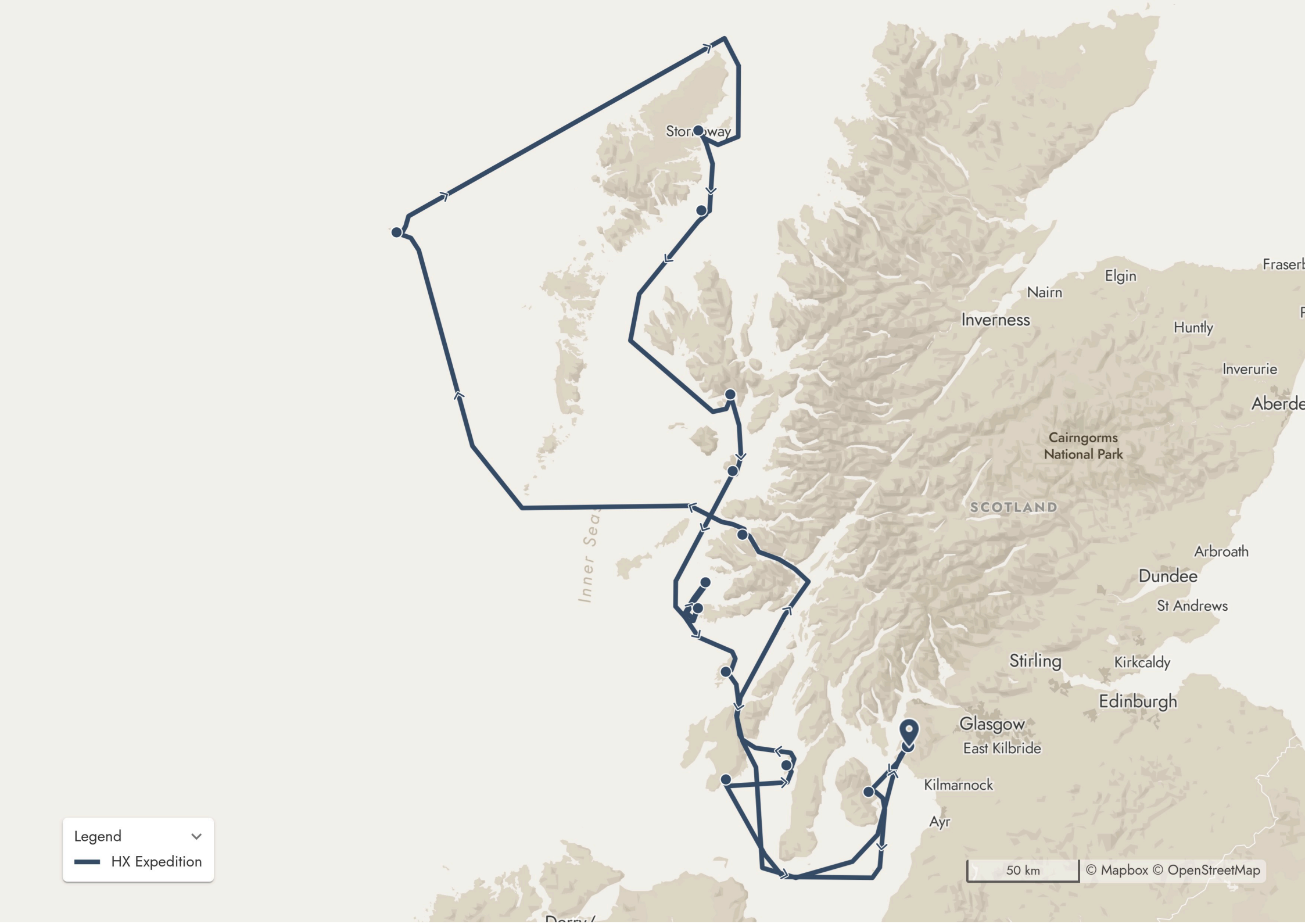




The Scottish Isles – Island Hopping in the Hebrides

MS Spitsbergen, 17 – 24.4.2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1 - Embarkation in Fairlie

Our journey began in Fairlie, where we were welcomed by beautiful weather, with clear skies and calm conditions setting the tone for the days ahead. Throughout the afternoon, we arrived at the pier and boarded MS Spitsbergen, settling into our cabins and getting our first glimpse of life on board.

Soon after embarkation, we gathered for the mandatory safety drill, an essential introduction before departure. The afternoon continued with a welcome meeting hosted by the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager, where we were introduced to the voyage and what lay

ahead.

As the time to depart approached, we stepped outside to witness a memorable farewell. On the quay, local bagpipers played as we slowly sailed away, their music accompanying us as the coastline of Scotland began to slip behind. It was a special and atmospheric moment, marking the true beginning of our journey around the British Isles.

With calm seas, warm light, and the sound of the pipes fading into the distance, the voyage was underw





Day 2 - Brodick, Isle of Arran

Our first full day ashore brought us to the Isle of Arran, where we were met with magnificent conditions that allowed the island to reveal its full character from the very start.

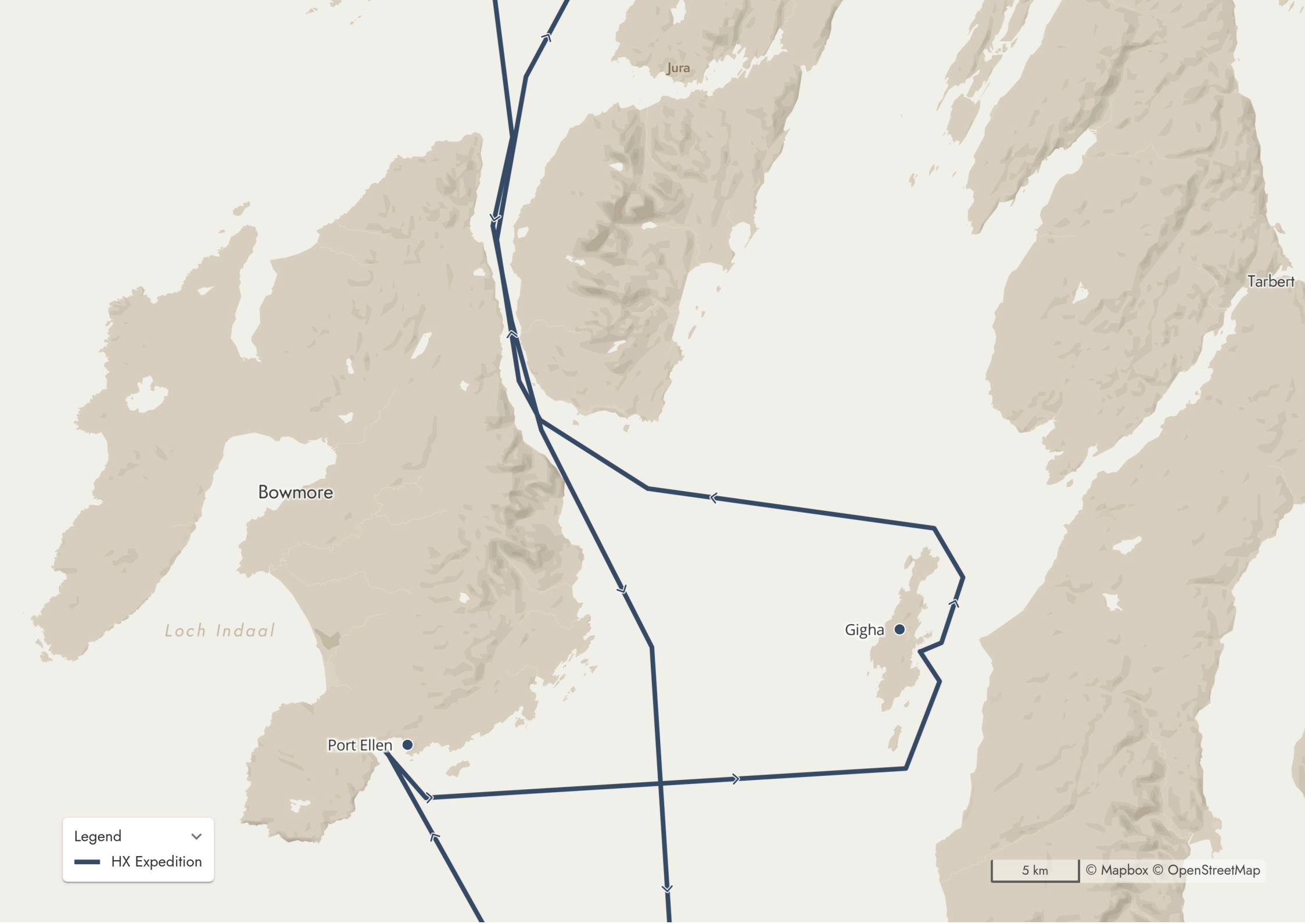
Throughout the day, we spread out across a range of excursions, each offering a different way to experience Arran. Some of us explored the island's heritage with a visit to Brodick Castle, wandering through its interiors and gardens at a relaxed pace. Others joined a coastal walk with the Expedition Team, following the shoreline and discovering the island's connection to the sea.

For those looking to venture further inland, the Glen Rosa Walk provided a rewarding route into one of Arran's most iconic valleys, surrounded by rugged peaks and open landscapes. Meanwhile, the Forest Safari offered a quieter immersion into the island's wooded areas, revealing a different side of Arran's natural environment.

With such favorable weather throughout the day, every activity felt enhanced—the views sharper, the colors brighter, and the atmosphere inviting. Arran offered a rich and varied introduction to the voyage, combining landscape, history, and outdoor exploration under truly ideal conditions.

In the evening, as we continued sailing, we passed by the striking Ailsa Craig, rising steeply from the sea. Bathed in the warm light of a beautiful sunset, this distinctive island offered a memorable final scene for the day. Ailsa Craig is known for its unique microgranite, famously used to make curling stones, and is also an important bird sanctuary, home to large colonies of seabirds. Its isolated presence in the Firth of Clyde made for a truly iconic and atmospheric moment as we sailed past.





Jura

Tarbert

Bowmore

Loch Indaal

Gigha

Port Ellen

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 - Port Ellen, Islay

Our next day brought us to the island of Islay, where we were once again welcomed by excellent conditions, with clear skies and steady weather accompanying us throughout our time ashore. The island revealed itself in full, from its open landscapes to its strong maritime and cultural identity.

We set out across Islay through a variety of excursions. Some of us explored the character of the island with a walk through Port Ellen, discovering local life and its close ties to the sea. Others joined a coastal cruise, experiencing the shoreline from the water and observing the wildlife that inhabits these rich environments. For those seeking a more active outing, a hike to the iconic

lighthouse at Carraig Fhada Lighthouse offered a scenic route along the coast, with rewarding views over the surrounding waters. At the same time, many guests visited the renowned Lagavullin Distillery, gaining insight into the craft behind Islay's famous whiskies and experiencing one of the island's most celebrated traditions.

Some of us also took part in a beach clean-up, contributing to the preservation of the island's coastline and adding a meaningful, hands-on element to the day.

With stable weather, rich cultural experiences, and time spent both on land and along the coast, Islay offered a full and rewarding day—capturing the essence of this distinctive Scottish island.



Day 4 - Isle of Gigha

Our next day brought us to the Isle of Gigha, where we were once again greeted by excellent conditions, allowing us to fully enjoy the island and its surroundings, creating an inviting setting as we went ashore to explore.

As we arrived, we were welcomed by insights into the island's life and community, setting the tone for a day that blended nature and local culture. Once ashore, we spread out across a range of activities.

Many of us made our way to the beautiful Achamore Gardens, where winding paths led through a rich variety of plants thriving in this sheltered environment.

Others joined a hike from Ardminish toward the southern part of the island, enjoying open views and the quiet rhythm of island life. Some

of us also took the opportunity to visit Achamore House, adding a historical perspective to the day.

In the afternoon, we added a different dimension to our exploration with a group who went out for a Science Boat session, heading out on the water to observe and better understand the marine environment surrounding Gigha. This hands-on experience offered a closer look at the coastal ecosystem and complemented our time ashore.

With calm weather and varied activities, Gigha offered a well-balanced and rewarding day—capturing the essence of the Inner Hebrides in ideal conditions.





Arinagour

Tobermory

Glenborrodale

Stront

Lochaline

Loch Tuath

Salen

Mull

Staffa

Loch Scridain

Na h-Eileanan Siar

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 5 - Tobermory

We arrived in Tobermory under excellent conditions, with calm seas and clear skies once again accompanying us for a full day of exploration on the Isle of Mull.

Once ashore, we spread out across a range of excursions. Many of us joined a walking tour through the town, discovering its history and enjoying the character of its colorful waterfront. Others ventured further afield to visit Duart Castle, gaining insight into the island's heritage and its strategic coastal setting.

For those looking for a more active experience, a hike toward the Tobermory Lighthouse offered a rewarding route along the coastline,

with wide views across the surrounding waters and a chance to experience the island's rugged beauty up close.

With time also to explore independently, we were able to enjoy Tobermory at our own pace—wandering through its streets, visiting local shops, and taking in the relaxed atmosphere of this harbor town. In the evening, back on board, we were treated to a special cultural moment as the local Gaelic Choir came to visit and perform. Their music filled the ship, offering a powerful and authentic connection to the traditions of the region and bringing a memorable close to a beautiful day in Mull.



Day 6 - St Kilda

Our day began with a remarkable approach to St Kilda, as the islands and towering stacs slowly revealed themselves on the horizon. The dramatic cliffs rising from the Atlantic set the tone for what would become one of the most memorable days of the voyage.

Before going ashore, we were joined by the local ranger, who provided guidance on how to explore this unique and protected site. With the ship anchored off Hirta, it quickly became clear that the day would require a sense of adventure. The swell at the tender platform made for a lively transfer, but thanks to the teamwork of crew and guests alike, everyone made it ashore safely.

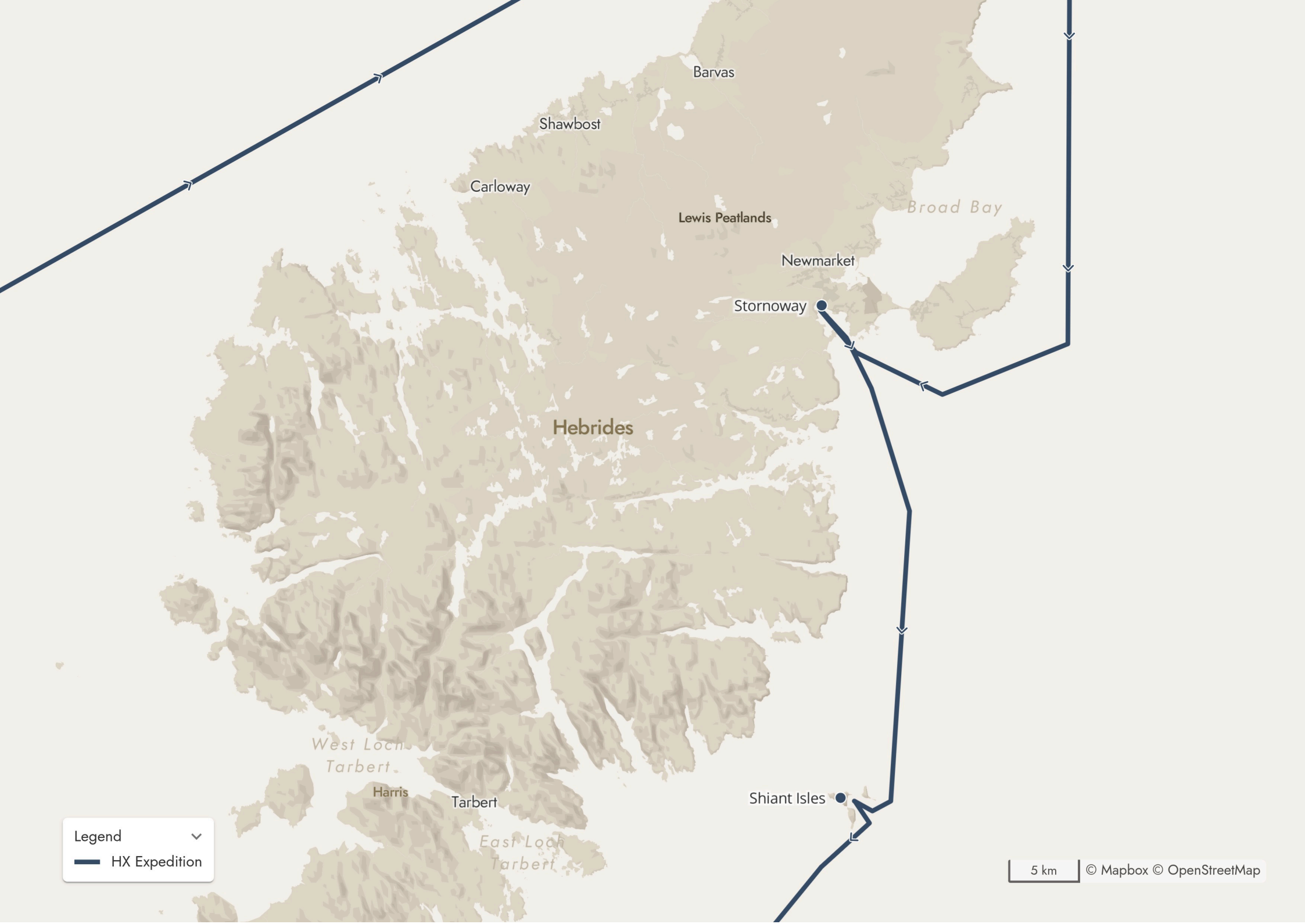
Once on land, the reward was immediate. The sense of remoteness was unmistakable—few places in the world offer such a powerful feeling of isolation and history combined. Throughout the day, we

explored the island in different ways. Some of us set out on hikes across the rugged terrain, others joined history walks to learn about the island's past, while nature walks offered insight into the unique environment. Many also chose to simply wander freely, taking in the scenery and atmosphere at their own pace.

After a full day ashore, we returned to the ship and continued our journey, but not before making a stop near the nearby stacs of St Kilda. Here, we observed the abundant birdlife that inhabits these towering rock formations—thousands of seabirds nesting and circling above, bringing the cliffs to life.

A day defined by adventure, history, and raw natural beauty—St Kilda delivered an unforgettable experience at the very edge of the British Isles.





Barvas

Shawbost

Carloway

Lewis Peatlands

Broad Bay

Newmarket

Stornoway

Hebrides

West Loch Tarbert

Harris

Tarbert

East Loch Tarbert

Shiant Isles

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 7 - Stornoway (AM)

Our next day brought us to Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis, where we were welcomed by another day of excellent weather. Clear skies and calm conditions allowed the island to show its full character, creating ideal conditions for exploration.

Once ashore, we spread out across a range of excursions, each offering a different perspective on the island. Many of us visited Lews Castle with a local guide, discovering its history and enjoying the views from its elevated position above the harbor. Others chose to explore the surrounding grounds on foot, taking in the coastal

scenery and quiet woodland paths.

Some of us ventured further afield to visit the Blackhouse Village, gaining insight into traditional island life and how communities adapted to the conditions of the Outer Hebrides.

With time also to explore independently, we were able to enjoy the town's welcoming atmosphere, its harbor, and its connection to the sea. Under such favorable weather, Stornoway offered a relaxed and rewarding day, combining culture, history, and landscape in one of Scotland's most distinctive regions.



Day 7 - Shiant Isles (PM)

In the afternoon, after departing Stornoway, we set course toward the Shiant Isles for a small boat cruising session.

With fantastic conditions, we were able to fully enjoy the outing as we approached these remote and rugged islands. Once on the water, the experience became truly rewarding. Along the cliffs and shoreline, we spotted puffins flying past us, while grey seals rested on the rocks, undisturbed by our presence. Above, we were fortunate to observe

sea eagles, adding a powerful highlight to the wildlife encounters of the afternoon.

The calm seas and excellent visibility allowed us to take in the dramatic scenery up close, making this a memorable extension of the day. The combination of rich wildlife and striking landscapes made the Shiant Isles a perfect complement to our time in the Outer Hebrides.





Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 8 - Loch Scavaig (AM)

Our day began in the dramatic setting of Loch Scavaig, where excellent conditions allowed the surrounding landscape to fully reveal itself. With the sharp peaks of the Cuillin mountains rising around us, we approached one of the most remote and striking locations of the voyage.

Once ashore, we explored the area around Loch Coruisk in a variety of ways. A few guests set out on the a hike along the loch, one of the most demanding routes of the journey, navigating rugged terrain in an unforgettable mountain setting. Others chose a more relaxed approach, walking along the shoreline and taking in the stillness of

the water, the reflections of the peaks, and the sense of isolation that defines this place.

A small boat cruise provided a different perspective, bringing us closer to the rugged coastline and allowing us to observe seals resting on nearby islets. Adding another layer to the morning, we also conducted a Science Boat session, giving us the opportunity to engage more closely with the marine environment. This hands-on experience allowed us to observe and better understand the coastal ecosystem, connecting our exploration of the landscape with what lies beneath the surface.



Day 8 - Isle of Eigg (PM)

Later in the day, we continued to the Isle of Eigg, where the favorable weather once again allowed us to go ashore and explore. Once landed, we spread out across the island, each group finding its own rhythm.

Some of us joined a Nature Walk with the Expedition Team, discovering the island's landscapes and learning more about its environment and community. Others gathered near the jetty for an underwater drone session, offering a fascinating glimpse beneath the

surface and revealing the marine life hidden below. Many also chose to simply roam freely, enjoying the peaceful atmosphere of this small island community and its open views.

With calm seas, clear skies, and time spent both in the mountains and among island communities, the day offered a perfect balance between exploration and relaxation—another highlight of our journey through the Scottish Isles.



Day 9 - Iona (AM)

Our next day began with an early arrival to the island of Iona, where we disembarked in the quiet morning and stepped ashore in one of Scotland's most iconic and historic locations.

Many of us made our way to the renowned Iona Abbey, exploring its surroundings and taking in the sense of history and tranquility that defines this special place. The atmosphere around the Abbey offered a moment to slow down and appreciate the heritage and significance of the island.

There was also time to enjoy the village, wandering through its small

streets and admiring the beautiful gardens that add color and character to the landscape. The calm setting and gentle pace made for a particularly pleasant morning.

For those looking to explore further, a group set out on a hike near the village, discovering more of the island's scenery and open views. With peaceful surroundings, clear light, and a relaxed rhythm, Iona offered a memorable and enriching start to the day—setting the tone for what was to come in the afternoon.



Day 9 - Staffa (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued to the island of Staffa, where once again excellent conditions allowed us to fully enjoy one of the highlights of the voyage.

We set out on a small boat cruise, approaching the island's dramatic basalt formations from the water. The geometric columns rising from the sea created a striking and almost surreal landscape, shaped by volcanic forces long ago.

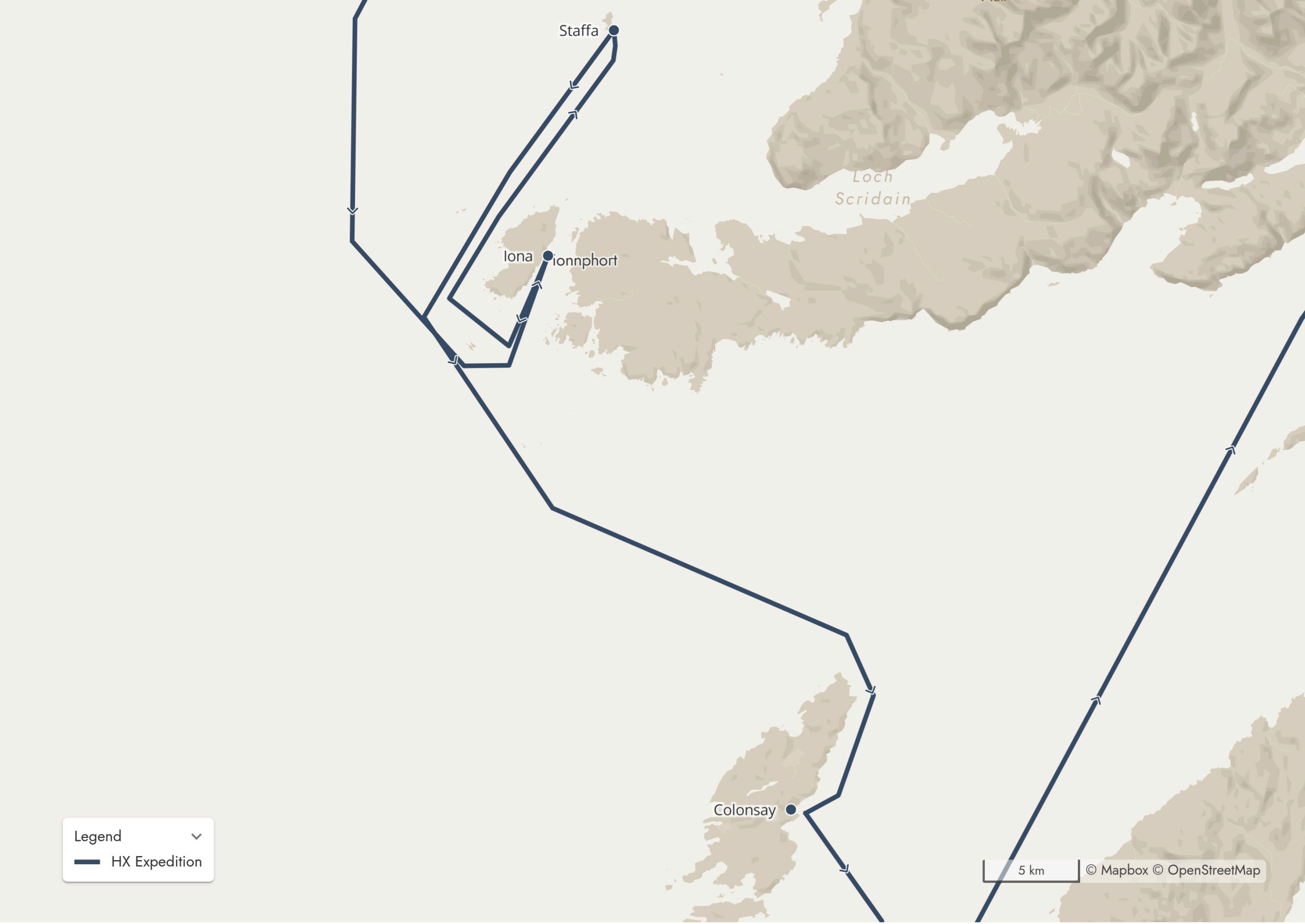
The highlight of the visit was reaching Fingal's Cave, where the symmetry of the rock formations and the movement of the sea combined to create an unforgettable scene. From the boats, we were

able to admire the cave up close, taking in its scale and natural beauty.

All around us, puffins flew between the cliffs and the water, adding life and energy to the setting, while other seabirds circled above the island. The combination of wildlife, geology, and calm conditions made the experience especially rewarding.

With its unique formations and vibrant birdlife, Staffa stood out as a true highlight of the voyage, offering a powerful and memorable end to an already remarkable day.





Staffa

Loch
Scridain

Iona Ionnphort

Colonsay

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 10 - Colonsay

Our final day of exploration brought us to the Isle of Colonsay, where we were once again welcomed by excellent weather, with clear skies and calm conditions creating a relaxed and inviting atmosphere ashore.

Once landed, we spread out across the island to explore in different ways. Some of us walked together with the Expedition Team toward the beautiful Colonsay House Gardens, enjoying the gentle landscape along the way before taking time to wander through the gardens themselves. Others chose the shuttle transfer, making their way more directly to explore the area at their own pace.

A smaller group set out on an extended hike, heading toward the higher parts of the island, where open views and a sense of space

rewarded the effort. The peaceful setting and favorable conditions made it easy to enjoy the island's quiet charm, whether walking, exploring, or simply taking in the surroundings.

Later in the afternoon, some of us joined a Science Boat session, heading out on the water to observe and better understand the marine environment around the island. This hands-on experience offered a closer look at the coastal ecosystem and added an engaging perspective to the day.

With its calm atmosphere, varied activities, and beautiful conditions, Colonsay provided a fitting and memorable final day of exploration before the journey's conclusion.





Day 11 - Disembarkation in Fairlie

Early in the morning, we arrived back in Fairlie, where our journey through the British Isles came to its natural conclusion.

After breakfast, it was time to say our goodbyes—to MS Spitsbergen, to the crew and Expedition Team, and to the fellow travelers with whom we had shared these past days. From the very beginning, the voyage had offered a remarkable combination of landscapes, culture, and experiences, taking us from sheltered islands to remote archipelagos and historic communities.

Throughout the journey, we were fortunate to enjoy consistently beautiful conditions, which allowed us to fully experience each

destination—from calm landings and scenic sailings to unforgettable wildlife encounters and moments ashore.

We leave with lasting memories of dramatic coastlines, vibrant local traditions, and the quiet beauty of the islands. Whether hiking through remote landscapes, exploring historic sites, or simply enjoying time on deck, each day added its own unique chapter to the experience.

As we stepped ashore in Fairlie, the voyage came to a close, but the impressions of the British Isles—and the moments we shared along the way—remain with us long after the journey has ended.





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