



MS Spitsbergen

21 – 28.2.2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

Vestfjorden

Leknes

Svover

Stoknes

Sortland

Hinnøya

Harstad

Narvik

Rohkunborri  
nasjonalpark

Senja

Finnesnes

Trondisø

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Kiruna

Tromsø, Norway - Feb 21, 2026

## Day 1 - Tromsø

---

Our adventure began in Tromsø, where crisp Arctic air and a true winter atmosphere welcomed us on arrival. The harbor looked beautiful in the cold light as our guests made their way to the pier and stepped aboard MS Spitsbergen, the ship that would be their home for the days ahead. After settling into their cabins, many took time to explore the decks and common areas, excited to finally be there and ready for the journey to begin.

In the evening, we gathered for the mandatory safety briefing an important introduction to life on board. The Captain then warmly

welcomed us, followed by presentations from the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader, who shared insights about the ship and the voyage, and what we could look forward to while exploring northern Norway.

As we sailed away from Tromsø, the city slowly faded into the Arctic twilight. The sea was calm, giving us a smooth and peaceful start to what promised to be a memorable expedition along the Norwegian coast.

Årøya, Norway - Feb 22, 2026



Ytre Karlsøy marine  
verneområde

Nordkvaløya

Vannøya

Arnøya

Skjervøy

Reinøya

Storslett

Kvaløysletta

Tromsø

Tromsø

Årøya

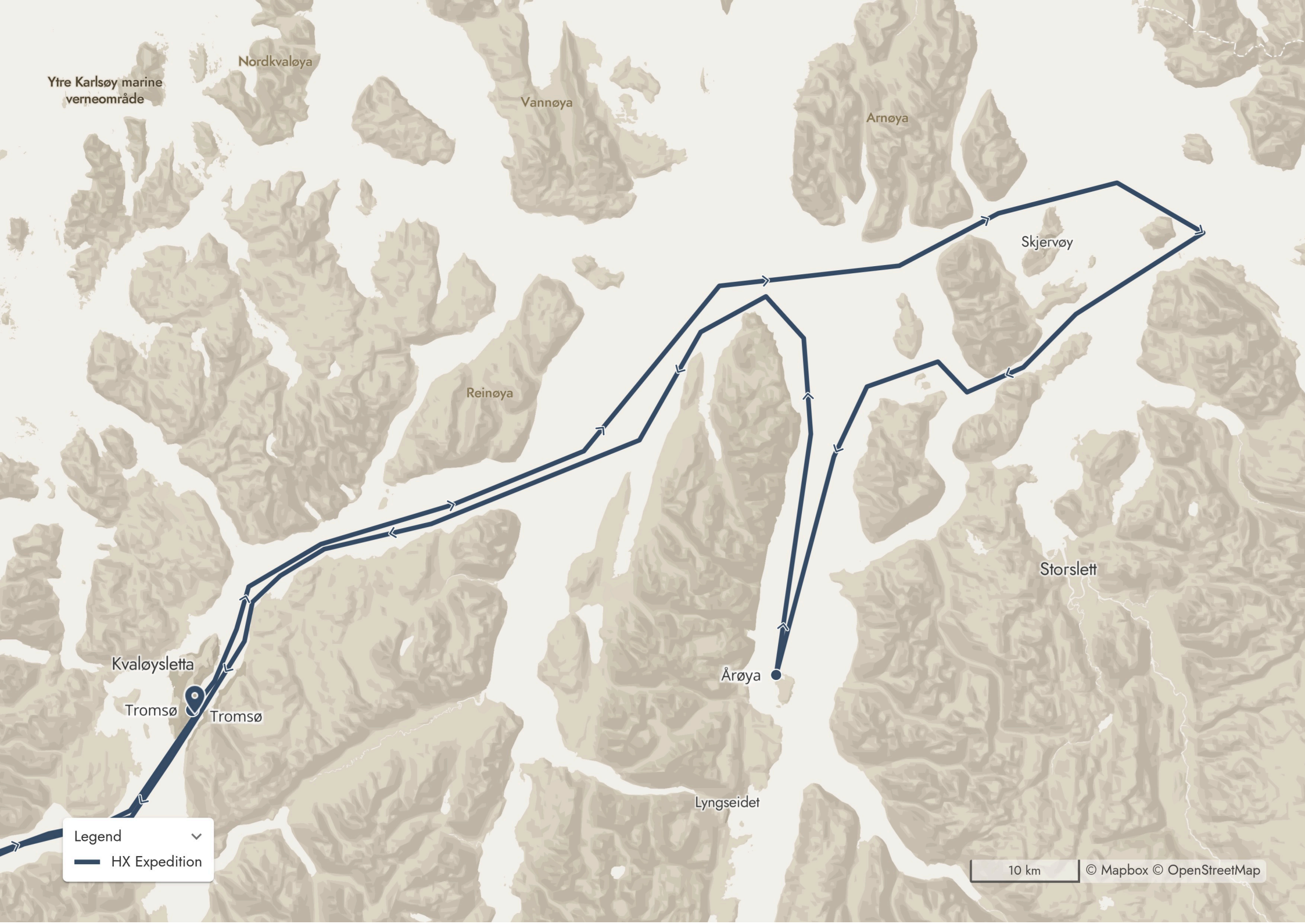
Lyngseidet

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 2 - Årøya

---

On our second day, we arrived at Årøya under clear, crisp winter skies and calm conditions, ideal for our first landing of the voyage. With fresh Arctic air and excellent visibility, we stepped off the floating jetty onto the snow-covered island, fully immersing ourselves in the experience of being in the Far North.

Once ashore, everyone explored the landscape in their own way. One group laced up snowshoes and ventured into the forest with the Activity Guides, moving steadily through the quiet, snowy terrain. The hike was stunning, but the highlight came at the very end, an exhilarating slide down a snowy hill. Others wandered independently along marked paths, enjoying the serenity of the surroundings at their own pace.

Some climbed the nearby hilltop viewpoint, reaching it as darkness

settled over the Arctic. While distant views were hidden by the night, the atmosphere was unforgettable, standing together in stillness, surrounded by snow and trees, guided only by our headlamps and the faint glow above. The deep silence of the Arctic made the moment feel truly special.

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

With calm weather, peaceful scenery, and a perfect balance of adventure and quiet reflection, Årøya offered a magical and memorable first day ashore in Arctic Norway.





Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 3 - Tranøya

---

On our third day, we arrived at Tranøya to explore its historic settlement and the surrounding winter landscape. Stepping ashore, we wandered through the traditional farm area, and our guests learned about life in this remote part of Northern Norway and gained insight into the resilience and seasonal rhythms that shape coastal communities.

Two groups set out on snowshoe hikes, moving steadily through snowy fields and quiet forest trails, fully immersed in the stillness of the Arctic winter. Meanwhile, others launched kayaks, gliding across calm waters and taking in the rugged coastline from a serene, up-close perspective.

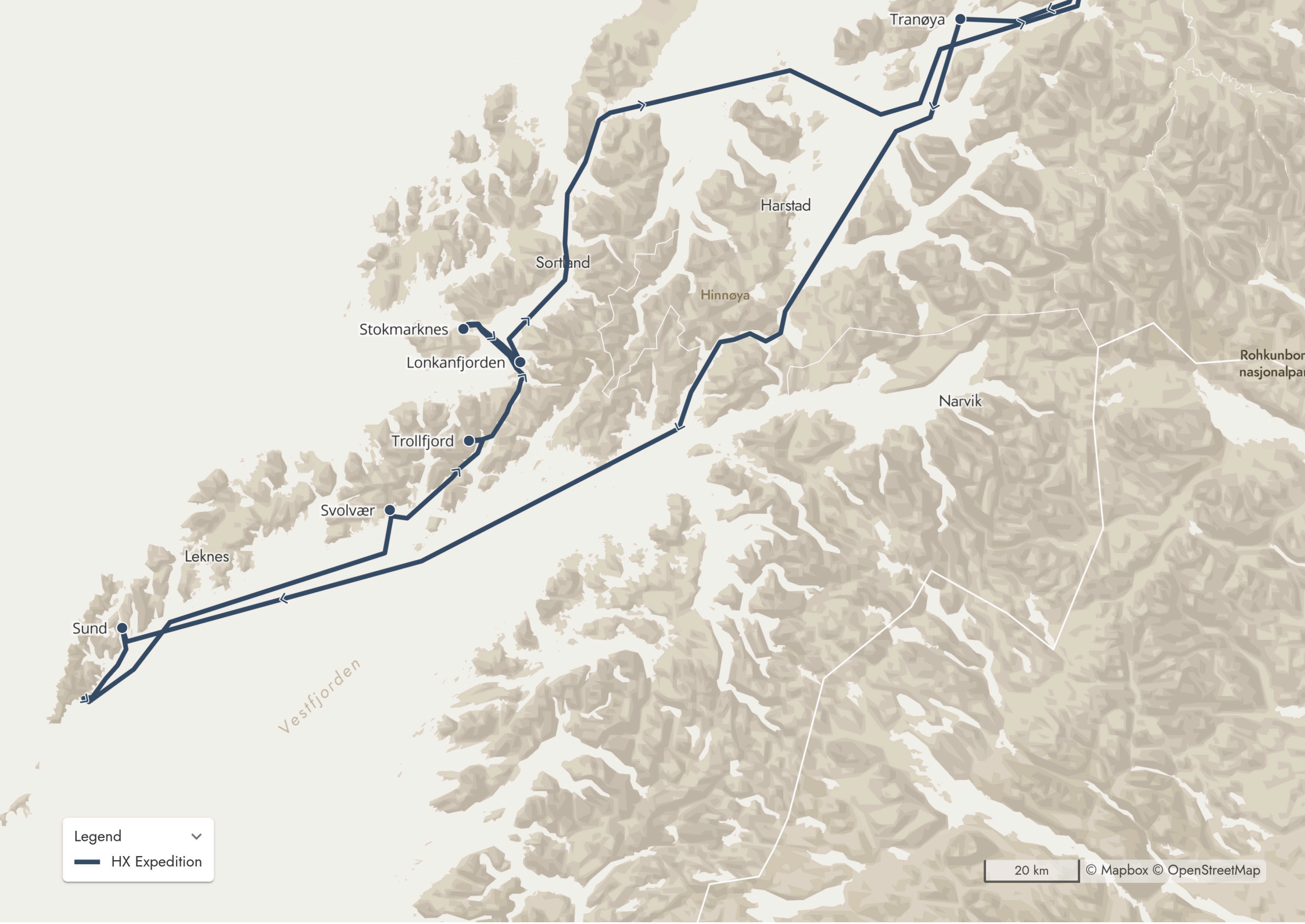
Back near the settlement, some enjoyed a heartwarming moment with

the local sheep, cuddling them and savouring the cosy experience.

Later in the afternoon, several guests gathered by the jetty for an underwater drone session. Watching the live images from beneath the cold, clear waters revealed a hidden marine world, adding a fascinating new dimension to their visit.

As evening fell and darkness embraced the island, the day offered one final highlight: the first Northern Lights of our voyage. Soft green arcs slowly danced across the sky, drawing many of us outside to witness the spectacle. It was a magical introduction to our Arctic nights and a perfect conclusion to a full and memorable day on Tranøya.





Legend

— HX Expedition

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 4 - Sund

---

On our fourth day we arrived in Sund, nestled along the rugged coastline of the Lofoten Islands, an area famous for its dramatic mountains rising sharply from the sea. We were met with perfect conditions, calm waters and no wind, making for an effortless and relaxed landing.

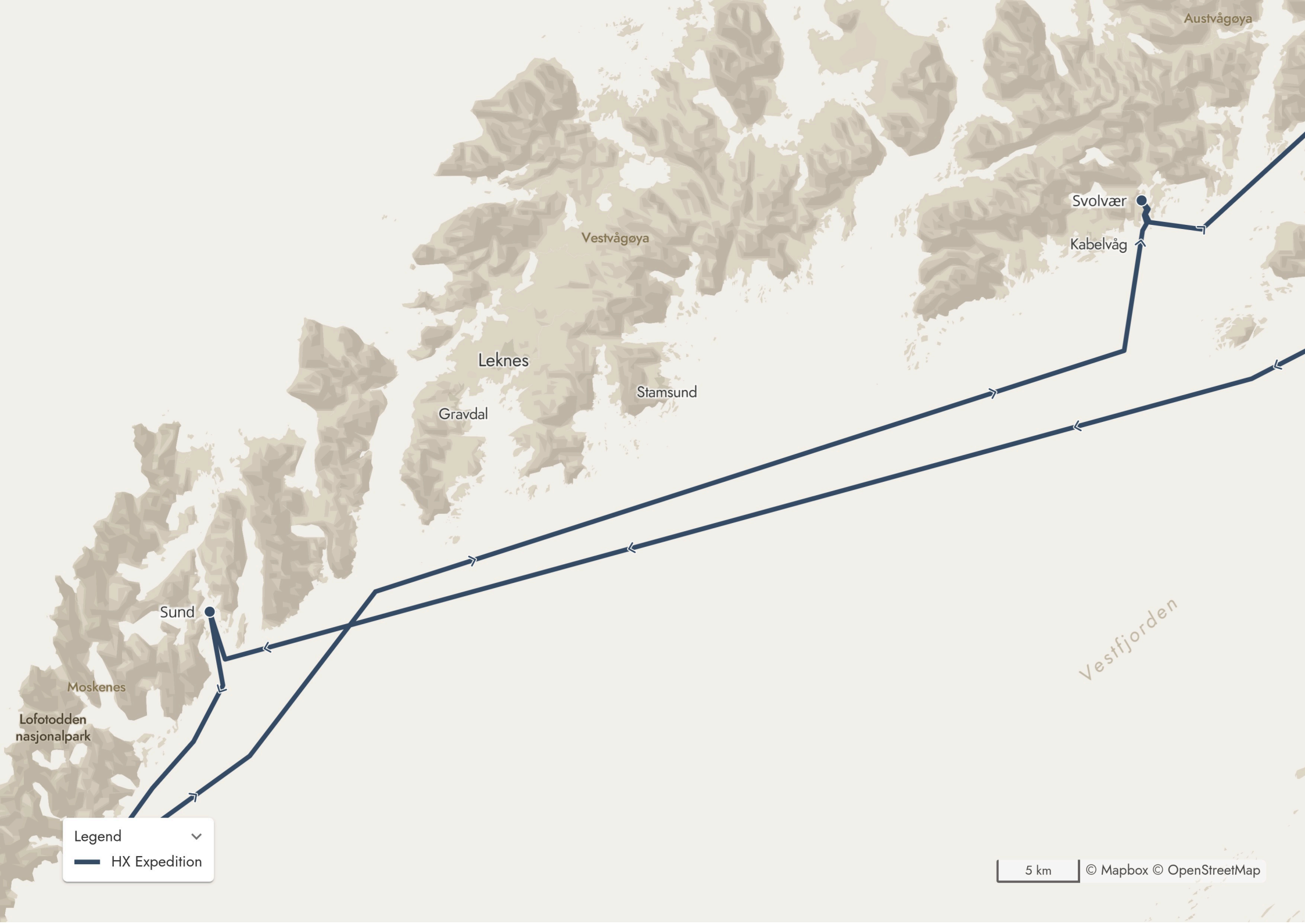
Ashore, we explored at a leisurely pace, soaking in the quiet beauty around us. The still air allowed the landscape to unfold fully, snow-covered ground, jagged mountain peaks, and the distinctive character of the Lofoten coastline. With time to wander and simply take in the scenery, the landing felt serene, offering an opportunity to

connect with the rhythms of this northern environment.

As evening descended, the day offered one final reward. The Northern Lights made their first appearance of the voyage. Soft green arcs gradually emerged in the sky, drawing many of us outside. After days of anticipation, seeing the aurora, even in its subtle form, felt like a small celebration and a hopeful glimpse of the Arctic nights ahead.

A tranquil day in Lofoten, crowned by our first Northern Lights, made Sund a truly memorable and atmospheric stop on our journey.





Austvågøya

Svolvær

Kabelvåg

Vestvågøya

Leknes

Stamsund

Gravdal

Sund

Moskenes

Lofotodden  
nasjonalpark

Vestfjorden

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 5 - Svolvær

---

We arrived early in Svolvær, the lively heart of the Lofoten, under heavy, snowy skies. Thick flakes fell steadily throughout the day, blanketing the town in fresh white, yet despite the wintry scene, it was actually our warmest day so far, with temperatures reaching 0°C (32°F).

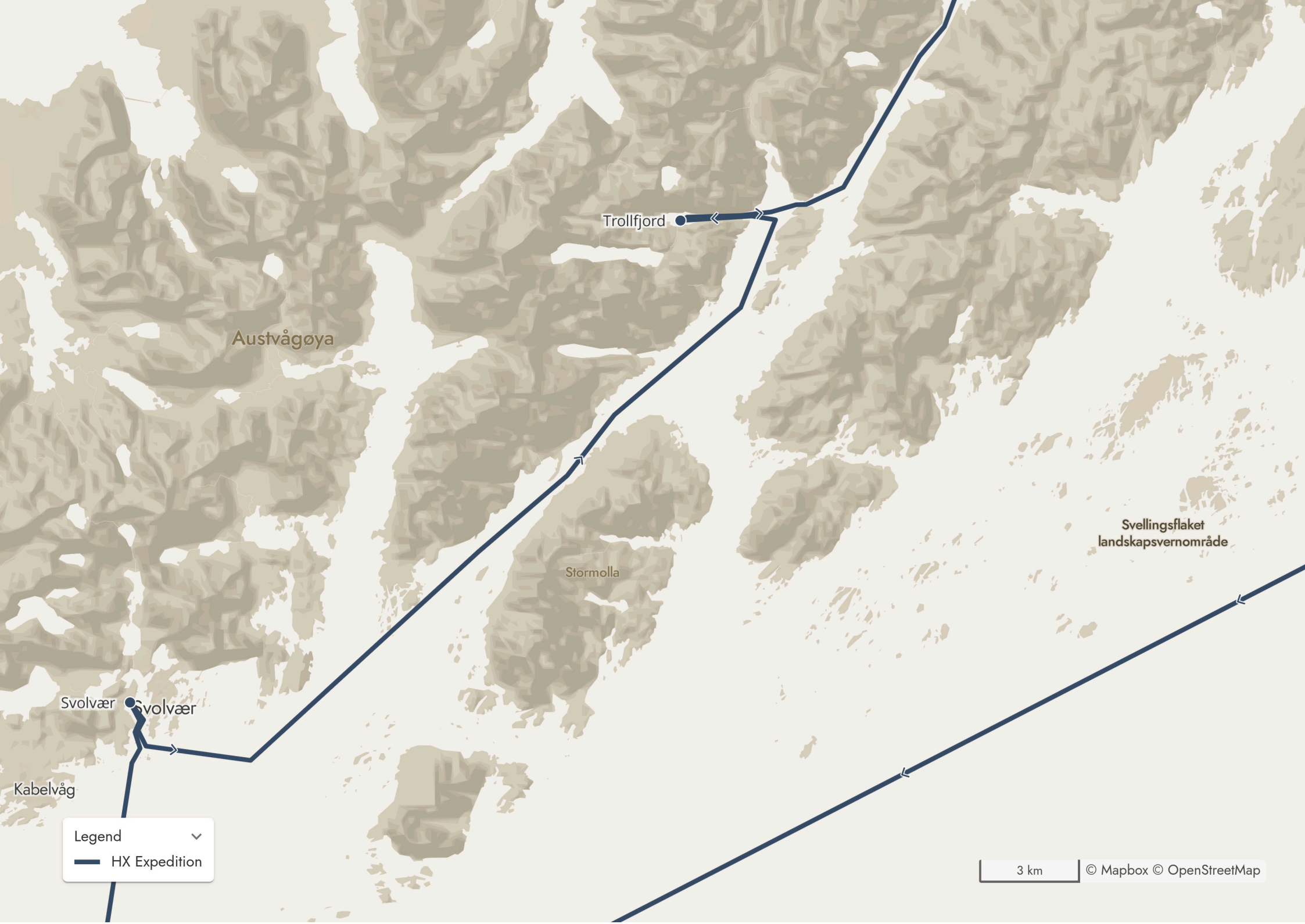
With the ship docked, we stepped ashore ready to explore. Guests chose from a variety of excursions. Some joined the Fishing Heritage Walk, discovering the region's deep ties to the sea and the cod fisheries that have shaped Lofoten's identity for generations. Others took part in the Arctic Sea Eagle Experience, coming face to face with one of the north's most iconic birds.

For those seeking a bracing Nordic experience, the combination of a sauna and polar plunge offered an invigorating highlight.

As evening fell, the day was crowned by another spectacular display of the Northern Lights. Soft green arcs danced across the sky, drawing many of us outside to marvel at the aurora and celebrate the magic of the Arctic night.

Back on board, the atmosphere remained lively. We gathered for the HX Foundation auction, supporting important environmental and community initiatives, followed by a fun pub quiz that brought everyone together for a relaxed and entertaining end to a snowy yet surprisingly warm day in Svolvær.





Svolveær Svolveær

Kabelvåg

Austvågøya

Stormolla

Trollfjord

Svellingsflaket  
landskapsvernområde

Legend

 HX Expedition

3 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 6 - Trollfjord

---

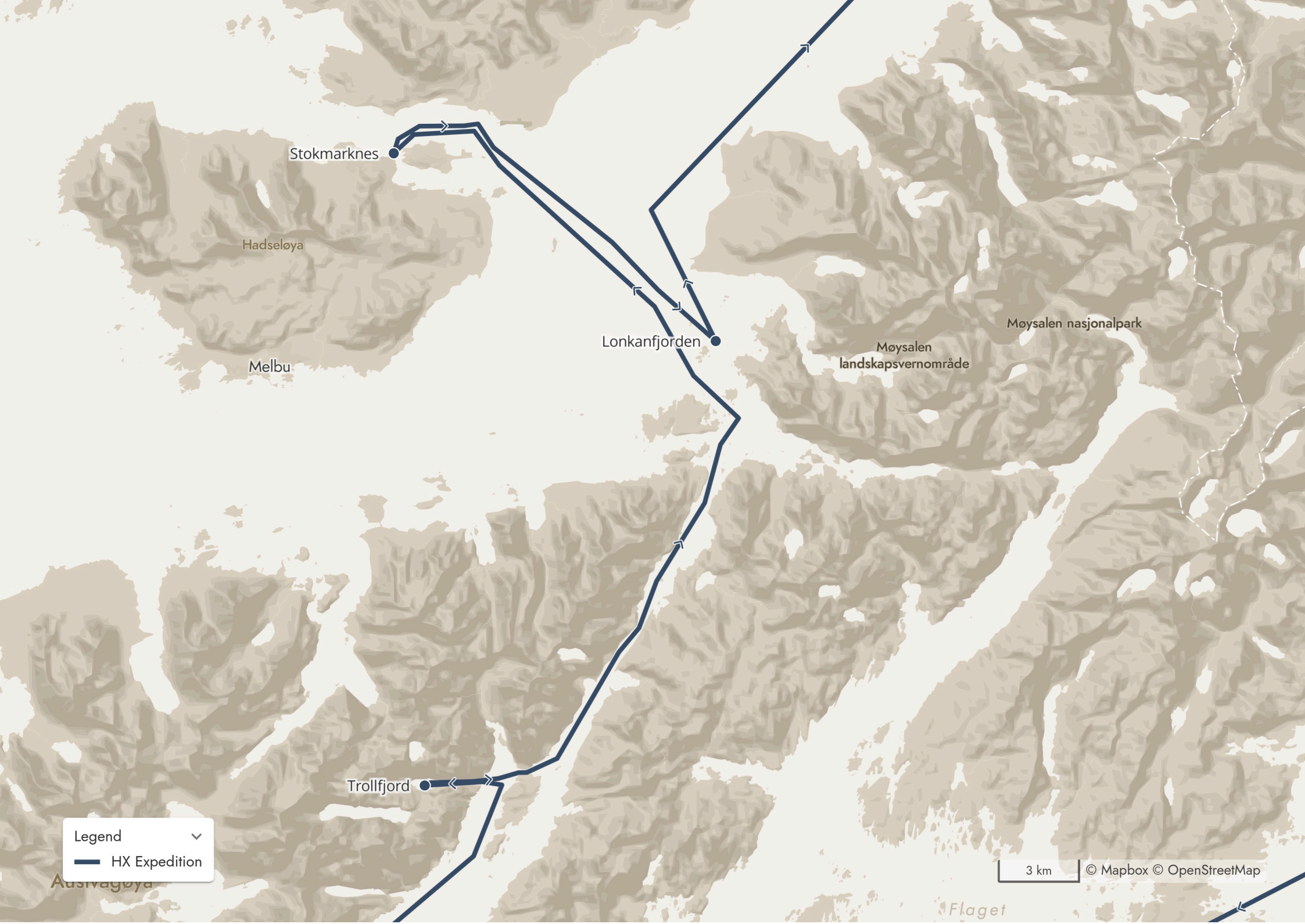
We began the morning approaching dramatic Trollfjord. Earlier, avalanche warnings had kept us from entering fully, but by the time we arrived, the risk had passed, and we were able to make it into the fjord. Stepping inside, everyone on deck could take in the breathtaking scene: steep rock walls and snow-covered slopes rising straight from the sea, creating a powerful and unmistakably Arctic atmosphere.

Afterwards, we continued toward Ulvøya to prepare for our expedition boat activities. By the time we launched, the skies were clear, visibility was excellent, and we were even treated to moments of sunshine.

Experiencing the fjord at water level offered our guests an entirely new perspective. Towering mountains, rugged shorelines, and fresh snow appeared even more dramatic up close, and the shifting light highlighted details that had been hidden earlier in the morning.

Meanwhile, our kayakers set out to explore independently, paddling across calm waters and enjoying the peaceful stillness of the fjord. With clear skies and smooth seas, both the small boat cruise and kayaking became a true highlight of the day, providing a striking contrast to the cautious start of the morning.





Stokmarknes

Hadseløya

Melbu

Lonkanfjorden

Møysalen  
landskapsvernområde

Møysalen nasjonalpark

Trollfjord

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Flaget

## Day 6 - Raftsundet & Stokmarknes

---

After our time around Ulvøya, we sailed south through Raftsundet. Steep mountains lined the narrow passage, their snow-covered peaks and dark rockfaces beautifully illuminated by the soft winter light. With calm seas beneath us, it was the perfect opportunity to stay on deck and watch the landscape gradually unfold as we continued our journey.

Around 4:30pm, we arrived in Stokmarknes and docked for a special evening ashore. From the pier, we headed straight to the Hurtigruten Museum, where we delved into the fascinating maritime history of

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

The evening concluded with dinner in the museum's unique surroundings, where history and hospitality came together seamlessly. It was a perfect way to end a day filled with dramatic landscapes, scenic sailing, and a deeper appreciation of Norway's proud coastal heritage.





arknes  
Lonkanf

Legend

— HX Expedition

Rødkuborri  
nasjonalpark

20 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 7 - Sandøya

---

Strong winds in the morning made conditions challenging, but we still managed to land successfully. Twelve brave guests took part in a refreshing polar plunge, adding an adventurous highlight to the day.

While ashore, the weather gradually improved. By the final hour, the clouds lifted and the sun broke through, transforming the grey Arctic morning into bright sunshine and giving the island an almost 'beach day' feel.

In the evening, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell, a wonderful

opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible expedition we had shared. Just as the event was about to begin, we made a quick announcement to delay it by 15 minutes — the most spectacular Northern Lights display of the voyage was unfolding above the ship.

Many rushed out onto deck to watch as vibrant green curtains danced across the Arctic sky. The display was mesmerizing, and a few guests were so captivated by the aurora that they skipped the farewell entirely, choosing instead to remain under the night sky, fully immersed in the magic of the moment.



Tromsø, Norway - Feb 28, 2026



## Day 8 - Tromsø

---

The time arrived for us to sadly, we returned to Tromsø, the 'Gateway to the Arctic', greeted by a light snowfall and a gentle breeze along the quay. As the city slowly came to life, we shared one final breakfast together, exchanging last conversations and reflecting on the experiences that had defined our voyage.

Soon it was time to bid farewell from 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 offered its own special moments. Along the way, friendships were formed, challenges embraced, and countless Arctic memories created together.



[logbook.travelmap.net/20260221-sbnor2622](http://logbook.travelmap.net/20260221-sbnor2622)