



## Nordic Navigator – From Norway's Wilds to Scotland's Isles

MS Spitsbergen, 28.3–7.4.2026



Norwegian Sea

Murmansk

Iceland

Reykjavik

Sweden

Finland

Norway

Bergen

Oslo

Stockholm

Helsinki

Saint Petersburg

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

North Sea

Denmark

Gothenburg

Legend

— HX Expedition

200 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Ireland

United Kingdom

Edinburgh

Belfast

SCOTLAND

WALES ENGLAND

Netherlands

Berlin

Poland

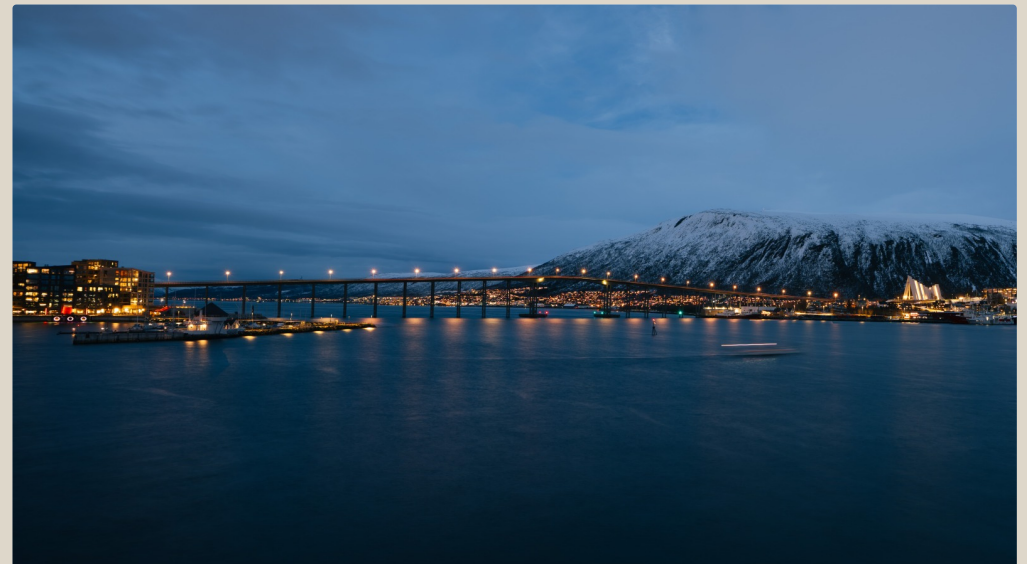
Belarus

## Day 1 - Embarkation in Tromsø

---

Our guests' journey began in Tromsø, where they boarded MS Spitsbergen under calm winter conditions. Throughout the afternoon, they arrived at the pier, settled into their cabins, and took time to explore the ship as it became their home for the days ahead. In the evening, we gathered for dinner before our guests attended the mandatory safety drill, an essential introduction to procedures on board. Shortly after, we came together for the Captain's Welcome,

where our guests met the ship's Officers and officially marked the beginning of our voyage south towards Scotland. The evening followed a smooth and relaxed pace as we departed Tromsø, with the city lights gradually fading behind us and the open sea ahead. Our journey was under way, carrying us from Arctic Norway toward new shores farther south.





Kvaløysletta

Tromsø

Senja

Finnsnes

Sørreisa -  
Orjješ-Ráisa

Moen

Bardufoss

Storsteinne

Tranøya

Legend ▾

HX Expedition

5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 2 - Tranøya

---

Our second day brought us to Tranøya, where we went ashore to explore this historic settlement and its surroundings. With calm conditions, the landing unfolded smoothly, allowing our guests to step into a place where time seems to move at a slower pace.

We made our way through the traditional farm and settlement, with our guests learning about life in this remote part of Northern Norway and gaining a sense of how communities have adapted to the rhythm of the seasons. The quiet atmosphere and simple surroundings offered a meaningful connection to the cultural heritage of the region.

Out on the water, some took part in kayaking, gliding across the calm surface and enjoying a close and peaceful perspective of the

coastline. From this low vantage point, the landscape felt even more immersive, with mountains and shoreline gently framing the experience.

Later in the day, some gathered near the jetty for an underwater drone session, exploring the hidden world beneath the surface. Watching the live images from the cold, clear waters added a fascinating dimension to our visit, revealing life below that often goes unnoticed.

With a blend of cultural insight and quiet exploration, Tranøya offered a calm and rewarding start to our journey along the Norwegian coast.



## Day 3 - Sandøya (AM)

---

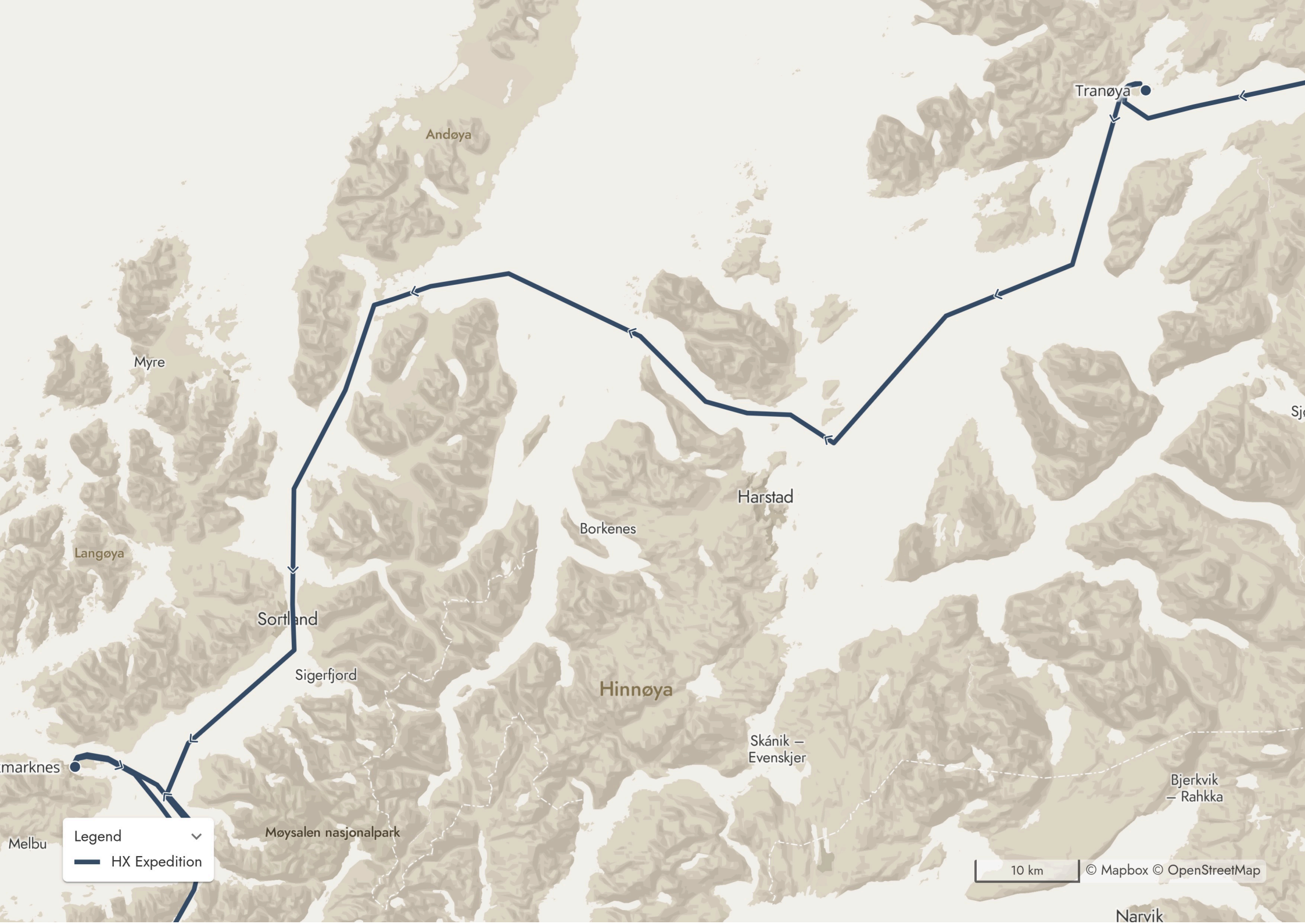
Our morning brought us to Sandøya, where we landed on a quiet stretch of shoreline under perfect conditions. With calm seas and clear visibility, the approach to the island offered beautiful views of the surrounding mountains before we stepped ashore.

Once on land, our guests were free to explore at our own pace, walking along the beach and across the terrain, taking in the stillness of the landscape. The peaceful atmosphere and open surroundings made it easy to slow down and enjoy the moment.

One group took the opportunity to head out on the water for a kayaking excursion, gliding across the calm surface and experiencing the island from a different perspective. The stable conditions made for an especially enjoyable outing.

On shore, a bonfire provided warmth and a welcoming gathering point, where we enjoyed sausages while sharing impressions of the morning. With great weather and relaxed exploration, Sandøya offered a rewarding and well-balanced start to the day.





Tranøya

Andøya

Myre

Langøya

Sortland

Sigerfjord

Borkenes

Harstad

Hinnøya

Skánik –  
Evenskjer

Bjerkvik  
– Rahkka

Marknes

Melbu

Møysalen nasjonalpark

Narvik

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 3 - Stokmarknes (PM)

---

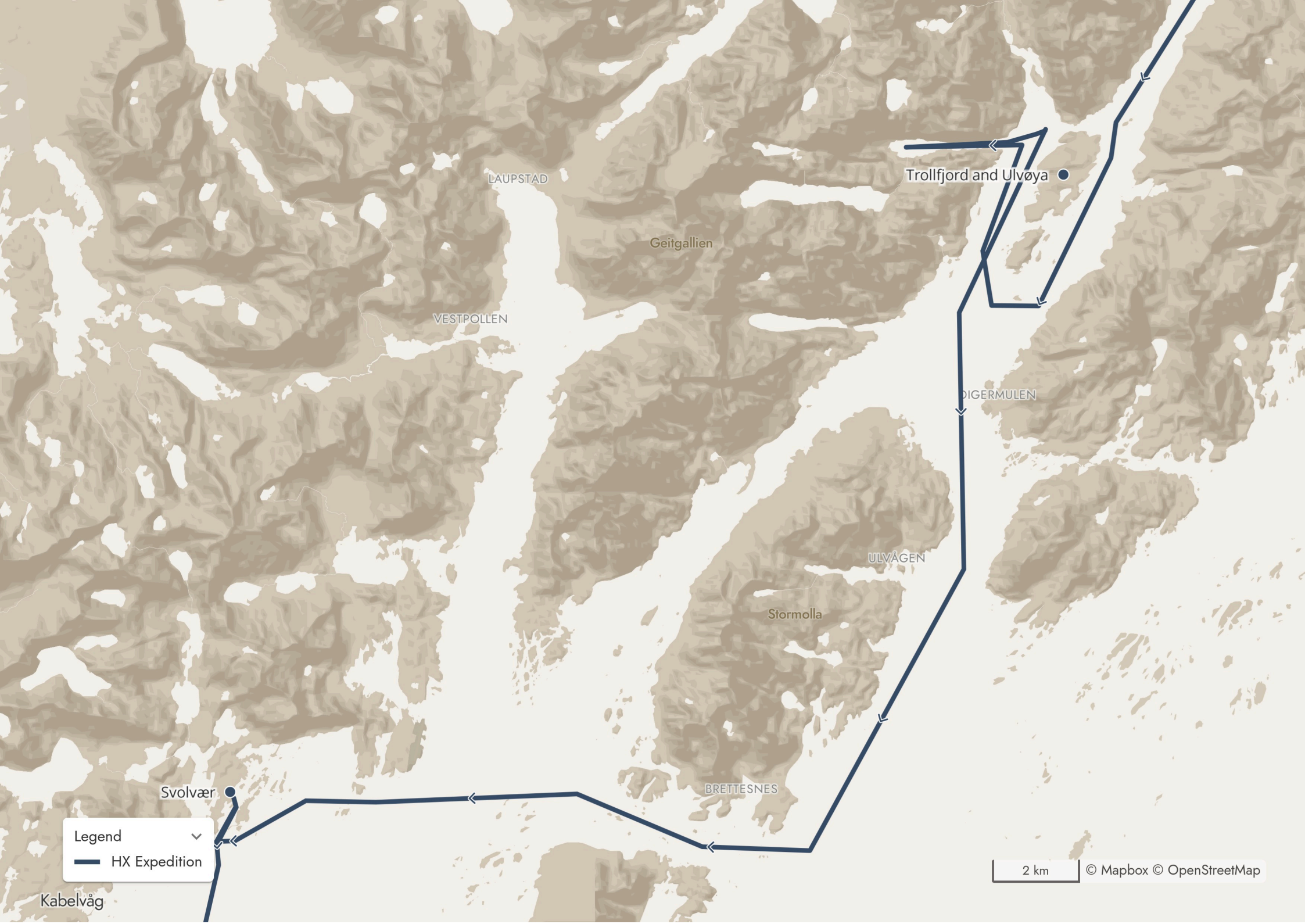
In the afternoon, we arrived alongside in Stokmarknes, where we stepped ashore for a special visit to the Hurtigruten Museum. Located just beside the ship, the museum invited us to explore the history of Norway's coastal voyages and the vessels that have connected communities along this rugged coastline for generations.

As our guests walked through the exhibitions, they discovered stories of navigation, life at sea, and the development of the coastal route. Stepping aboard the preserved historic ship offered a tangible connection to the past, allowing us to imagine what these journeys once felt like in very different conditions.

The experience continued into the evening with a dinner set within the museum, creating a unique atmosphere where history and hospitality came together. Surrounded by maritime heritage, we shared a meal that felt both special and fitting for our voyage along the Norwegian coast.

With insight into the past and a shared evening ashore, Stokmarknes provided a meaningful and memorable stop on our journey southward.





LAUPSTAD

Trollfjord and Ulvøya

Geitgallien

VESTPOLLEN

DIGERMULEN

ULVÅGEN

Stormolla

BRETESNES

Svolvær

Legend

— HX Expedition

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Kabelvåg

## Day 4 - Trollfjord and Ulvøya

---

Our morning began with a scenic sailing into dramatic Trollfjord, where MS Spitsbergen carefully navigated the narrow entrance between steep, towering cliffs. As we moved deeper into the fjord, the sense of scale became striking, with rock walls rising sharply from the water and the silence of the surroundings adding to the atmosphere.

After spending time inside the fjord, we slowly turned and made our way back out, continuing toward Ulvøya for a closer exploration of the area.

Once in position, we launched our small boats and headed out to

cruise along the coastline. From the water, we were able to appreciate the rugged terrain up close: steep slopes, rocky shores, and the subtle winter tones that define this part of Northern Norway. The slower pace allowed us to fully take in the details of the landscape and the quiet character of this remote region.

The combination of ship navigation through Trollfjord and small boat cruising around Ulvøya offered a well-balanced morning, moving from grand, towering scenery to intimate, close-up exploration of the Arctic coastline.



## Day 4 - Svolvær (PM)

---

Later in the afternoon, we arrived in Svolvær, where we stepped ashore to explore both the town and its surrounding landscapes. With time to spread out and follow different interests, the day offered a variety of ways to experience life in the Lofoten Islands.

Some ventured out to Henningsvær, discovering this picturesque fishing village set among islands and connected by bridges, where traditional life and dramatic scenery come together. Others joined a heritage walk through Svolvær, learning about the town's history and its strong ties to the sea and the fishing industry.

Many set out on the Arctic Sea Eagle Experience, heading into the surrounding waters for a chance to observe these impressive birds in their natural environment. For those seeking a more relaxing contrast, the opportunity to visit a sauna offered a moment to unwind and embrace a classic Nordic tradition.

With a mix of cultural insight, wildlife encounters, and time to explore at one's own pace, Svolvær provided a rich and varied afternoon, offering a deeper connection to both the landscape and the way of life in this remarkable part of Norway.





Vestvågøya

Leknes

Svolvær

Vestfjorden

Bodø

Fauske

Padjelanta

Junkerdal National Park

Ørnes

Glomfjord

Svartisen

Legend

— HX Expedition

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 5 - Svartisen

---

Our morning brought us to the area of Svartisen, where we explored the surroundings of the impressive Engabreen. Surrounded by mountains and glacial landscapes, we set out on a scenic walk along a well-marked path leading us closer to the ice.

As we made our way along the trail, the views opened up beautifully: a glacial lake in front of us and the blue ice of Engabreen rising beyond, creating a striking and ever-changing backdrop. The walk allowed us to take in the landscape at a relaxed pace, with plenty of opportunities to stop, observe, and enjoy the surroundings.

Along the way, we had the chance to pause at a small coffee stop, where warm waffles and hot drinks provided both comfort and a welcome break from the shifting Norwegian spring weather. It was a simple yet memorable moment, standing between mountains and glacier, with the warmth of the café contrasting the cool air outside.

With its combination of scenery, gentle activity, and moments of rest along the way, the visit to Svartisen offered a rewarding and immersive experience in one of Norway's most remarkable glacial environments.





Svartisen

Sweden

Steinkjer

Trondheim

Östersund

Härnösand

Sundsvall

At Sea

Norway

Gävle

Falun

Bergen

Oslo

Uppsala

Västerås

Karlstad

Legend

— HX Expedition

100 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

erwick

## Day 6 - At Sea

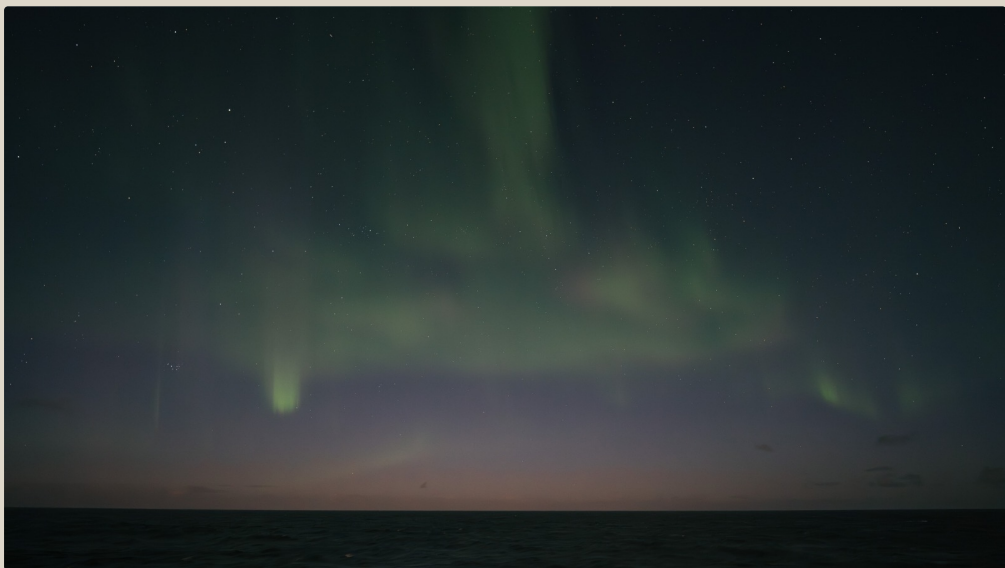
---

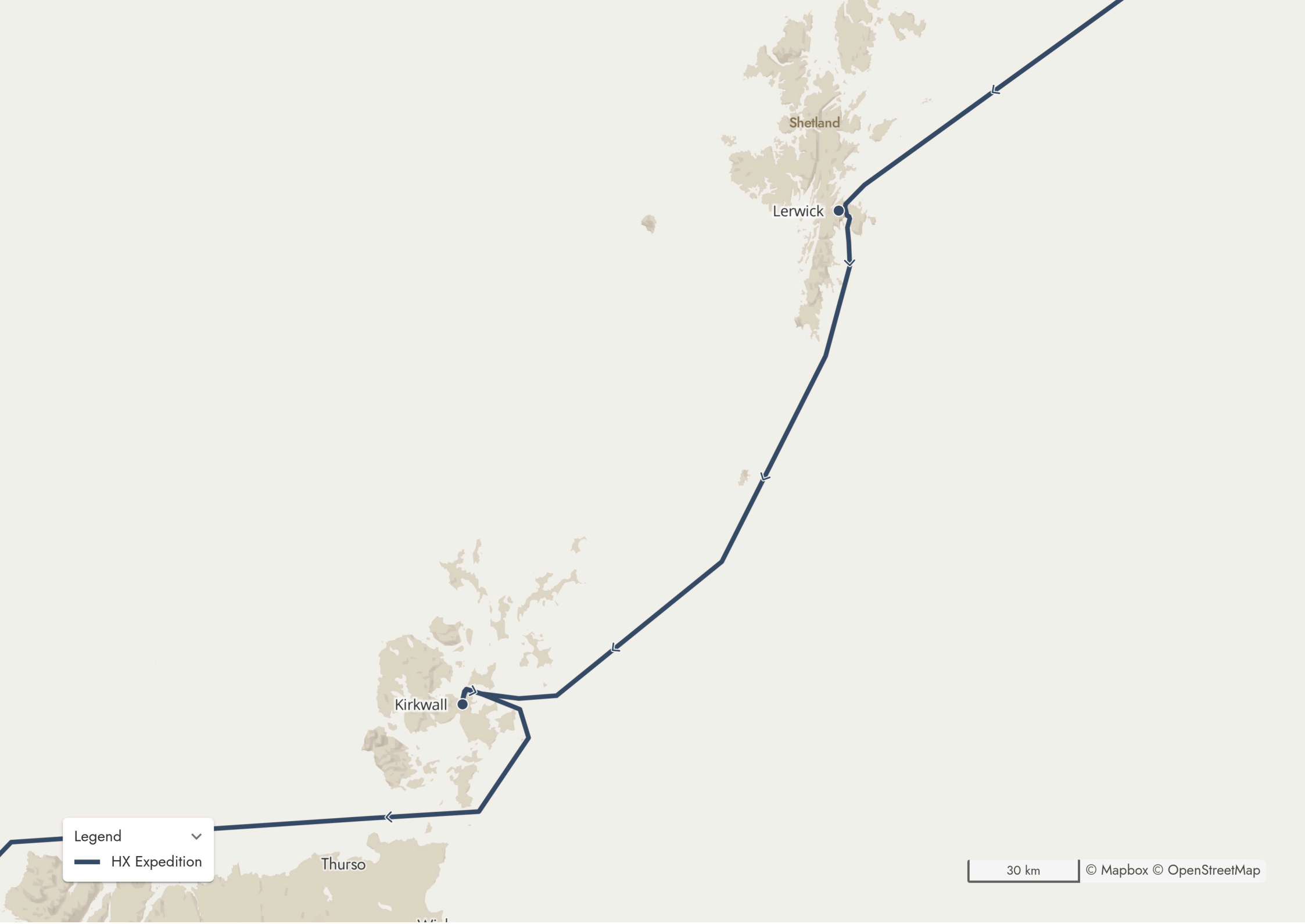
After leaving the glacial landscapes of Svartisen, we entered a period at sea as we made our way towards Lerwick. During the first day, we sailed south along the Norwegian coastline, enjoying views of remote stretches of land and notable landmarks such as the Kjeungskjær lighthouse, standing solitary against the sea.

A special moment came as we crossed the Arctic Circle, marking our transition from the High Arctic into more southern latitudes. We celebrated the occasion with a traditional ceremony on board, sharing the experience together as we continued our journey southward.

Later in the day, the Captain gathered us for an important briefing, preparing everyone for the conditions ahead as we approached the North Sea. A storm system lay in our path, and as we entered more open waters, the sea state began to build.

The crossing brought dramatic waves and lively motion, reminding us of the power of the ocean. The Crew and Bridge Team worked continuously to ensure the safest and most comfortable navigation possible under the circumstances, adjusting our course and speed as needed. Despite the conditions, the ship carried on steadily, and we continued towards our next destination, embracing the experience of a true North Sea crossing.





Shetland

Lerwick

Kirkwall

Thurso

Legend

— HX Expedition

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 7 - At Sea and Lerwick

---

After another full day at sea, we arrived in Lerwick at around 6pm, invigorated by the sight of this coastal town after our crossing of the North Sea. Following the necessary immigration formalities, we stepped ashore, welcomed by the steady ground and the opportunity to stretch our legs after time on board.

Once in town, our guests spread out to explore in different ways. Some joined a guided walk through the city centre, learning about the history of Lerwick and its role within the Shetland Islands, shaped by maritime traditions and a strong connection to the sea. Others set out with the Expedition Team for a hike beyond the town, taking in the surrounding landscape from a wider perspective. Many chose to

explore independently, wandering through the streets and enjoying the atmosphere at their own pace.

Back on board, the evening continued with a special cultural highlight. We were treated to a performance by local musicians from the Shetland Fiddlers' Society, whose music filled the ship with the distinctive sound of Shetland's musical heritage. The lively and authentic performance offered a perfect introduction to the culture of the islands.

With time ashore and cultural encounters, our arrival in Lerwick marked a meaningful step into this new chapter of the voyage.



## Day 8 - Kirkwall

---

We arrived early in the morning in Kirkwall, the main town of the Orkney Islands, ready to explore this historic and culturally rich destination. After disembarking, we set out across the island, with our guests choosing different ways to experience the area.

Some joined a walking tour through Kirkwall, discovering the town's history, traditions, and connection to both Norse and Scottish heritage. Others ventured further afield on a hike, taking in the landscapes that define Orkney: rolling terrains, open skies, and coastal views shaped by wind and sea. Many visited Skara Brae, one of the best-preserved prehistoric settlements in Europe, offering a

remarkable glimpse into life thousands of years ago.

The weather felt noticeably milder, a contrast to the colder days farther north, allowing us to enjoy the day comfortably and take in the surroundings with ease. In town, the imposing St Magnus Cathedral stood as a central landmark, its presence reflecting the deep history and cultural importance of Kirkwall.

With a combination of history, landscape, and cultural discovery, our time in the Orkney Islands offered a rich and varied experience, adding a new dimension to our journey southward.





Ullapool

*Loch Snizort*

Kilt Rock

Sound of Raasay

Portree

Inner Hebrides

Broadford

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 9 - Kilt Rock and the Isle of Skye (AM)

---

After leaving Kirkwall, we set course southwest, navigating toward more sheltered waters through The Minch and the Sound of Shiant. The aim was to find calmer conditions while continuing our journey along the rugged Scottish coastline.

By early morning, we found ourselves sailing into the Sound of Raasay, where the landscape opened into one of the most striking views of the voyage. From the ship, we had a clear and rewarding perspective of Kilt Rock, its distinctive basalt columns forming the shape of a pleated kilt, with a waterfall cascading dramatically into the

sea below.

As we drifted past, the surrounding scenery revealed even more detail. High in the mountains of the Isle of Skye, we were able to spot the well-known rock formation known as the 'Standing Man', adding another layer of character to an already impressive setting.

With good visibility and a steady platform from the ship, the views were exceptional; we took an unhurried moment to take in one of Scotland's most iconic coastal landscapes from the water.

## Day 9 - Sound of Raasay (PM)

---

In the afternoon, we continued our search for a suitable location for small boat operations and found a well-sheltered area within the Sound of Raasay, between Meall Mòr and the Isle of Rona. The protection offered by the surrounding land made it an ideal spot to explore more closely.

After lunch, we launched our small boats and set out to discover the area from the water. The conditions were shifting constantly between hail, rain, wind, and moments of clear skies, creating a dynamic and ever-changing atmosphere throughout the outing.

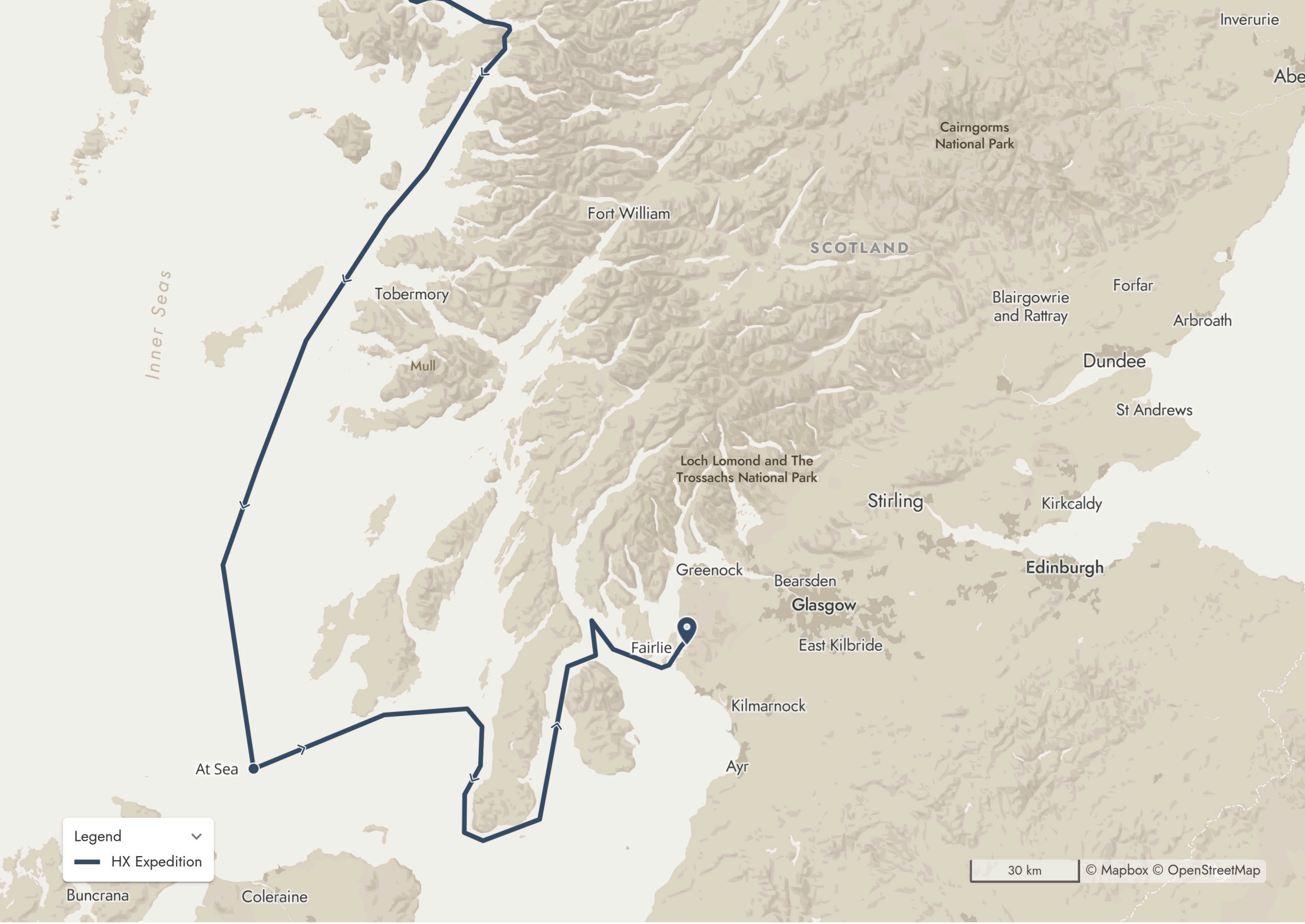
Despite the variability in weather, the wildlife made the experience especially rewarding. We spotted red deer and seals along the

shoreline and observed white-tailed sea eagles nesting in the area, a powerful reminder of the richness of this coastal environment. These encounters turned the location into a true highlight of the day.

After returning to the ship, we continued sailing through the Inner Sound, taking in more of the surrounding landscapes as the light began to soften. In the early evening, we passed beneath the Skye Bridge, marking another memorable moment as we navigated deeper into the waters between Scotland's islands.

With changing skies, rewarding wildlife encounters, and close-up exploration by small boat, the afternoon offered a rich and varied experience along the Scottish coast.





Inverurie

Aberdeen

Cairngorms National Park

Fort William

SCOTLAND

Tobermory

Blairgowrie and Rattray

Forfar

Arbroath

Inner Seas

Mull

Dundee

St Andrews

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

Stirling

Kirkcaldy

Greenock

Edinburgh

Bearsden

Glasgow

East Kilbride


Fairlie

Kilmarnock

Ayr

At Sea

Legend

 HX Expedition

30 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Buncrana

Coleraine

## Day 10 - At Sea

---

Our final day on board was spent sailing through the waters between the islands of Scotland's west coast, including Islay, Gigha, and the Isle of Arran. As we navigated these intricate passages, we aimed to remain as sheltered as possible from the lingering effects of the recent storm, making the most of the natural protection offered by the islands.

Throughout the day, the scenery unfolded steadily around us, with coastlines, hills, and changing light accompanying our journey south. On board, we enjoyed a full programme of lectures and workshops from the Expedition Team, offering our guests time to reflect, learn,

and share experiences as the voyage approached its conclusion.

In the evening, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell, raising a glass together to mark the journey we had shared. This was followed by the voyage slideshow, prepared by our photographer Kay, bringing together the moments that had defined our time, from Arctic landscapes to Scottish shores, from calm waters to lively crossings.

As night fell, we continued sailing toward Fairlie, where we would arrive the following morning. With the ship moving steadily through the dark, our journey gently came to its final chapter.





## Day 11 - Disembarkation in Fairlie

---

Early in the morning, we arrived in Fairlie, where calm conditions and still air welcomed us alongside. After days at sea and along rugged coastlines, the quiet harbour offered a gentle and steady end to our journey.

Following breakfast, it was time to say our goodbyes. From the Arctic landscapes of Northern Norway to the historic shores of Scotland, the voyage had taken us through changing environments, cultures, and seas, each day offering something distinct.

We stepped ashore carrying memories of narrow fjords and open crossings, of wildlife encounters and quiet moments, of lively conditions at sea and calm explorations by land and boat. The journey brought together contrasts: north and south, calm and motion, tradition and discovery, all experienced as a shared passage.

As we parted ways in Fairlie, the voyage reached its natural conclusion. We hope the journey has left our guests with lasting impressions of the remarkable places we visited and the shared experiences that unfolded along the way.



[logbook.travelmap.net/20260321-nordic-navigator](https://logbook.travelmap.net/20260321-nordic-navigator)