



## Ultimate Norway – Arctic Expedition under the Northern Lights

MS Spitsbergen 21 – 28.3.3026



Tronsø

Senja

Finnes

Harstad

Sortland

Hinnøya

Stoknes

Narvik

Rohkunborri  
nasjonalpark

Svøvær

Leknes

Vestfjorden

Kiruna

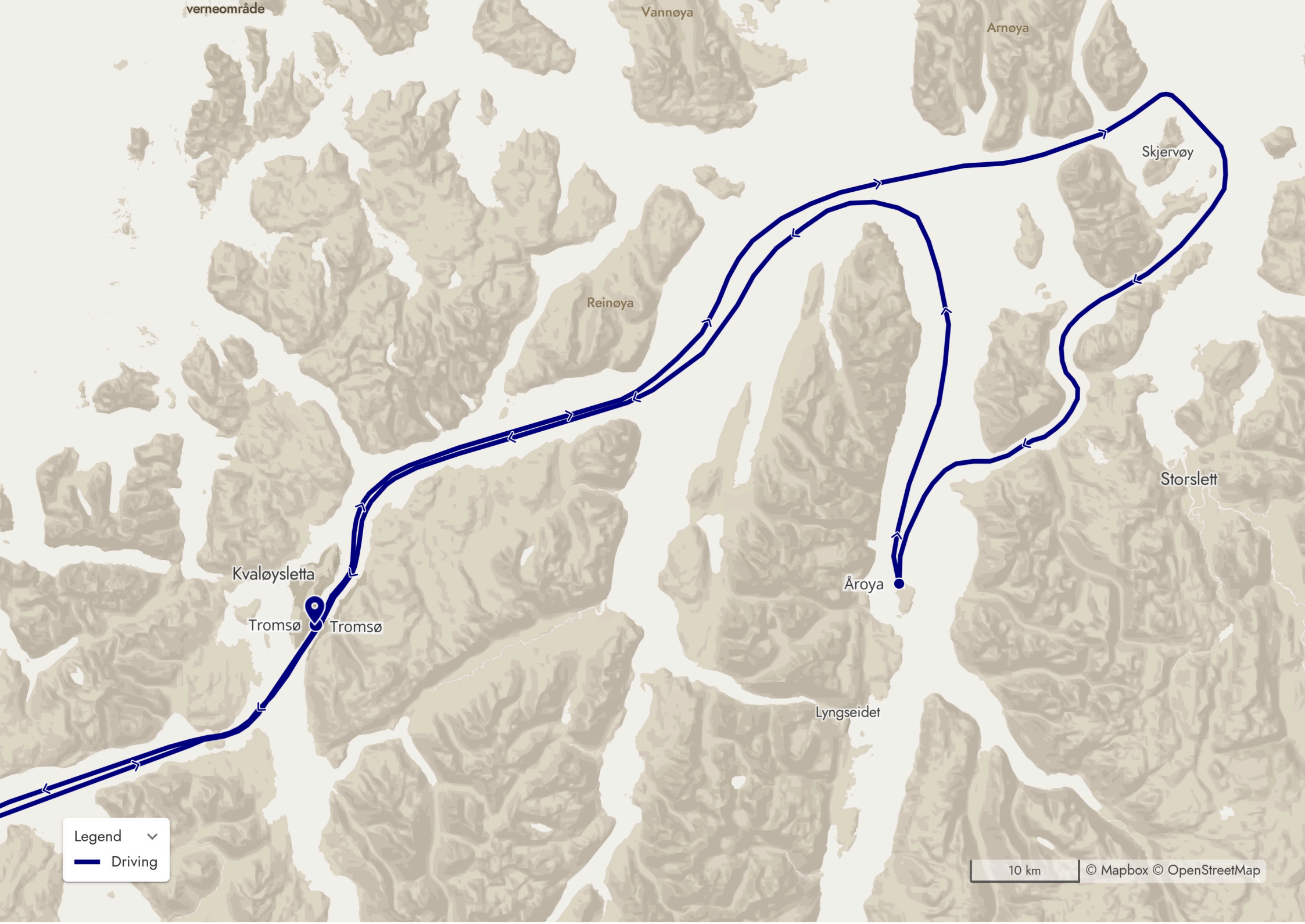
Legend

Driving

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap





verneområde

Vannøya

Arnøya

Skjervøy

Reinøya

Storslett



Åroya

Lyngseidet

Kvaløysletta

Tromsø

Tromsø

Legend   
 Driving

10 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 1 - Tromsø

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On our first day together, our guests arrived in Tromsø under overcast skies, with a light drizzle settling over the harbour as we prepared to begin our journey. It was a calm and atmospheric start, perfectly suited to this northern gateway to the Arctic.

With a later embarkation, guests arrived throughout the afternoon, stepping aboard with a sense of anticipation for the voyage ahead. As everyone settled in, there was time to explore the ship, meet fellow travellers, and take in the views of the surrounding mountains rising beyond the town.


In the evening, we gathered for the Captain's Welcome, marking the official beginning of our expedition together. This was followed by an important safety drill, ensuring that all were well prepared for the days ahead as we ventured into Arctic waters.

As night fell, we began our late departure from Tromsø, quietly sailing away from the harbour and into the darkness. The lights of the city gradually faded behind us, replaced by the vast, open expanse of the Norwegian coast – an exciting first step into the adventure that lies ahead.





Legend

 Driving

10 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Harstad

Tranøya

Senja

Finnsnes

Bardufoss

Kvaløya

Kvaløysfjella

Tromsø

Tromsø

Åroya

Storslett

## Day 2 - Åroya

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On our second day, we arrived at Årøya under calm, grey skies, with minimal wind, creating excellent conditions for our planned activities. The morning began with a series of briefings, as our Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager officially welcomed everyone on board, followed by introductions to the day's hiking and kayaking plans.

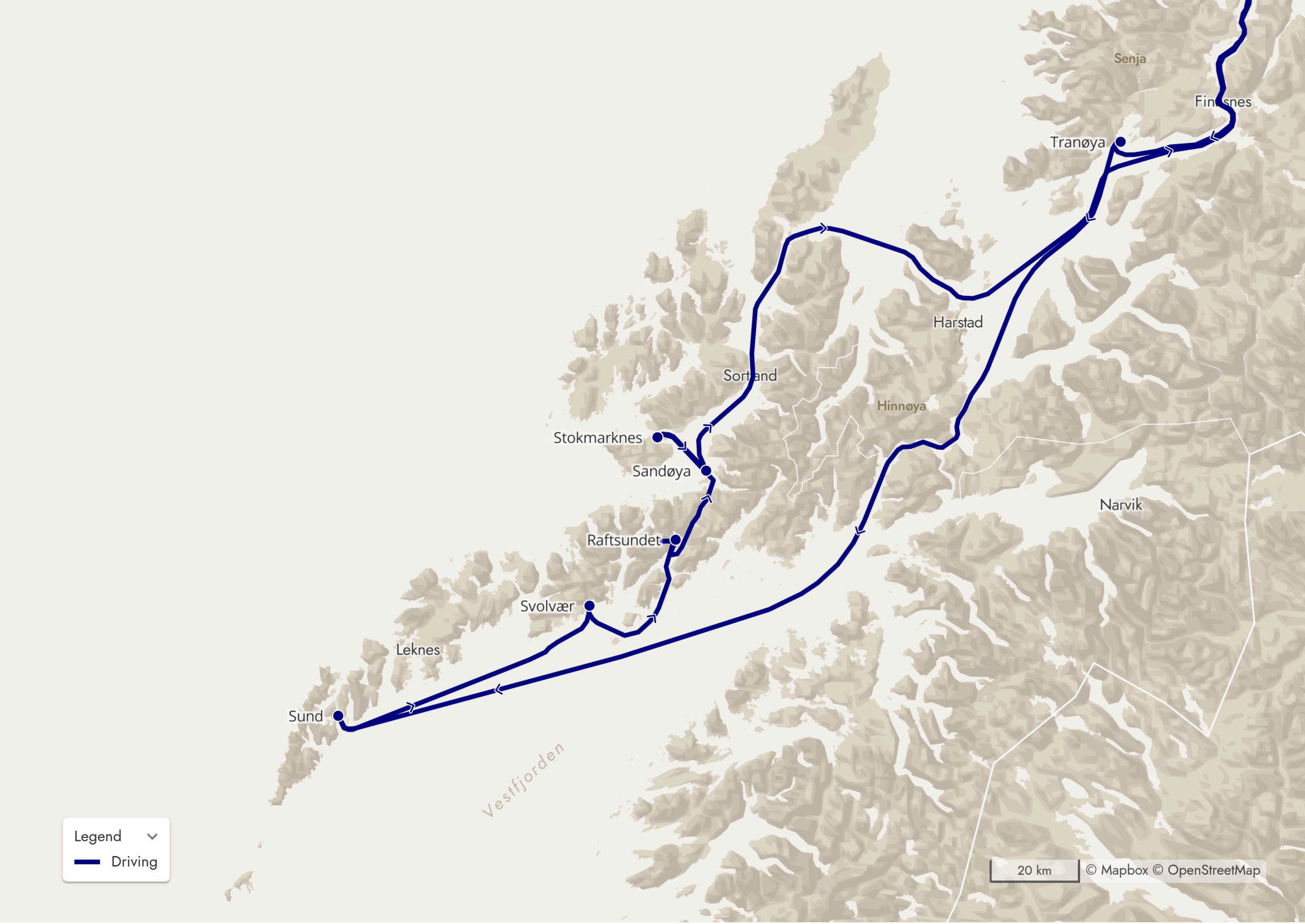
Once ashore via a jetty landing, guests set out to explore the island's quiet winter landscape. One group ventured off on a scenic snow hike, crossing a rugged rock bridge before continuing through pristine terrain. Along the way, they paused at a series of World War II bunkers, offering a moment to reflect on the island's historical significance. Reaching the top, the hikers were rewarded with a beautiful panoramic viewpoint overlooking the surrounding fjords and coastline.

Meanwhile, others took to the water by kayak, gliding through the calm bay and enjoying the peaceful Arctic environment from sea level. The still conditions made for a serene and immersive experience along the shoreline.

Back on land, we gathered around a crackling bonfire, where we warmed up with a traditional Norwegian fish soup – simple, hearty, and perfect after a morning of exploration.

As night fell, the day concluded with a magnificent display of the Northern Lights. Bright green ribbons danced across the sky, drawing us outside to witness the spectacle, an unforgettable Arctic moment and a perfect ending to our first full day of adventure.





Legend ▾

— Driving

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 3 - Tranøya

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On our third day, we arrived at Tranøya for a morning landing under beautiful, calm conditions. With clear skies and gentle light, we stepped ashore via the pier and made our way toward one of the island's historic highlights, a centuries-old homestead and church, offering a glimpse into the deep-rooted heritage of this coastal community.

Throughout the morning, several groups of kayakers set out to explore the surrounding waters. Paddling between nearby islands, they experienced the rugged coastline up close and encountered local birdlife along the way, making the most of the weather and scenic conditions.

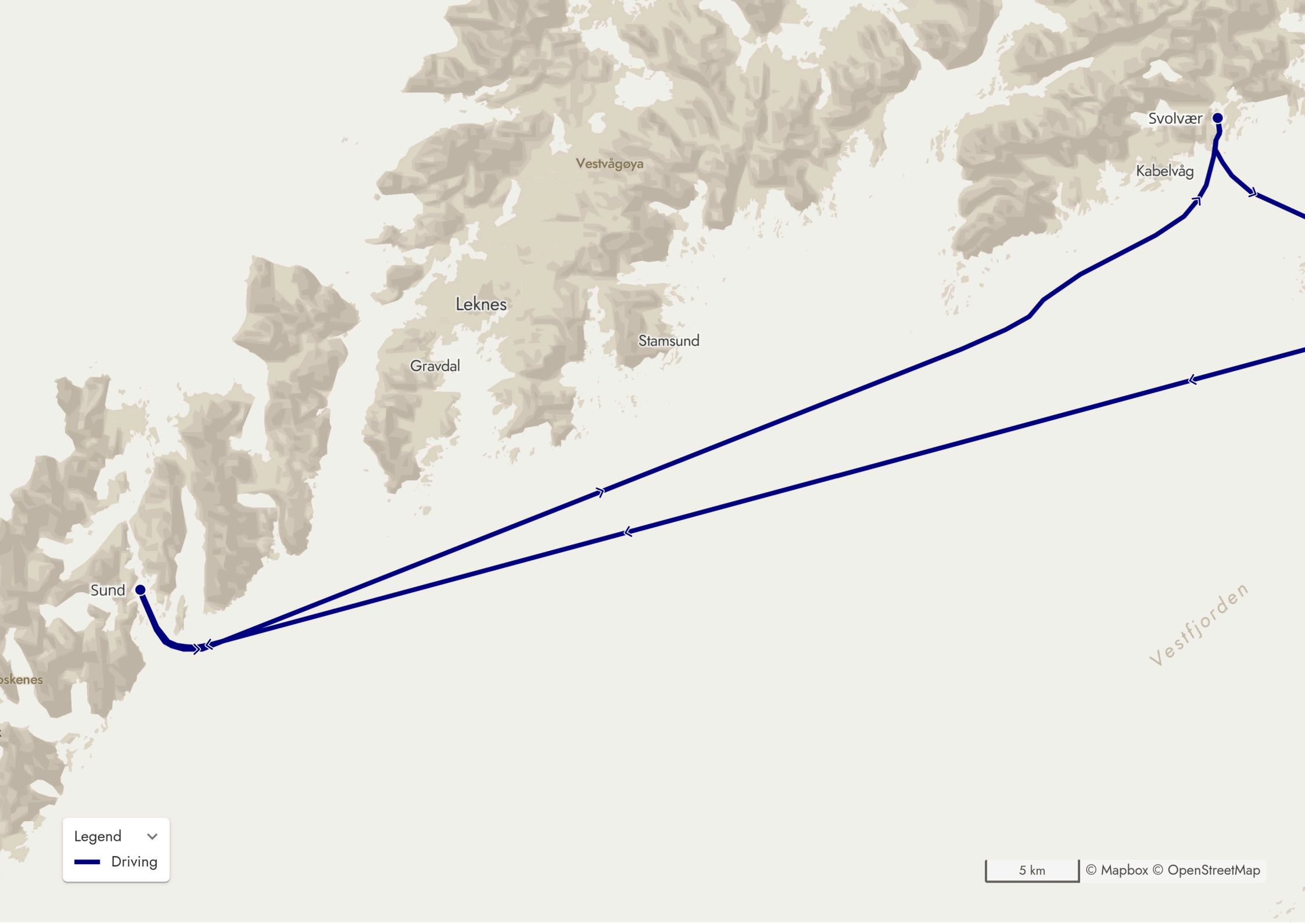
Back near the landing site, some guests took the opportunity to

discover the underwater world using a drone and live camera feed. Watching the seabed come to life beneath the surface added a fascinating new perspective to the Arctic environment.

In the afternoon, back on board, our Expedition Team delivered a series of engaging lectures, offering deeper insight into the region's nature, wildlife, and history, enriching understanding of the landscapes we continue to explore.

As evening fell, the day concluded with another beautiful display of the Northern Lights. Soft, shifting colours illuminated the night sky, drawing us outside once more to witness the magic of the Arctic and reflect on a day filled with exploration and discovery.





Sund

Gravdal

Leknes

Stamsund

Vestvågøya

Kabelvåg

Svolveær

Vestfjorden

Legend

— Driving

## Day 4 - Sund

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On our fourth day, we set out early for Sund, beginning with a scenic expedition boat cruise through dramatic Arctic surroundings.

Towering, snow-covered landscapes framed our route as we made our way toward the landing site, building anticipation for the day ahead.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by a pristine winter scene, the result of fresh snowfall overnight, which had transformed the area into a picture-perfect white expanse.

Stepping ashore, guests spread out across the wide, open terrain to explore in small groups. Kayakers launched into calm waters, gliding quietly along the shoreline and taking in the stillness from a unique perspective. Meanwhile, three groups of long hikers ventured inland, following a stream that wound gently through the landscape before ascending the moraine. The route opened into a vast, free-roaming area, offering a true sense of scale and solitude in the Arctic wilderness.

Back at the landing site, a crackling bonfire provided both warmth and a natural gathering point. Here, our Executive Chef prepared and served a delicious lamb stew, creating a memorable outdoor dining experience in the heart of the snowy landscape.

In the afternoon, back on board the Expedition Team hosted their engaging lecture program, adding depth and context to the places we've been exploring. Later, the day took an exciting turn as we participated in a training exercise alongside the Norwegian Coast Guard. A helicopter approached the vessel and skilfully deployed its crew onto the ship, offering a fascinating and rare glimpse into Arctic emergency response operations.

From serene exploration to dynamic demonstrations, the day in Sund captured both the beauty and the complexity of expedition life in Northern Norway.





Austvågøya

Svolveær Svolveær

Kabelvåg

Stormolla

Raftsundet

Legend

— Driving

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 5 - Svolvær

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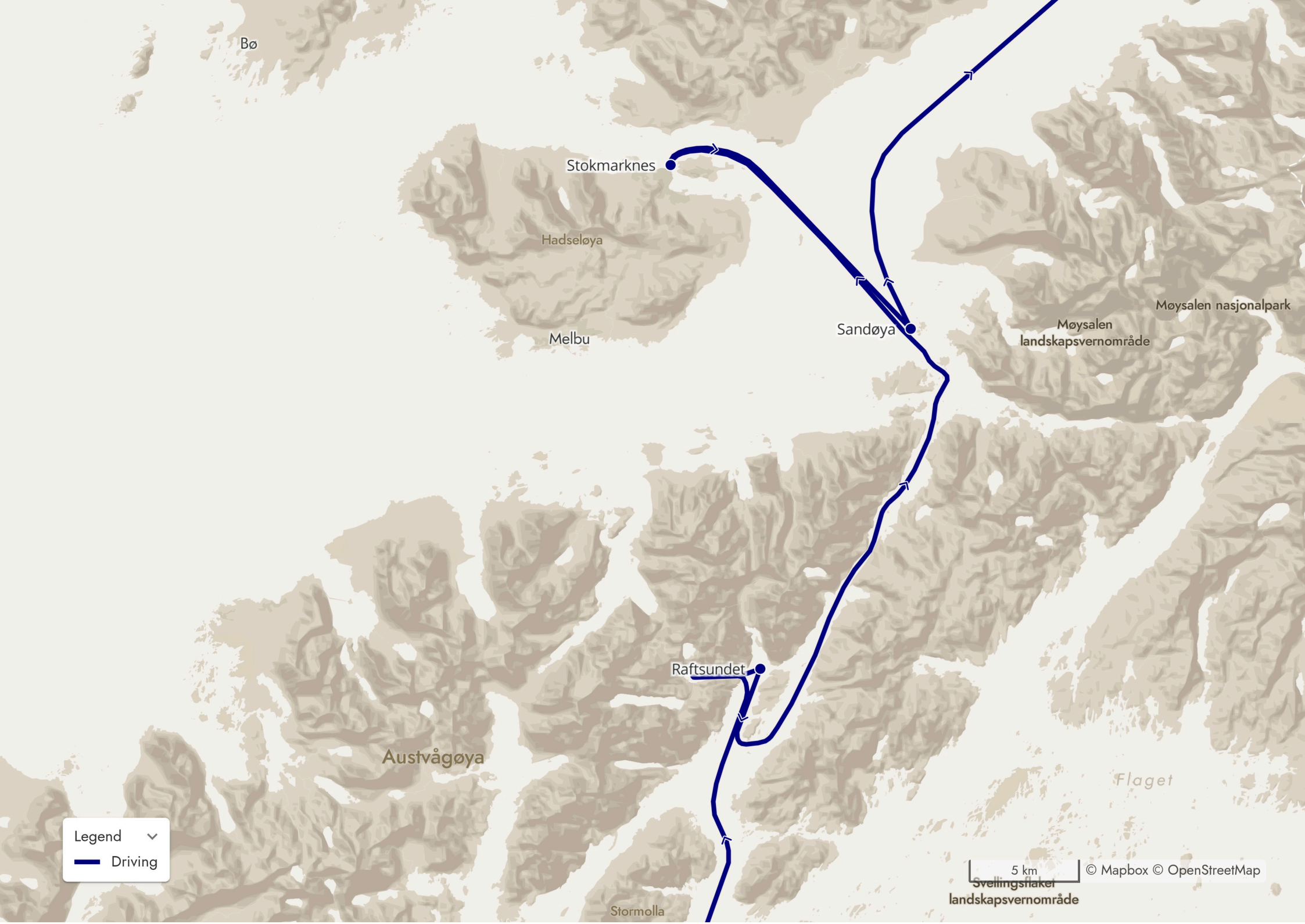
We arrived alongside in Svolvær early in the morning, the town slowly coming to life as we prepared for a day of exploration in the Lofoten Islands. With the ship docked, guests had the opportunity to join a range of excursions and activities ashore. Some set out to explore the town and its surroundings, while others ventured further afield in search of Lofoten's wildlife, experiencing the raw beauty of this remarkable region.

For those who chose to stay on board, the day unfolded at a gentle pace. A selection of activities and presentations hosted by the Expedition Team offered opportunities to relax, learn, and reflect on the journey so far.

As evening approached, we gathered for our daily briefing with the Expedition Leader, looking ahead to the adventures still to come. The atmosphere then shifted to one of celebration and community as we came together for the HX Foundation auction, supporting meaningful initiatives while enjoying a lively and engaging event.

The day concluded on a high note with the much-anticipated Crew Cabaret. Laughter and applause filled the room as crew members took to the stage, showcasing their talents and bringing everyone together for a fun and memorable end to our time in Svolvær.





Bø

Stokmarknes

Hadseløya

Melbu

Sandøya

Møysalen  
landkapsvernøråde

Møysalen nasjonalpark

Raftsundet

Austvågøya

Flaget

Stormolla

Legend

 Driving

5 km

Svellingstaket

landkapsvernøråde

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 6 - Raftsundet

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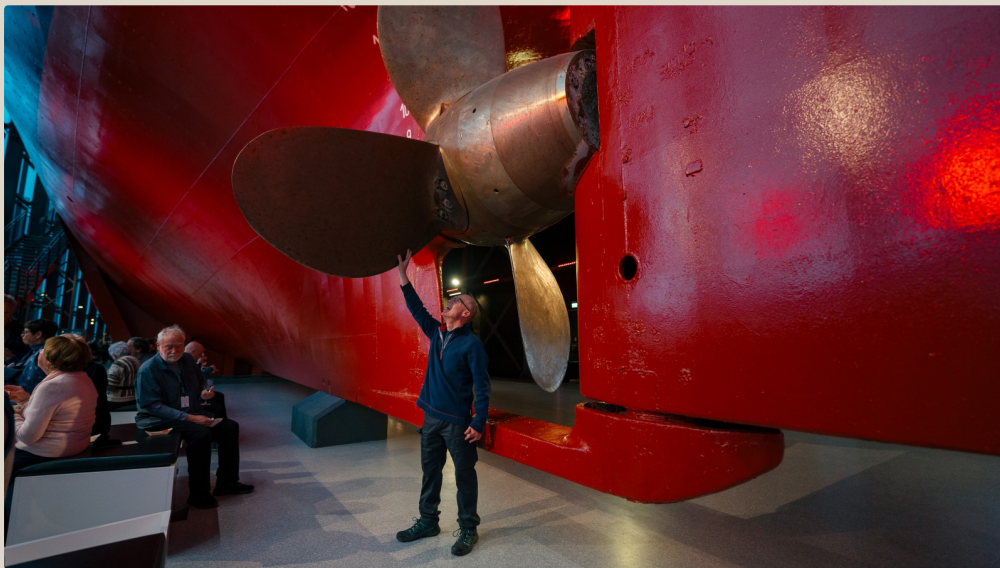
After concluding our expedition boat operations in Raftsundet, we continued our journey to Stokmarknes, sailing through classic coastal scenery as the Expedition Team hosted a series of engaging onboard lectures. It was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the day's experiences while deepening understanding of the region.

Arriving alongside in Stokmarknes, we were met by cold conditions and steady rain, setting a distinctly wintry mood. Undeterred, we stepped ashore for a guided visit to the Hurtigruten Museum, where we explored the rich history of Norway's iconic coastal voyages. The exhibits offered fascinating insights into life along the coast and the

legacy of the Hurtigruten service.

As evening progressed, the weather shifted, with rain turning to snow, adding a magical touch to the surroundings. Following the tour, we enjoyed a memorable dinner at the museum, a unique setting that brought together local heritage and warm hospitality.

Later, we returned to the ship, where the day concluded on a cosy and cheerful note with our 'Sail Away Waffles'. Freshly made and warmly served, they provided the perfect comfort after a cold and eventful day in Stokmarknes.





SANDNES

Stokmarknes

Stokmarknes

HENNES

Sandøya

Legend

 Driving

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Tromsø

Tromsø

Senja

Finnsnes

Tranøya

Harstad

Sortland

Hinnøya

Stokmarknes

Sandøya


Raftsundet

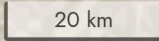
Svolveær

Narvik

Rohkunborri  
nasjonalpark

Legend

 Driving

 20 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Day 7 - Sandøya

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On our seventh day, we were welcomed ashore on Sandøya under clear blue skies and calm conditions, with not a breath of wind to disturb the stillness. A light dusting of fresh snow covered the island, adding a crisp brightness to an already beautiful Arctic morning. With ideal conditions for exploration, guests were free to roam across the island, taking in the peaceful surroundings at their own pace.

For those seeking a refreshing challenge, the polar plunge from shore proved an invigorating highlight, met with both excitement and laughter. Nearby, a bonfire crackled warmly as reindeer sausages were prepared on the grill, offering a delicious and distinctly local treat in a stunning outdoor setting.

Throughout the morning, two rounds of kayaking allowed guests to experience the coastline from the water, gliding through calm seas beneath the winter sun. On the western side of the island, some were fortunate to observe several hauled-out seals, resting undisturbed and

adding a special wildlife moment to the day.

In the afternoon, we returned on board, where the focus shifted to learning and culture. Our onboard science programme invited guests to engage more deeply with the environment we had been exploring through Citizen Science projects and more, while Norwegian dance classes brought a lively and interactive energy to the ship.

As evening fell, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell, a chance to reflect on the journey we had shared. The celebration was made even more special with the presentation of our voyage video, beautifully captured by our onboard Expedition Videographer and Photographer, Kay. The night was brought to a end with a fun game show of 'Majority Rules', run by our onboard Expedition Leaders Brandon and Fred, while the skies danced green above us. It was a heartfelt conclusion to a remarkable expedition, filled with unforgettable moments across Northern Norway.



## Day 8 - Tromsø

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On our final day, we arrived in Tromsø early in the morning under clear blue skies and bright sunshine. Despite the radiant conditions, low overnight temperatures had left the town wrapped in a delicate layer of snow and ice, giving the landscape a crisp, frozen beauty as we came alongside.

As the voyage drew to a close, there was a quiet sense of reflection on all that we had experienced together over the past days. From remote landings and wildlife encounters to shared moments on

board, the journey through Northern Norway had offered a rich tapestry of memories.

Disembarkation was carried out smoothly and systematically, with guests departing in groups according to their flight times. As we said our farewells, it marked not just the end of the expedition, but the conclusion of a truly memorable adventure in the Arctic.



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