpoint, reaching it in the Arctic darkness. Although the night kept distant views hidden, the atmosphere was unforgettable: standing together in stillness, surrounded by snow and trees, guided only by our headlamps and the faint glow above. The silence of the Arctic night made the moment

feel truly special.

Back near the landing site, a crackling bonfire welcomed us with warmth. It became a natural gathering place where we shared stories, warmed our hands, and reflected on the day before returning to the ship.

With cooperative weather, peaceful scenery, and a perfect mix of adventure and quiet reflection, Årøya gave us a memorable and atmospheric first day ashore in Arctic Norway.





Legend ▼
— HX Expedition

10 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Tranøya

Finesnes

Senja

Bardufoss

Kvaløya

Tromsø
Tromsø

Årøya

Storslett

Day 3 - Tranøya

Our third day brought us to Tranøya, where we landed to explore the historic settlement and its surrounding winter landscape. After stepping ashore, we wandered through the traditional farm area, learning about life in this remote corner of Northern Norway and gaining insight into the resilience and seasonal rhythms that shape coastal communities.

Two groups set off on snowshoe hikes, moving at a steady pace through snowy fields and quiet forest trails, fully immersed in the stillness of the Arctic winter. At the same time, others launched kayaks and paddled across calm waters, experiencing the rugged coastline from a peaceful and close-up perspective.

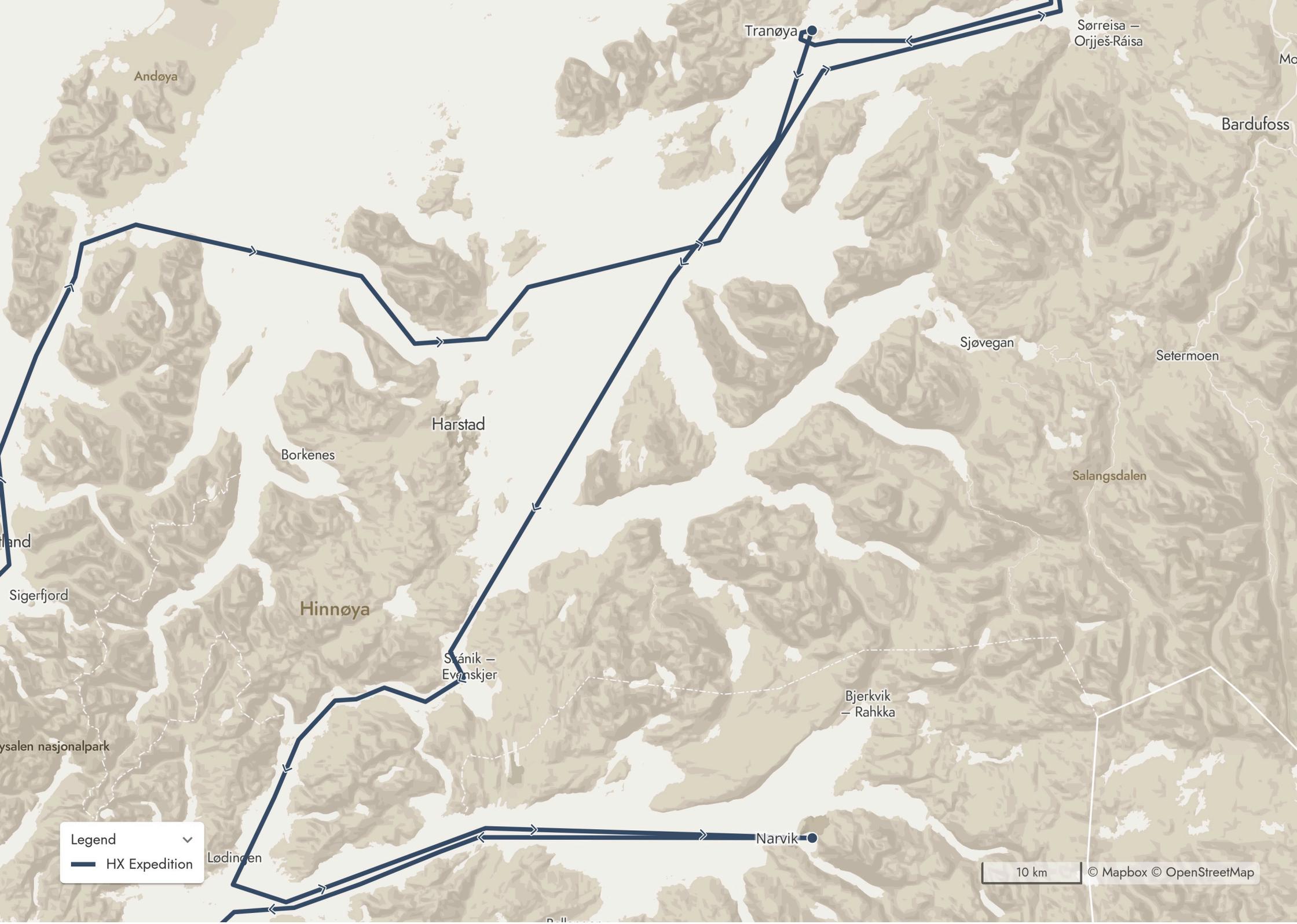
Back near the settlement, some took the opportunity to cuddle with

the local sheep, enjoying a surprisingly cosy and heartwarming moment.

Later in the afternoon, some gathered by the jetty for an underwater drone session. Watching the live images from beneath the cold, clear surface revealed a hidden marine world and added a fascinating new dimension to our visit.

As evening fell and darkness settled over the island, the day offered one final highlight: the first Northern Lights of our voyage. Soft green arcs slowly appeared in the sky above us, drawing many outside to witness the spectacle. It was a magical and promising start to our Arctic nights, and a perfect ending to a full and memorable day on Tranøya.





Andøya

Tranøya

Sørreisa –
Orješ-Ráisa

Bardufoss

Sjøvegan

Setermoen

Harstad

Borkenes

Salangsdalen

Hinnøya

Svanik –
Evnskjær

Bjerkvik
– Rahkka

Narvik

Lødingen

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4 - Narvik

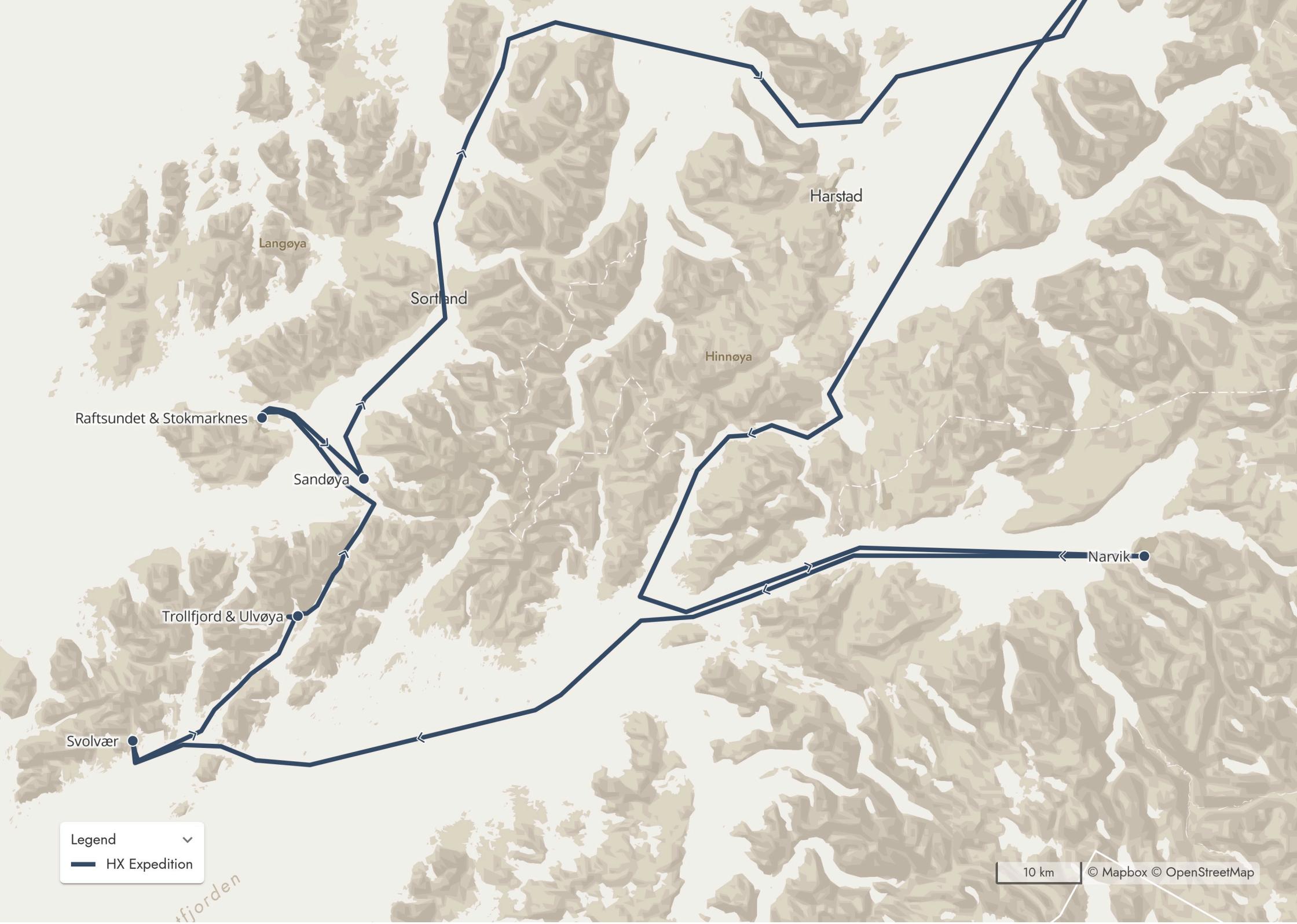
Due to changing weather conditions, we adjusted our plans and set course for Narvik instead of Sund. It turned out to be a beautiful winter alternative. As we approached, fresh snow covered the landscape, and the ski slopes were clearly visible from the ship, stretching up the mountainside and adding to the classic Arctic scenery.

While a few adventurous guests took the opportunity to hit the slopes and enjoy some skiing, most chose to explore the town itself. A highlight of the visit was the Narvik War Museum, where our guests

gained powerful insight into the region's role during World War II. The exhibits offered a moving and informative look at the events that shaped both Narvik and the wider Arctic region.

Afterwards, many enjoyed a relaxed stroll through town, taking in the snowy streets, cosy atmosphere, and surrounding mountain views. Despite the last-minute change of plans, our day in Narvik proved to be both memorable and rewarding — another reminder that flexibility is all part of the Arctic adventure.





Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Raftsundet & Stokmarknes

Sandøya

Trollfjord & Ulvøya

Svolveær

Langøya

Sortland

Hinnøya

Harstad

Narvik

tfjorden

Day - 5 Svolvær

We docked early in Svolvær, the lively hub of the Lofoten Islands, under very snowy skies. Thick flakes fell steadily throughout the day, covering the town in fresh white snow, but despite the wintry scene, it was actually our warmest day so far, with temperatures reaching 0°C (32°F).

With the ship alongside, we stepped ashore ready to explore. Guests set out on a variety of excursions. Some joined the Fishing Heritage Walk, learning about the region's deep connection to the sea and the cod fisheries that have shaped Lofoten's identity for generations. Others participated in the Arctic Sea Eagle Experience, encountering one of the north's most iconic birds up close.

The excursion to Henningsvær nearly had to be cancelled after an

avalanche covered part of the road. Fortunately, the snow was cleared just in time, allowing guests to visit one of Norway's most picturesque fishing villages as planned. For those looking for a bracing Nordic contrast, the combination of sauna and polar plunge provided an invigorating highlight.

Back on board in the evening, the atmosphere turned festive. We gathered for the HX Foundation auction, where generosity and enthusiasm supported meaningful environmental and community initiatives. Later, the lounge transformed into a lively Carnival party to celebrate the last day of Carnival, complete with colourful costumes, music, and dancing, creating a joyful finale to a snowy yet surprisingly 'warm' day in Svolvær.



Day 6 - Trollfjord

We began the morning approaching dramatic Trollfjord. Due to avalanche risk and snowy conditions with low visibility, we decided not to proceed fully into the fjord. Instead, we carefully positioned the bow just inside the entrance, allowing everyone on deck to take in the atmosphere as best as possible. Even in muted light, the steep rock walls and snow-covered slopes rising straight from the sea created a powerful and unmistakably Arctic scene.

Afterwards, we continued towards Ulvøya to prepare for our expedition boat activities. By the time we launched, the weather had improved significantly: the snowfall eased, visibility cleared, and we were even treated to moments of sunshine.

Cruising at water level offered a completely different perspective. The towering mountains, rugged shorelines, and fresh snow felt even more dramatic up close. The shifting light added depth to the landscape, highlighting details that had been hidden earlier in the morning.

At the same time, our kayakers set out to explore independently, paddling across the calm waters and enjoying the quiet stillness that followed the snowfall. With clearer skies and smooth seas, the expedition boat cruising and kayaking turned into true highlights of the day, beautifully contrasting with the more cautious start to the morning.





Raftsundet & Stokmarknes

Hadseløya

Melbu

Sandøya

Møysalen
landskapsvern

Trollfjord & Ulvøya

Austvågøya

Stormolla

Svellingsflaket
landskapsvernområde

Svolvær

Kabelvåg

Legend

 HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

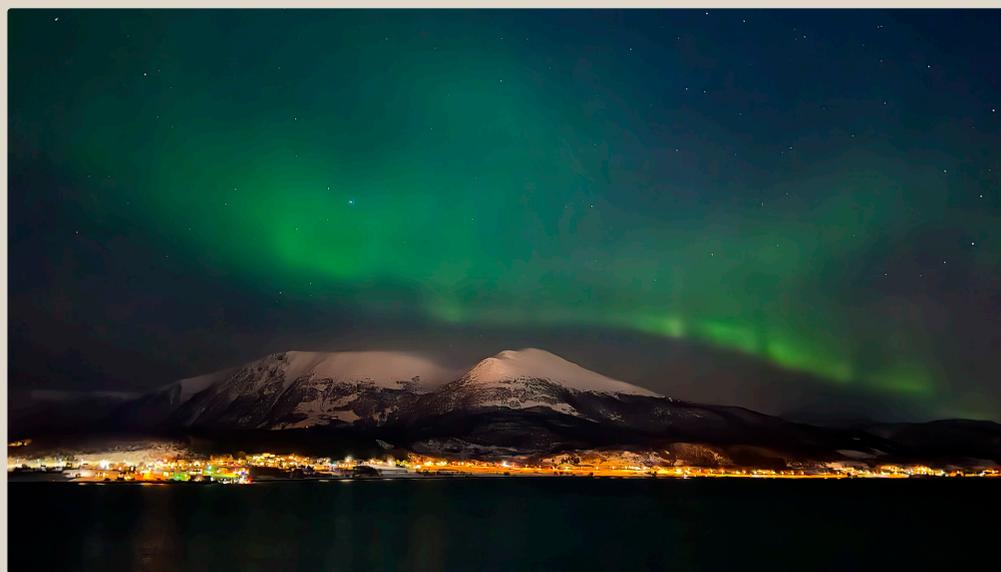
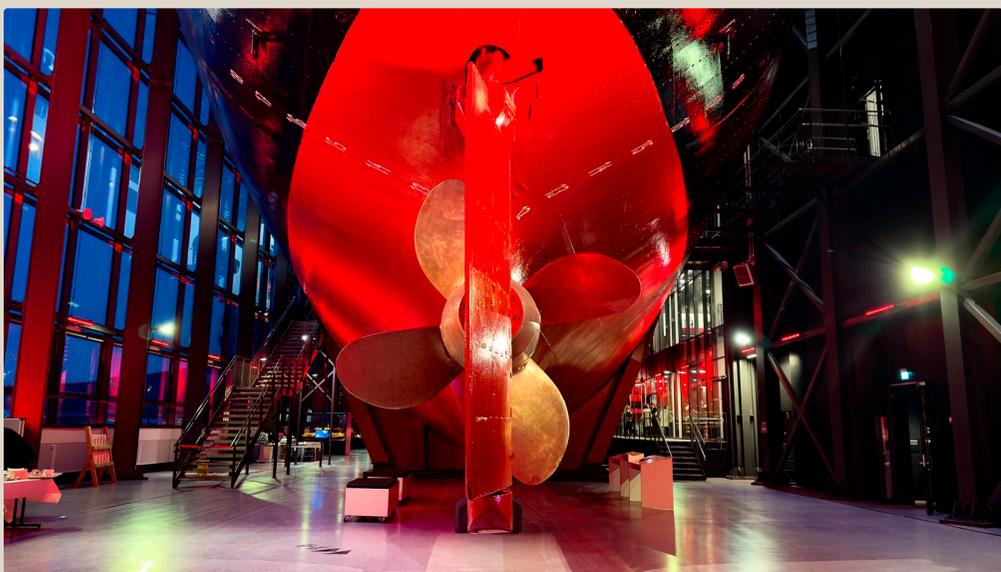
Day 6 - Raftsundet & Stokmarknes

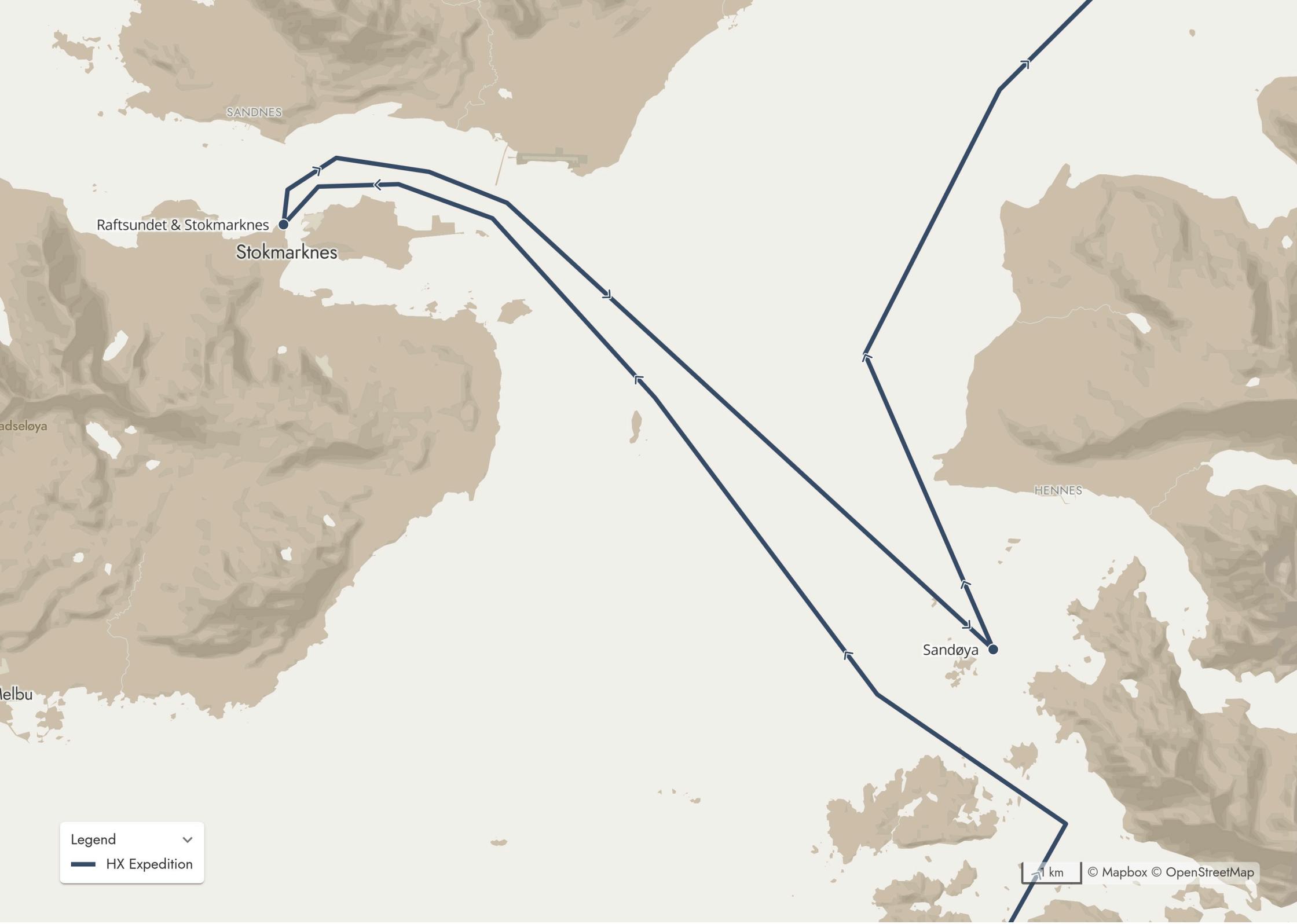
After our time around Ulvøya, we continued south through Raftsundet. Steep mountains framed the narrow strait, their snow-covered peaks and dark rockfaces standing out beautifully in the soft winter light. With calm seas accompanying us, it was the perfect opportunity to remain on deck and watch the landscape gradually unfold as we sailed onward.

At approximately 4:30pm, we arrived in Stokmarknes and docked for a special evening ashore. From the pier, we made our way directly to the Hurtigruten Museum, where we immersed ourselves in the

fascinating maritime history of Norway's coastal routes. The exhibitions and preserved ships provided a vivid glimpse into how these waters have served as a lifeline for coastal communities for generations.

The experience concluded with dinner in the unique surroundings of the museum, where history and hospitality blended seamlessly. It was a fitting end to a day filled with dramatic landscapes, scenic navigation, and meaningful insight into Norway's proud coastal heritage.





SANDNES

Raftsundet & Stokmarknes

Stokmarknes

adseføya

elbu

HENNES

Sandøya

Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 7 - Sandøya

Due to strong winds in the morning, we had to cancel the planned kayaking activity, as conditions were not safe for launching.

The landing, however, went ahead as scheduled, and the weather gradually improved during our time ashore. In the final hour, the clouds lifted and the sun appeared, turning the atmosphere completely around. What started as a grey Arctic morning ended in bright sunshine!

In the evening, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the beautiful expedition we

had shared. As the scheduled time approached, we made an announcement to postpone the event by 15 minutes — the most spectacular Northern Lights display of the voyage had just begun to unfold above the ship.

Many of us headed out on deck to take in the view as vibrant green curtains danced across the sky. The display was truly magical, and a few were so captivated by the moment that they even missed the farewell entirely choosing instead to remain under the Arctic sky, fully immersed in the beauty of the aurora.





Day 8 - Disembarkation in Tromsø

Early this morning, we returned to Tromsø, the 'Gateway to the Arctic', where light snowfall and a soft breeze greeted us alongside the quay. As the city slowly stirred to life, we gathered for one final breakfast, sharing last conversations and reflecting on the experiences that defined our voyage.

Before long, it was time for our guests to bid farewell to MS Spitsbergen, their home throughout this journey among fjords, islands, and wintry landscapes. From peaceful walks and bonfires in

the snow to dramatic mountain backdrops and unforgettable Northern Lights displays, each day had brought its own special moments.

Along the way, friendships were formed, challenges embraced, and countless Arctic memories created together.

Stepping ashore, they carried more than just photographs. They left with stories of crisp winter air, glowing skies, shared laughter, and the unique stillness that only the Far North can provide.



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