



## MS SPITSBERGEN

24 – 31 January 2026

Legend

HX Expedition

Vestfjorden

Svolvær

Leknes

Stokmarknes

Sortland

Hinnøya

Harstad

Narvik

Rohkunborri  
nasjonalpark

Finnsnes

Senja

Trondenes

Kiruna

30 km

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## Day 1 - Embarkation in Tromsø

Our winter voyage began today in Tromsø, under classic Arctic winter conditions. Our guests were greeted by an overcast sky, crisp cold air, and light snowflakes drifting through the harbor — an unmistakable welcome to Northern Norway in winter.

Throughout the afternoon, our guests boarded MS Spitsbergen, settling into their cabins and taking time to explore the ship. After dinner, they gathered for the mandatory safety drill, an important first step before setting off 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 we learned more about life on board and the plans for this winter expedition. As we departed Tromsø and the city lights slowly faded behind us, snow still falling softly, our journey was officially underway— an Arctic adventure beginning, shaped by winter and anticipation.





## Day 2 - Årøya

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We began our second day with a series of important briefings on board, including the mandatory kayaking and snowshoeing briefings as well as the boat safety briefing, preparing our guests for the expedition experiences ahead. While these took place, MS Spitsbergen sailed through the Nord-Troms region, offering wintery coastal scenery as mountains and shoreline slipped past outside.

Later in the day, we made our way to the island of Årøya for our first landing of the voyage. Snowfall intensified as we approached, creating a true Arctic winter atmosphere. Using a floating jetty, our guests disembarked and stepped ashore under heavy snowfall, which added both challenge and magic to the experience.

The first group of snowshoers headed into the forest with the Activity Guides, moving through snow-covered terrain and quiet woodland. At the same time, those who preferred a more independent pace followed a marked trail on their own, leading them deeper into the

forest and eventually to a bonfire set at the end of the path, where warmth and shelter awaited them.

The falling snow softened the landscape and muffled sound, making the entire experience feel immersive and distinctly northern. Back at the landing site, we gathered once more around the bonfires, warming up and enjoying hot soup before returning on board.

Despite the weather — or perhaps because of it — Årøya delivered a powerful first landing, setting the tone for our winter journey through Arctic Norway.

Later in the evening and once the snowfall eased, we were treated to the first Northern Lights of the trip. Soft green curtains appeared in the sky, slowly moving above us and illuminating the winter night. It was a quiet, magical stream of time — our guests' first real reminder that we were deep in the Arctic, and a perfect way to close their first day ashore.





Gammelsæter

Jøvik

Tranøya

Legend

— HX Expedition

500 m © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 3 - Tranøya

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We woke up with Tranøya ahead of us, ready for a full day ashore in this beautifully preserved corner of northern Norway. With stable winter conditions, we headed to land and were warmly welcomed by the owners of the historic farm, who invited us to step back in time and discover stories of life on the island from generations past.

Throughout the day, we spread out across a variety of activities. Two groups set off on snowshoe walks, exploring the snowy terrain and forested areas around the farm, while two groups took to the water for kayaking, enjoying a quiet and immersive perspective of the coastline and surrounding landscape. Between activities, many of us gathered around the bonfire, warming up while enjoying cinnamon buns and mulled wine and listening to stories shared inside the small church.

Toward the end of the landing, a small group of guests gathered by the jetty for an underwater drone session, offering a fascinating glimpse beneath the surface. From the shore, we explored the cold, clear waters around Tranøya, discovering an unexpected world hidden just below the waterline.

With a rich mix of culture, outdoor adventure, and quiet moments by the fire, Tranøya once again delivered a deeply atmospheric and rewarding day—one that captured the spirit of winter life in Arctic Norway.

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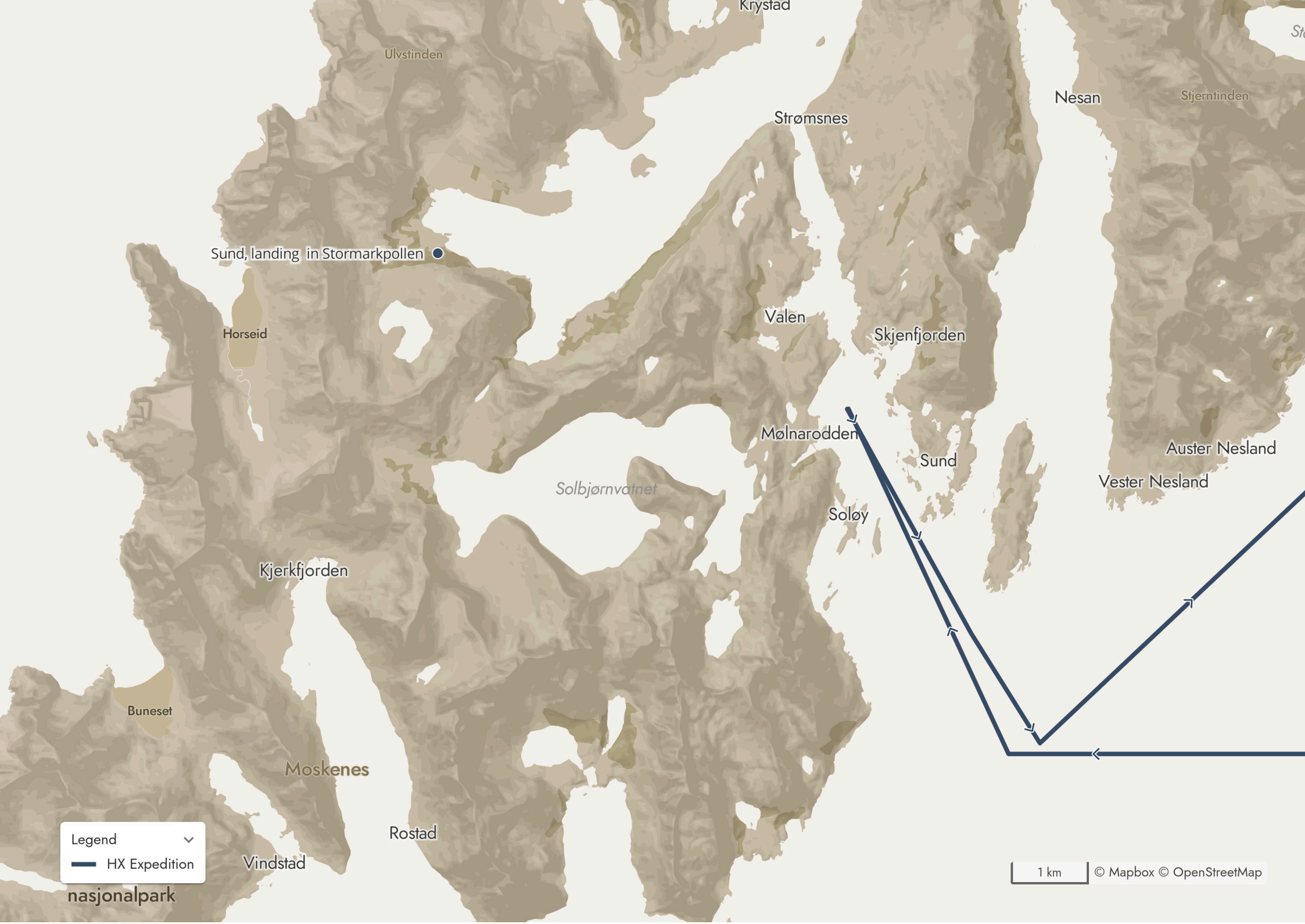
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Legend

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## Day 4 - Sund (landing in Stormarkpollen)

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We started the day with a proper snowfall where winter made its presence fully felt. The heavy snowfall reduced the visibility and gave the landscape a muted, monochrome look.

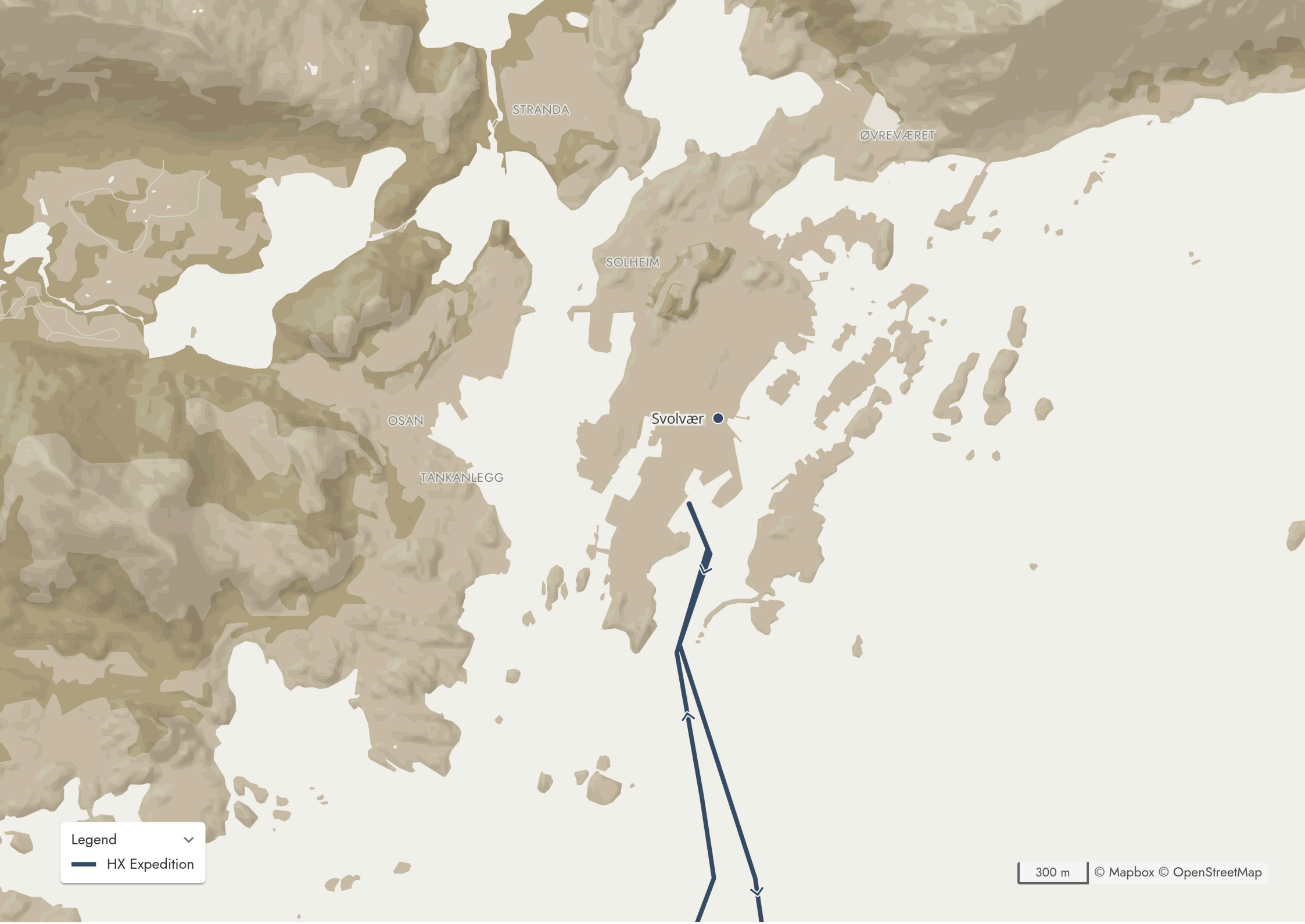
However, as quickly as it had arrived, the snowfall eased. Within an hour, the skies began to open, revealing clear conditions and allowing the dramatic scenery of the area to come into full view. Steep mountains, snow-covered slopes, and calm waters framed our approach, creating a striking contrast to the morning's conditions.

Once ashore, guests were able to fully enjoy the surroundings,

exploring the landing site at an unhurried pace and taking in the beauty of this part of the Lofoten coastline. The fresh snow, now lit by clearer skies, highlighted the contours of the landscape and added to the quiet, almost timeless atmosphere.

The rapid change from snowfall to clear weather perhaps made the experience feel especially memorable for our guests — a reminder of how dynamic winter in Northern Norway can be, and how rewarding it is when conditions open up to reveal the full grandeur of the Arctic landscape.





Legend

HX Expedition

## Day 5 - Svolvær

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The following day we arrived alongside in Svolvær, right in the heart of the Lofoten Islands, ready for a full day of exploration. During the morning, the weather changed dramatically within just a couple of hours—shifting from bright sunshine to a full blizzard, and then settling into a light snowfall. The rapid transitions highlighted the dynamic nature of winter in northern Norway and added a strong sense of atmosphere to the day.

With the ship secured early, we had ample time to make the most of everything this remarkable location has to offer. We spread out across the area according to our interests, choosing from a wide range of excursions. Some of us joined a Fishing Heritage Walk, learning about the deep connection between the people of Lofoten and the sea. Others enjoyed A Taste of Lofoten, sampling local products and flavors, while a number of guests set out on the Arctic Sea Eagle Experience, witnessing these impressive birds in their natural environment. Additional options included exploring the picturesque village of Henningsvær and embracing Nordic wellness with a sauna followed by a Polar Plunge.

As the day progressed and conditions calmed, we were able to fully enjoy both the activities and the dramatic scenery surrounding the town—towering mountains, sheltered harbors, and open coastal views at every turn. Svolvær once again offered an authentic glimpse into life in this northern corner of Norway and proved to be a memorable highlight of our time in the Lofoten Islands.

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Stokmarknes

Hadseløya

Melbu

Lonkanfjorden & Sandøya

Møysalen  
landskapsvernområde

Ulvøya

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Austvågøya

## Day 6 - Ulvøya (AM)

The next day we found ourselves in front of the island of Ulvøya, where conditions allowed for a small expedition cruise around this beautiful island. With stable weather and calm seas, guests headed out in our expedition boats to explore the coastline at a slower pace, enjoying the crisp Arctic air and the impressive mountain scenery that defines this part of Northern Norway.

Cruising close to shore, guests were able to appreciate the rugged landscape and the quiet character of this remote area, gaining a

sense of how life unfolds in some of Norway's more isolated coastal corners. The stillness of the surroundings, broken only by the sound of the boats and the water, made for a peaceful and immersive experience.

With great conditions and excellent visibility, Ulvøya offered a rewarding morning on the water — a simple yet memorable Arctic experience before continuing our journey along the Norwegian coast.



## Day 6 - Trollfjorden, Raftsundet & Stokmarknes (PM)

In the afternoon, we sailed into the narrow and dramatic Trollfjorden, where steep mountain walls rose sharply from the sea as MS Spitsbergen made its careful way inside. The passage felt almost impossibly tight at times, before opening up to reveal the calm inner part of the fjord. After taking in the scenery, we turned and continued our journey back out, setting course southward.

From there, we sailed along Raftsundet, enjoying the striking Arctic landscape that unfolded around us—snow-covered peaks, dark water, and the quiet rhythm of coastal navigation. As evening approached and darkness settled in, we were rewarded with a beautiful display of Northern Lights, visible from the decks as we made our way toward our next destination.

Later in the afternoon, we arrived in Stokmarknes, where a special evening awaited us. Guests stepped ashore to visit the Hurtigruten Museum, located just beside the ship. Inside, we explored the history of Norway's coastal routes and the vessels that have connected communities along this rugged shoreline for generations, before

enjoying a delicious dinner in this unique setting.

After dinner, as we returned to the ship, the sky once again came alive. The Northern Lights reappeared, dancing above Stokmarknes and providing a magical end to a day that combined iconic fjords, maritime heritage, and unforgettable Arctic nights.

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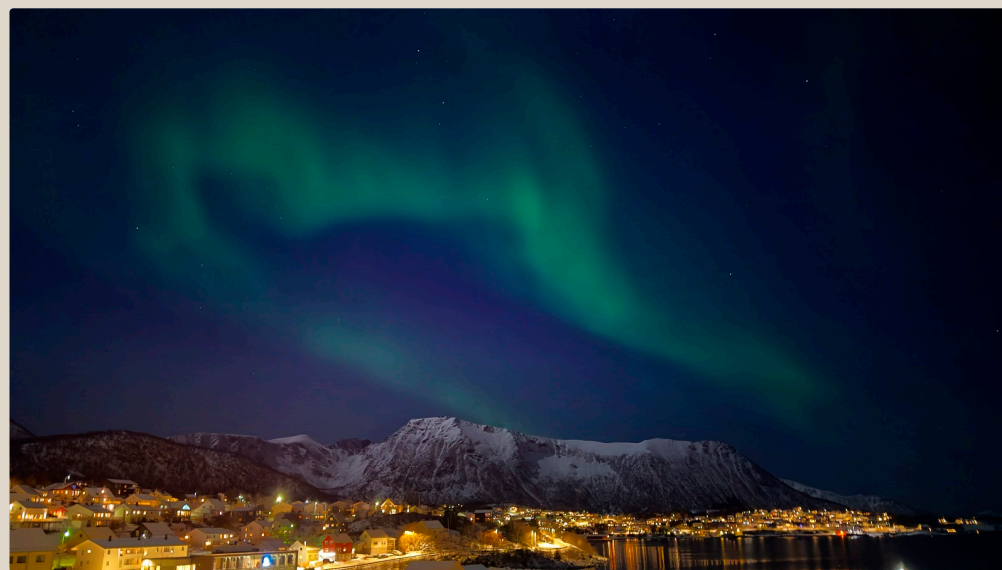
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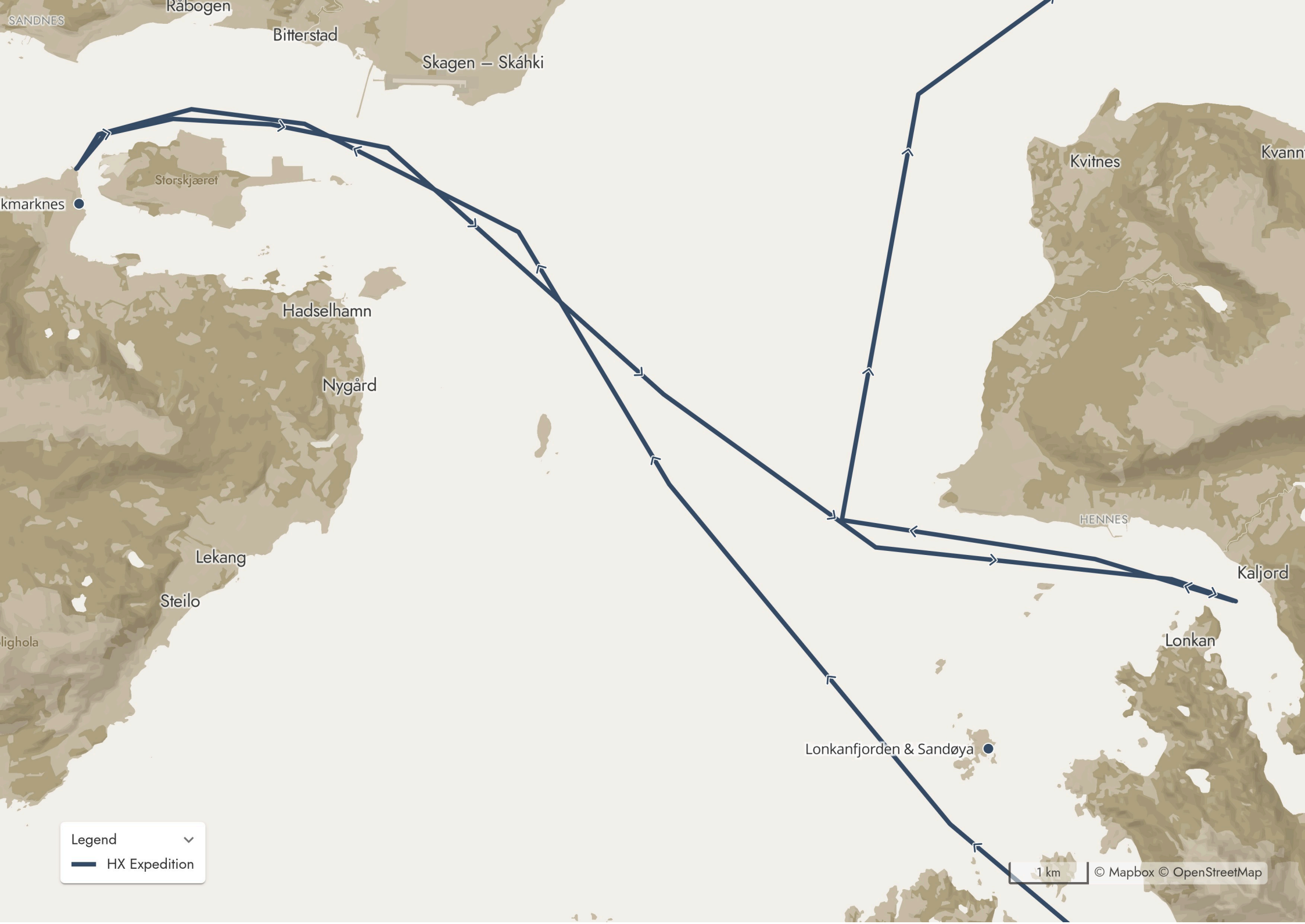
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SANDNES

Rabøen

Bitterstad

Skagen – Skáhki

Storskjæret

kmarknes

Kvitnes

Kvann

Hadselhamn

Nygård

Lekang

Steilo

lighola

HENNES

Kaljord

Lonkan

Lonkanfjorden & Sandøya

Legend

HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 7 - Lonkafjorden

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We began the day in Lonkanfjord, heading out in our expedition boats to explore the ice that forms at the very end of the fjord. Cruising close to the frozen edges, we observed the textures and shapes created by winter conditions, with calm waters allowing us to move slowly and take in the quiet beauty of this enclosed Arctic landscape.

After this morning adventure, we returned to the ship and set course for Sandøya, where we landed to enjoy a period of free roaming. Ashore, the guests explored at their own pace, walking along the white sand beach and surrounding terrain, and soaking in the stillness and the open views that make this place so special. The conditions allowed us to fully enjoy the landing, with time to wander, reflect, and connect with the landscape.

After lunch, back on board, it was time for one of the most anticipated moments of the voyage: the polar plunge. This time, instead of jumping in from the beach, our guests took the plunge directly from the ship. One by one, they embraced the icy water,

supported by the crew and greeted with cheers from those watching. The atmosphere was joyful and energetic, and the experience was widely enjoyed — an invigorating Arctic challenge that brought smiles, laughter, and a strong sense of accomplishment.

It was a day that combined exploration, freedom ashore, and shared moments on board— another memorable chapter in our winter journey through Northern Norway.

Later in the afternoon, we gathered once more on board for the Captain's farewell, a warm and celebratory occasion where we reflected on the days spent exploring Arctic Norway together. This was followed by the voyage video, prepared by our photographer, who beautifully captured the highlights of the journey — from snowy landings and expedition boat cruising to bonfires, polar plunges, and dancing Northern Lights. Watching these moments come together on screen was a perfect way for our guests to relive the experience as the voyage was coming to a close.





## Day 8 - Disembarkation in Tromsø

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Early in the morning, MS Spitsbergen arrived back in Tromsø, docking close to the city centre under clear skies and the soft light of the Arctic morning. With the journey quietly coming to an end, the ship slowed and the familiar sounds of the harbour signalled our return to land.

After breakfast, it was time to say for our guests to say goodbye — to the ship that had been their home, to the crew and Expedition Team

who guided them through fjords, islands, and winter landscapes, and to the fellow travellers with whom they shared bonfires, snow, silence, and the Northern Lights. It was a bittersweet goodbye, as over the past days, we experienced the true rhythm of Arctic Norway together: changing weather, dramatic scenery, moments of stillness, and unforgettable nights beneath the aurora.



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