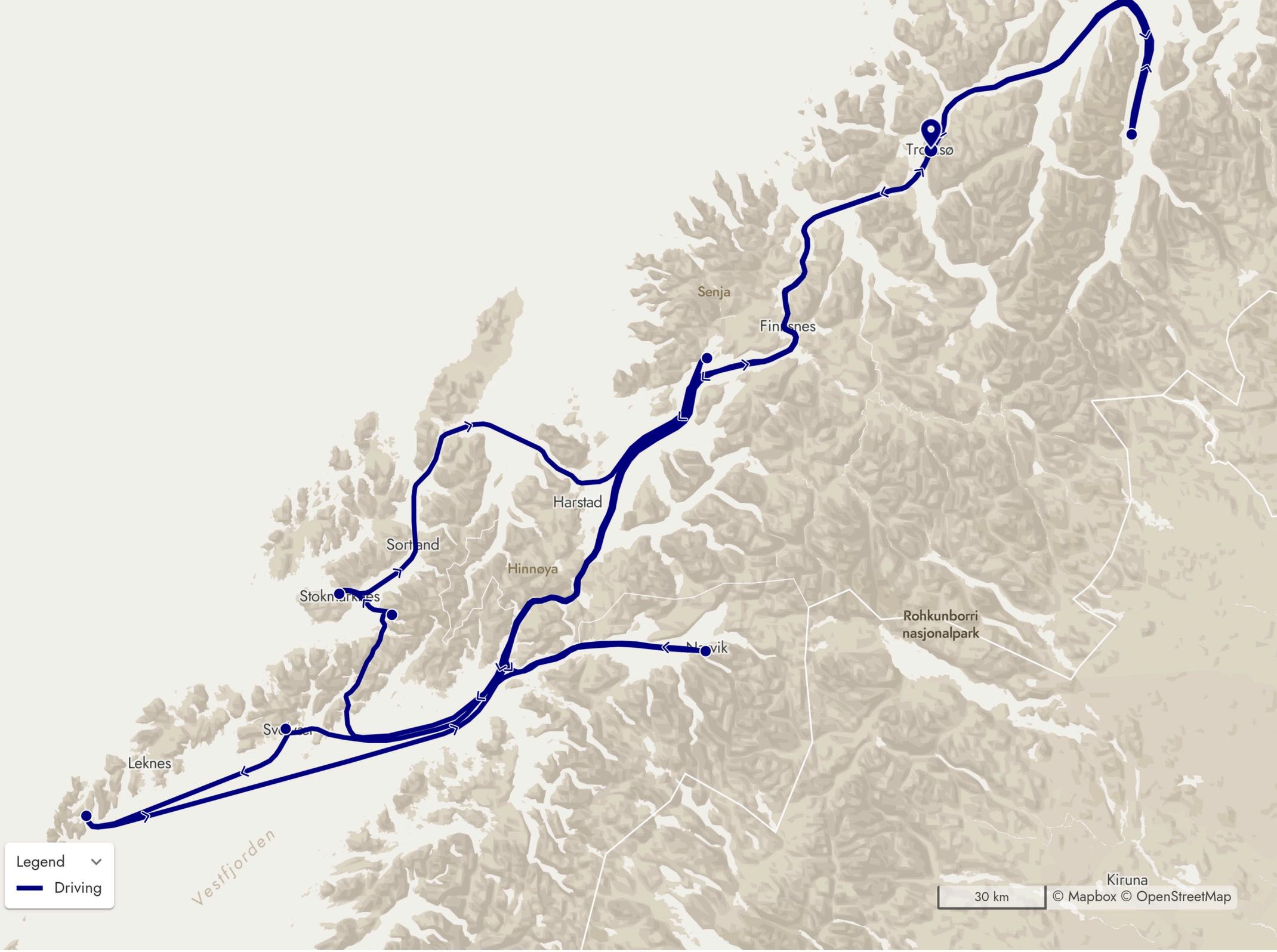




MS Spitsbergen – Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern
Lights

14 – 21.3.2016



Tronsø

Senja

Finnesnes

Harstad

Hinnøya

Nærøya

Stokmarknes

Sortland

Sværre

Leknes

Rohkunborri
nasjonalpark

Kiruna

Legend

 Driving

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Vestfjorden



Day 1 - Tromsø

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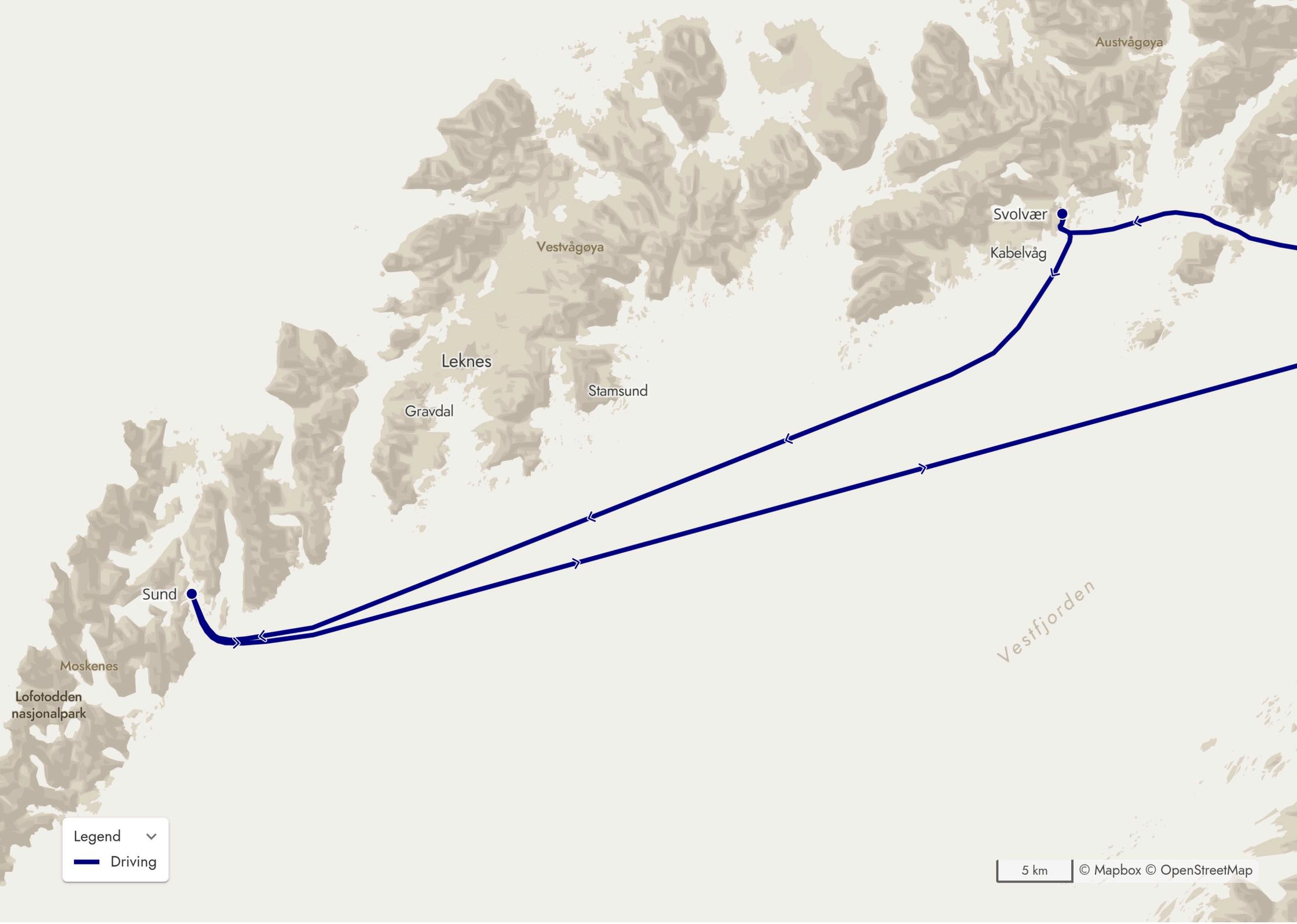
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Svolvær, Norway - Mar 15, 2026



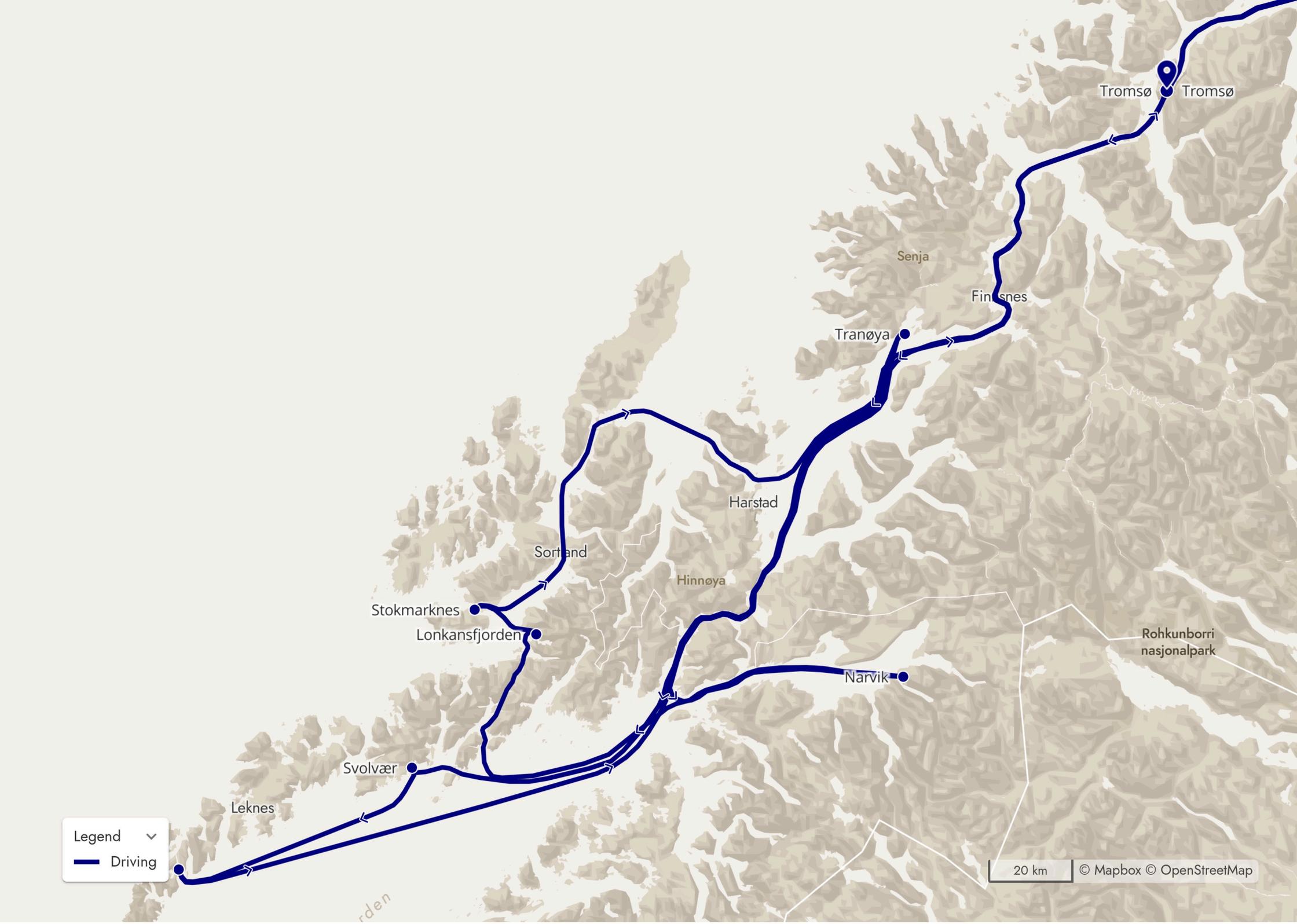


Legend ▾

— Driving

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Tromsø

Senja

Finesnes

Tranøya

Harstad

Sortland

Hinnøya

Stokmarknes

Lonkansfjorden

Narvik

Rohkunborri nasjonalpark

Svolveær

Leknes

Legend

Driving

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 2 - Svolvær

The MS Spitsbergen departed from Tromsø and made its way toward Svolvær under the careful guidance of the captain. Thanks to skillful adjustments to the itinerary, the ship remained largely sheltered from the worst of the North Atlantic conditions. Apart from a gentle residual swell, the journey was remarkably comfortable given the stormy weather affecting the wider region. We arrived alongside at 14:00 for our first port of the voyage.

During our stay, passengers enjoyed a selection of activities designed to showcase the beauty and culture of the area. Some relaxed in a traditional sauna, taking in the crisp Arctic air between sessions. Others joined a heritage walk, learning about the rich history and traditions of the region. A popular option was the scenic walk to a

nearby fishing village, where guests experienced authentic coastal life.

While alongside, the captain continuously assessed the weather conditions minute by minute, carefully monitoring the evolving situation. Based on these updates, a decision was made to adjust the schedule and proceed further south to Sund. This change in plan ensured we stayed clear of the worst of the storm while maintaining a meaningful itinerary for the voyage. Later in the trip, we learned that on the day we had originally planned to land in Sund, the storm had damaged several fishing buildings and summer houses, confirming the importance of the captain's decision.



Day 3 - Sund

On the third day of the voyage, we sail westward, continuing our exploration of the Lofoten Islands. Passing the small hamlet of Sund, MS Spitsbergen enters a narrow inlet that opens into a fjord encircled by snow-custed mountains. Here, we begin our first expedition landing.

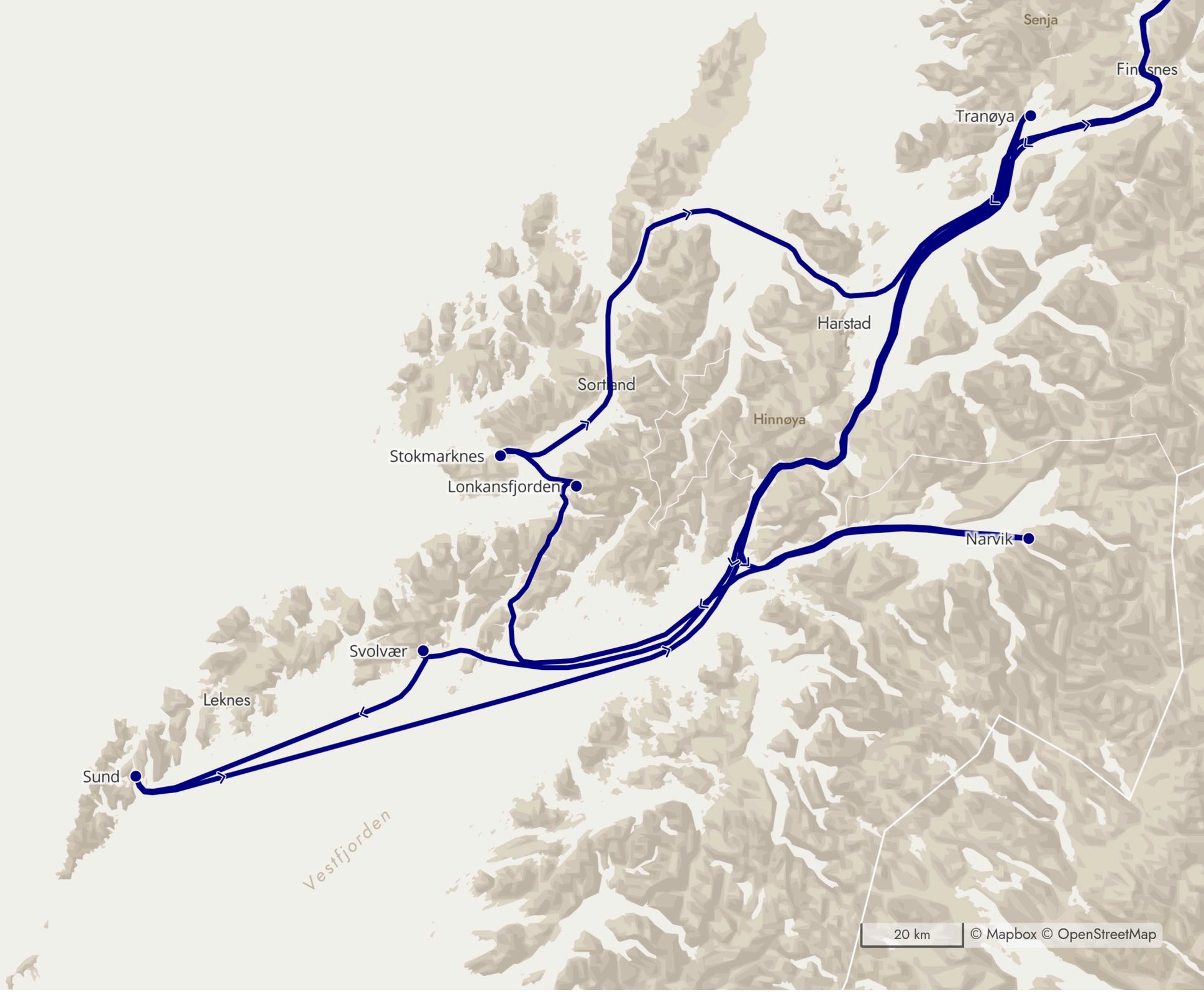
After half an hour of scenic cruising by Zodiac, we come ashore. The group spreads out, each choosing their own way to explore. Some set off on a longer hike, rewarded with views of the surrounding lakes. Others join the science team for a naturalist walk, discovering the unique qualities of local lichens, mosses, and plant life. A few wander at their own pace, perhaps seeking solitude in the landscape. Back at

the landing site, warm soup awaits everyone upon their return.

Meanwhile, the expedition is quietly observed by mountain hares. Curious about the visitors to their home, they venture closer, occasionally spotted in their white winter coats against the emerging colors of spring.

In the evening, the ship sails into the strait of Raftsundet. Midway through, MS Spitsbergen enters the dramatic Trollfjord. Searchlights illuminate the towering mountain walls as we glide into the narrow, 2.5-kilometer-long fjord. There, the ship turns gracefully before retracing its path outward. The voyage then continues northward.





Legend

 Driving

Day 4 - Tranøya

On our fourth day, we arrived at Tranøya, stepping ashore to discover its historic settlement and the stark beauty of its winter surroundings.

Wandering through the old farmstead, we got a sense of what life is like in this isolated part of Northern Norway, shaped by harsh seasons and a deep connection to the sea.

Some of us headed out on snowshoes, trekking steadily across snow-covered fields and into hushed woodland, surrounded by the calm of the Arctic landscape. Others took to the water by kayak, gliding along the still coastline and taking in the rugged scenery from a completely different angle.

Back on land, a few of us paused for a gentler experience—spending

time with the resident sheep, which turned out to be an unexpectedly warm and cheerful highlight.

Later in the day, attention turned to the water once more as an underwater drone was launched from the jetty. The live feed revealed a surprisingly vibrant world beneath the icy surface, offering a glimpse of marine life hidden from view.

As night settled in, the day closed with something truly special. The sky came alive with our first sighting of the Northern Lights—soft ribbons of green slowly stretching overhead. It drew us outside into the cold, standing in quiet awe. A fitting end to an unforgettable day on Tranøya, and a magical beginning to the nights ahead.





Finesnes

Tranøya

Bardufos

Harstad

Langøya

Sortland

Hinnøya

Stokmarknes

Lonkansfjorden

Narvik

Legend

— Driving

Day 5 - Narvik

We spent today in Narvik, a historic harbor town with strong ties to Norway's seafaring past and the dramatic events of World War II. Despite relatively mild temperatures, patches of ice underfoot were a clear reminder that we were still deep within the Arctic winter.

Guests could choose between two different excursions ashore. One group opted for a more demanding hike into the mountains, starting with a short transfer before ascending through the rugged terrain. As they climbed higher, wide views opened up across the fjord and over the town. Meanwhile, others took a gentler route, strolling through Narvik and continuing into nearby woodland, where a series of viewpoints offered striking perspectives over the harbor.

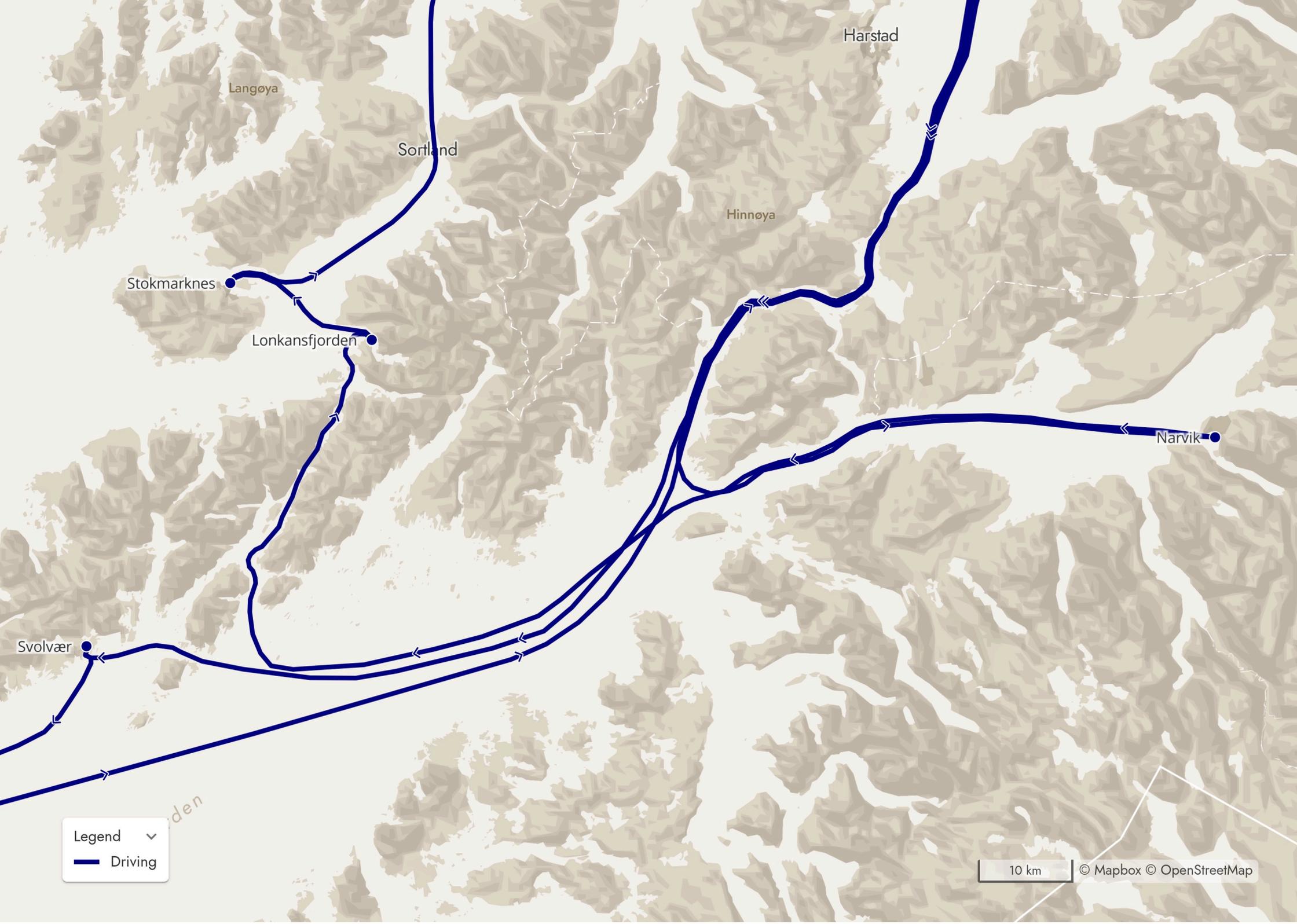
While these explorations were underway, the expedition's science team took to the water. Launching a small boat, they used an

underwater drone to explore the harbor floor, capturing footage of shipwrecks that lie beneath the surface. Narvik is home to a remarkable collection of wartime wrecks from the 1940 battles, their remains preserved in the cold, clear water as a quiet reminder of the past.

In the afternoon, everyone reconvened on board for a set of informative talks. One session focused on Sámi culture and traditions, while another gave guests the chance to view and discuss the underwater recordings gathered earlier in the day.

With its blend of striking landscapes, active exploration, and layered history—both visible and hidden beneath the sea—Narvik proved to be a memorable and thought-provoking stop on the journey.





Langøya

Sortland

Harstad

Hinnøya

Stokmarknes

Lonkansfjorden

Narvik

Svolvær

Legend

— Driving

Day 6 - Lonkansfjorden

This morning in Lonkansfjorden, the conditions gave us a real taste of what expedition travel is all about. The wind was strong and constantly shifting, with sudden gusts sweeping through the fjord and creating an ever-changing environment around us. It added an edge of unpredictability to the day and reminded us just how dynamic the Arctic can be.

Even with these challenges, we went ahead with a scenic cruising session, carefully navigating the conditions and making the most of the experience. The movement of the ship and the force of the wind brought a heightened sense of awareness, keeping everyone attentive

and involved. It was a chance to witness the raw power of nature up close, rather than from a distance.

Throughout the operation, teamwork played a key role. Clear communication and adaptability ensured everything ran smoothly, despite the demanding conditions. The shifting winds required constant adjustment, encouraging a strong sense of cooperation and focus among both guests and crew.

In the end, the morning felt both invigorating and rewarding—a reminder that some of the most memorable moments come when nature sets the terms, and we rise to meet them.



Day 6 - Stokmarknes

Later in the afternoon, we reached Stokmarknes in calm and settled conditions. The air was still, with no wind to speak of, and only a light drizzle passing through at intervals—just enough to give the town a quiet, reflective atmosphere as we came alongside.

Our main visit took us to the Hurtigruten Museum, where we delved into the story of Norway's coastal voyages and the ships that have connected communities along this rugged shoreline for generations. Walking through the exhibits offered a deeper appreciation of the region's maritime traditions, blending history, innovation, and everyday life at sea.

Afterwards, the pace slowed as we gathered at the onboard restaurant, taking time to relax and share conversations about the day's experiences. It was a chance to warm up, reflect, and simply enjoy each other's company in a comfortable setting.

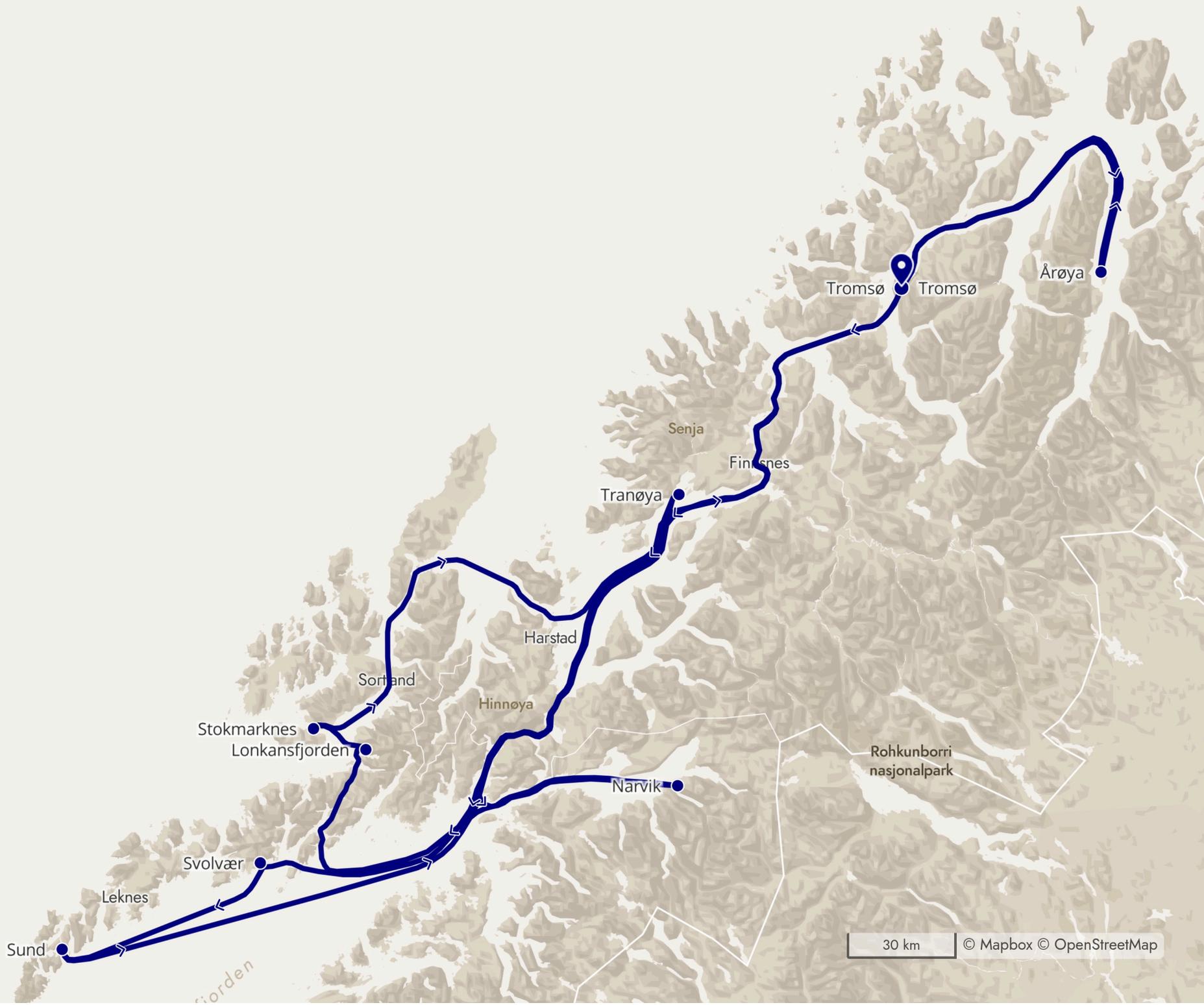
Before leaving Stokmarknes, we came together once more for a farewell waffle simple, but meaningful. It provided a cosy and lighthearted end to our time ashore, rounding off the visit on a warm note.

Altogether, the day struck a satisfying balance between exploration and ease, combining elements of expedition travel with cultural discovery and moments of genuine connection.



Legend 

 Driving



Day 7 - Årøya

On the morning of our last day together of adventure in Norway, we woke up to a white sky and snow-covered mountains again. Winter was back – at least it seemed like it. We spent the morning onboard, watching Underwater drone footage and learning more about Norway's coastal ecosystems with Charlotte, as well as having a good time learning Norwegian folk dance with Magnus. Others were simply taking in the scenery and enjoying the fresh air (of which there was plenty: the wind continued to be strong and reminded us that nature is powerful).

In the afternoon, we explored the small island of Årøya in the Lyngen Alps region. We had good visibility and a nice, long, if a little bit adventurous, walk up through the still mostly snow-covered landscape to the viewpoint, where we could see and photograph the imposing surrounding mountains even better. In contrast, something tiny caught our eyes as well: a fluffy lemming, who was busy chomping away on grass, minding its own business and letting us take many photos of it.

A true delight. We enjoyed our last bonfires, both down at the landing site and on top of the hill. Before heading back to the ship, the culinary team provided us with delicious reindeer and vegetarian sausages.

Even if it was windy, we were able to have one kayak group. We sought shelter inside the bay, launched from the jetty. The wind proved to be a bit of challenge to our guests, but they handled the situation well, also because the watchful eyes and paddle techniques teaching from our skilled guides. While paddling around, exploring the small beaches, waterfalls and other around the bay, we had company of one curious harbour seal.

The evening on board was spent attending the wonderful 130th anniversary dinner, returning gear and saying goodbye to the captain and crew. To top it off, the expedition team shared their favourite moments of the voyage and our photographer Kay showed his slideshow, with beautiful photos and videos of the past eight days. A fitting end to an amazing voyage in Northern Norway.





Tromsø

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Day 8 - Tromsø

.All journeys eventually circle back, and ours came to a close as we arrived once more in Tromsø often called the “Gateway to the Arctic.” A light dusting of snow fell as we came alongside, with a soft breeze drifting along the quay. The city was just beginning to stir, providing a calm backdrop for our final morning on board.

We gathered one last time over breakfast, lingering over

conversations and looking back on the days we had shared. Stories were retold, highlights revisited, and there was a quiet sense of appreciation for everything the voyage had brought.

Before long, it was time to part ways and step ashore. Our journey through fjords, islands, and winter landscapes had come to an end, but it left behind a collection of vivid memories from quiet moments

in the snow to striking mountain scenery and nights lit by the Northern Lights. Along the way, new friendships had taken shape, challenges had been met with enthusiasm, and the spirit of the Arctic

had stayed with us throughout.

Though the voyage had ended, its impressions felt certain to last well beyond our return.



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