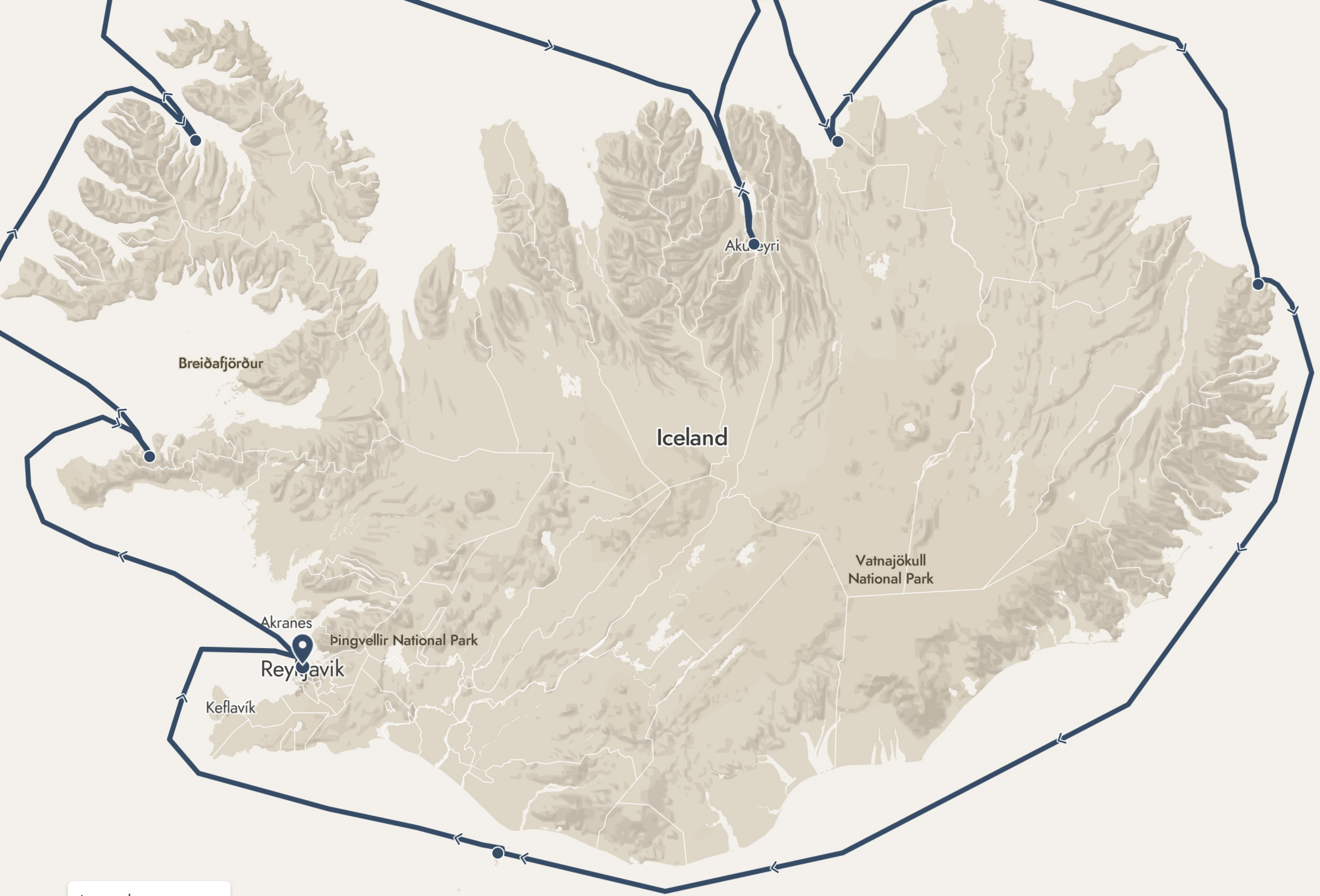




Elemental Iceland – Circular Saga from Reykjavik

MS Fridtjof Nansen, 26.5 – 2.6.2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

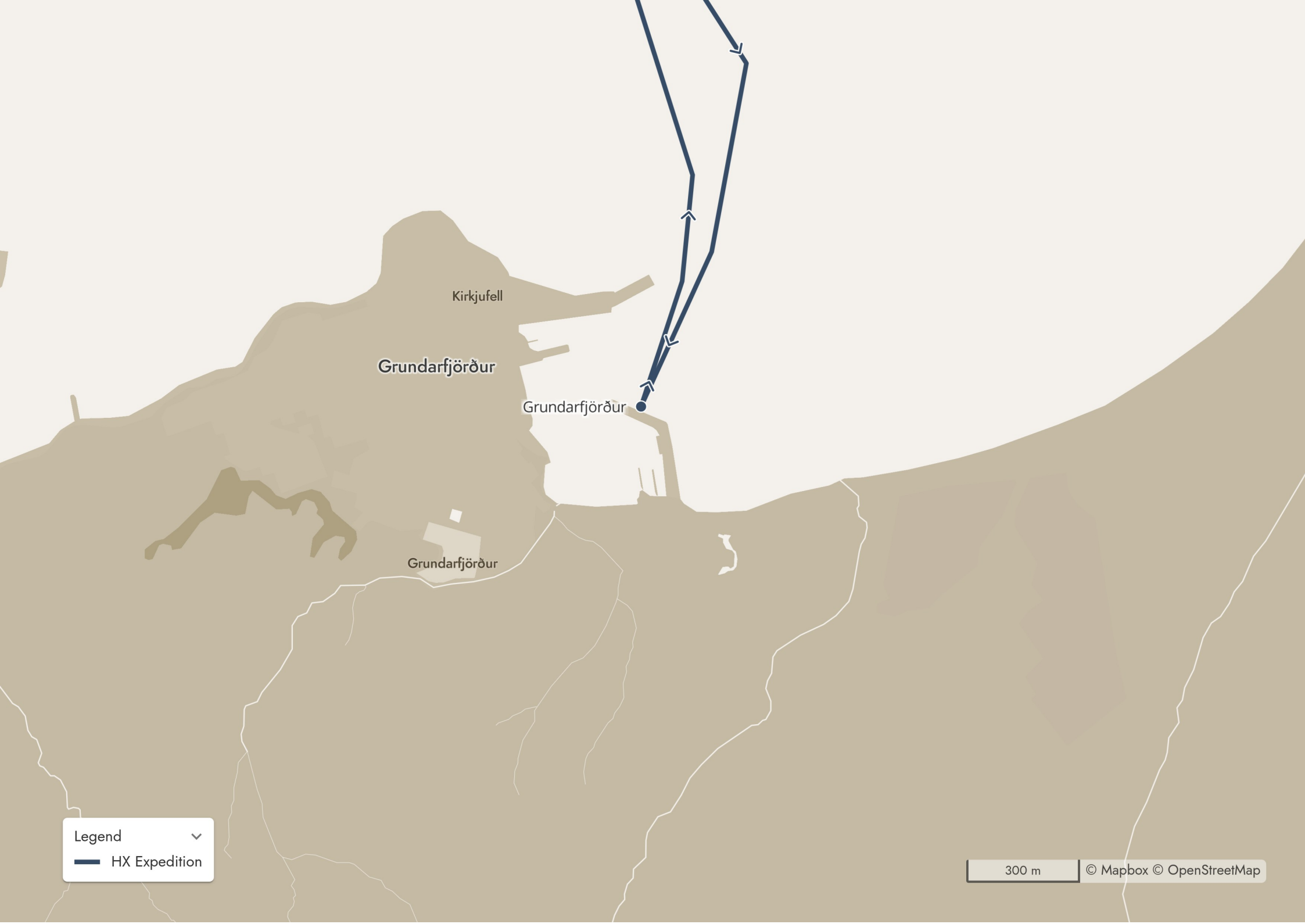
Day 1 - Embarkation

Our guests embarked MS Fridtjof Nansen in Reykjavík on a cold May afternoon, with calm water in the harbour and clear views across to the surrounding mountains. As the ship pulled away from the city, the excitement of beginning a full circumnavigation of Iceland started to set in. The itinerary promised a mix of remote coastal towns, steep

sea cliffs, volcanic landscapes, and stretches of open water, with nearly continuous daylight, giving the days an unhurried rhythm. Early summer conditions meant green hillsides were beginning to emerge beneath the last patches of snow. However, the chance of some late season snowfall was not to be entirely dismissed at this point.







Kirkjufell

Grundarfjörður

Grundarfjörður

Grundarfjörður

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

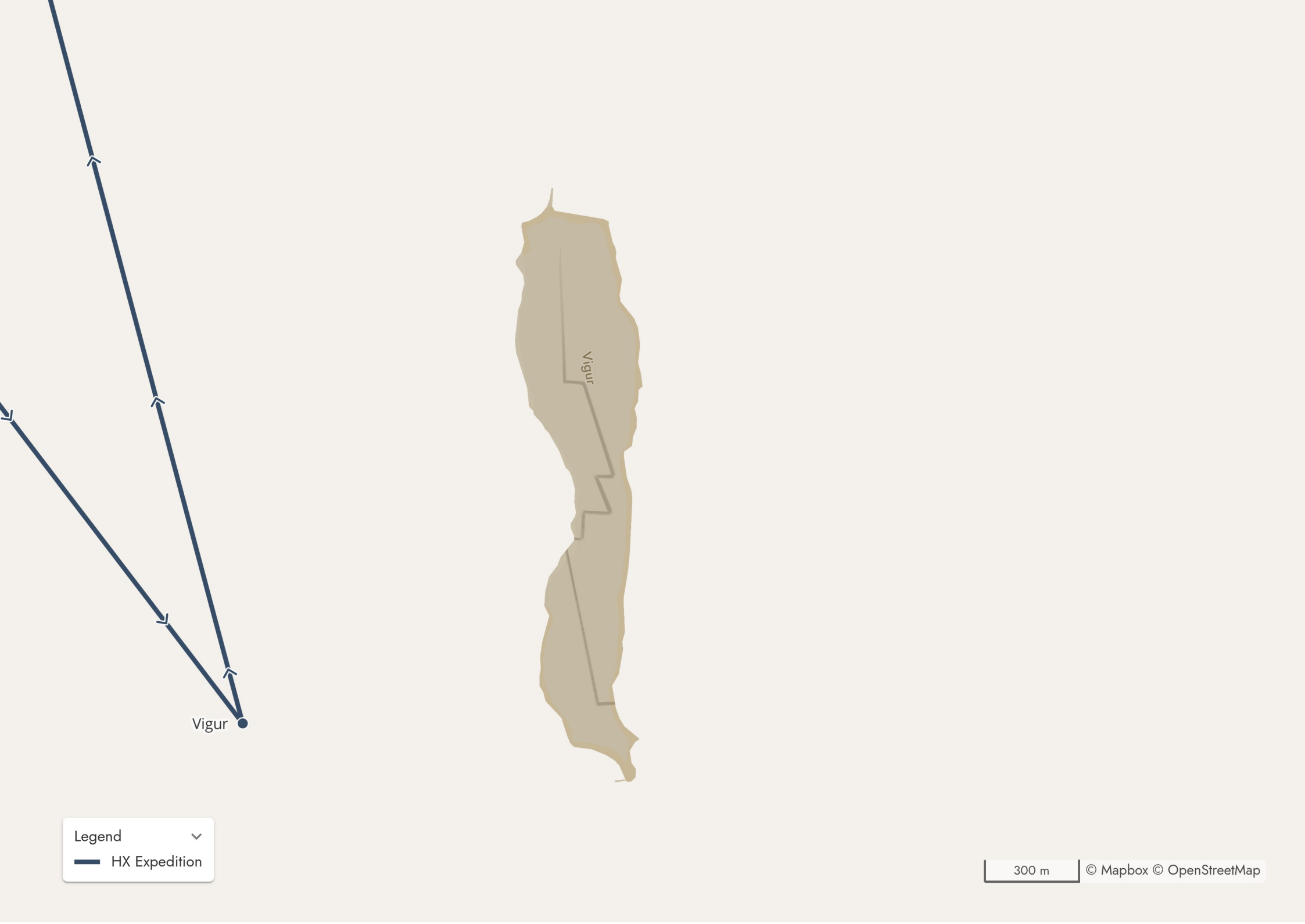
Day 2 - Grundarfjörður

Our first stop after departing Reykjavík was Grundarfjörður, where our small expedition ship arrived beneath clear views of Kirkjufell rising above the harbour. The afternoon was busy from the start, with several excursions starting just after lunch. Our hikers headed off to explore the trails around Kirkjufell, while a continuous shuttle service transported guests from the ship to the mountain area throughout the day. Others chose from a range of optional excursions across the

Snæfellsnes peninsula, including the Highlights of Snæfellsnes bus tour, and the Caves, Craters and Coves tour, each offering a different perspective on the peninsula's volcanic landscapes, coastal scenery, and small fishing communities. As the first landing of our circumnavigation of Iceland, it was an energetic and well-organized introduction to the variety of landscapes awaiting us around the island.







Vigur

Vigur

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 - Vigur

Approaching Vigur felt like arriving at a hidden corner of the world. As our guests stepped ashore, they were warmly welcomed by the local family who call the island home, their hospitality immediately setting a friendly and personal tone for our visit. Then guests enjoyed a guided walk through the southern part of the island, where countless seabirds filled the cliffs and grassy meadows with

movement and sound, offering incredible opportunities to observe Iceland's rich birdlife up close. Later, they boarded our Zodiacs for a cruise across the bay, gliding quietly through the choppy, cold Arctic waters while taking in sweeping views of the island, surrounding mountains, and the thriving wildlife that makes Vigur such a special destination.







Boginn

HLÍÐARHVERFI

Gleira

Akureyrarvöllur

Into the Arctic

Akureyri

Akureyri

Akureyri Art Museum

SUDURBREKKAN

Legend



— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4 - Akureyri

Akureyri offered the perfect opportunity to explore the dramatic landscapes of northern Iceland, with an included full-day excursion to Lake Mývatn, which departed after lunch on board. This scenic bus tour took guests through some of the region's most iconic natural wonders, including the spectacular Goðafoss waterfall, known as the 'Waterfall of the Gods', and the striking lava formations of

Dimmuborgir, where volcanic landscapes create an otherworldly atmosphere. Along the way, there were opportunities to admire geothermal scenery, volcanic craters, and the unique beauty that makes the Mývatn area so famous. Winter had returned to northern Iceland with light snow showers and cold winds dominating for most of the day.







Húsavík

Húsavík

Katlavöllur

Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 5 - Húsavík

As we cruised past the remote island of Grímsey, excitement spread across the ship as we prepared to cross the Arctic Circle early that morning. Guests gathered out on deck in the cold wind to mark the special moment, celebrating with a lighthearted Arctic Circle ceremony and traditional 'baptism' featuring splashes of icy water for the brave participants. Later that morning, we arrived in the charming

harbour town of Húsavík, often regarded as Iceland's whale-watching capital. Most guests enjoyed the included visit to the Húsavík Whale Museum, while others chose from a variety of optional excursions, including whale-watching adventures at sea, the scenic Diamond Circle tour, or a peaceful hike to the beautiful Botnsvatn lake.







Borgarfjörður

Bakkagerdi

Bakkagerði

Geitfell

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 6 - Bakkagerdi

The visit to Bakkagerði offered guests a memorable expedition experience, anchoring offshore and Zodiac operations used to safely and efficiently bring guests ashore close to a hillside known for its puffin nesting colonies, providing excellent wildlife viewing opportunities in a dramatic natural setting. Once ashore, guests took part in a guided town walk included in the itinerary, gaining insight into the local community and culture, while a range of optional

activities provided additional ways to explore the area, including visits to a local brewery, kayaking in the coastal waters, and a guided hike. Although the hike was impacted by fresh snowfall and we could not reach our full intended route, it still offered guests a rewarding experience of the surrounding landscape and conditions, adding to the sense of authentic adventure characteristic of expedition travel.





Heimaey

Vestmannaeyjar

Westman Islands

VEY

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

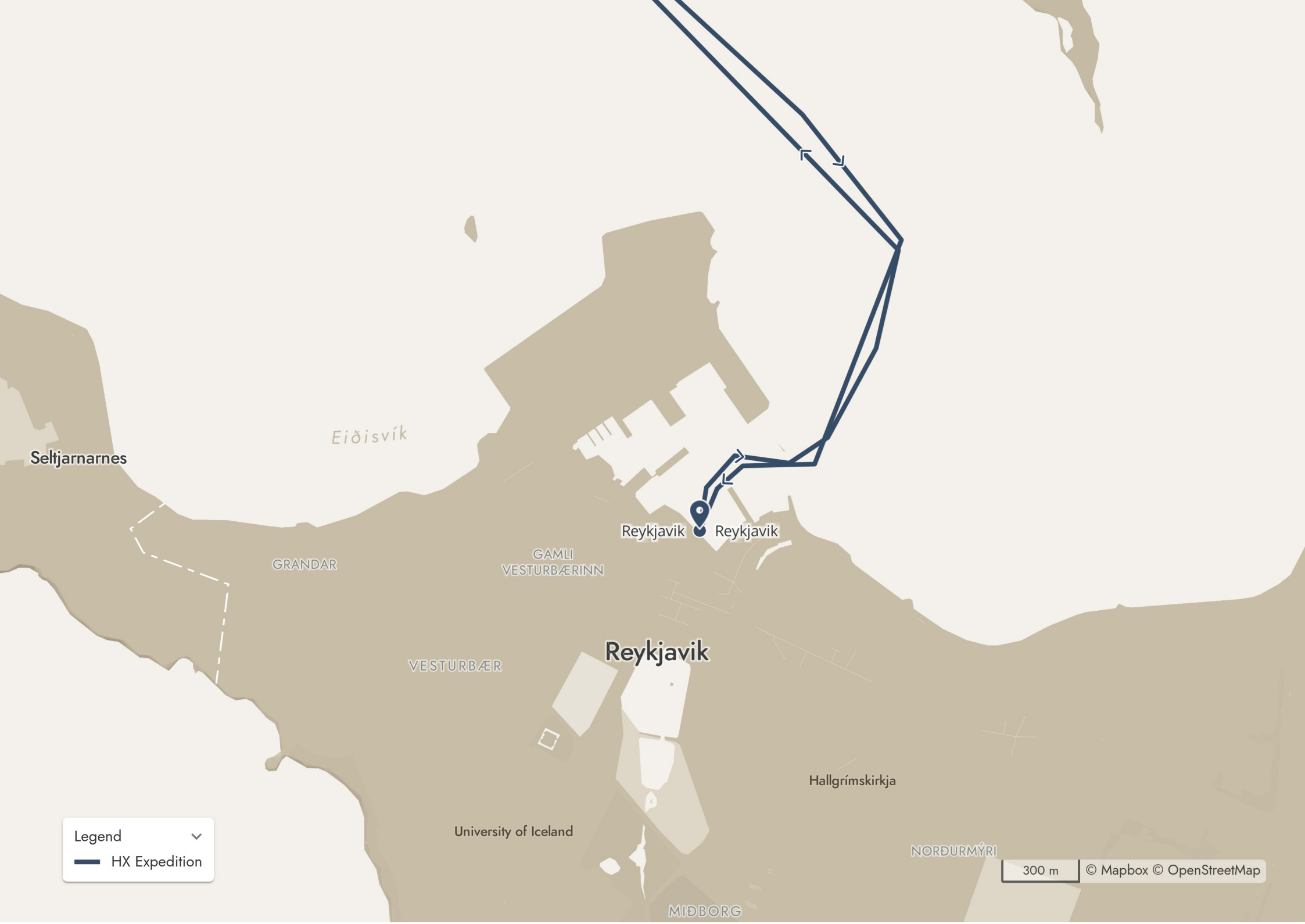
Day 7 - Heimaey

Our visit to Heimaey offered our guests a fascinating glimpse into Iceland's dramatic volcanic history and unique wildlife. Upon arrival, guests could choose between two included excursions: a guided lava and history walk through the town, where the effects of the 1973 volcanic eruption can still be seen today, or a visit to the SEA LIFE Trust Beluga Whale Sanctuary, home to rescued beluga whales and a

puffin rescue centre. For those looking for more adventure, optional excursions included a scenic boat tour around the island's striking cliffs and sea caves, an exhilarating RIB boat safari along the rugged coastline, or a rewarding volcano hike offering panoramic views across the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago.







Seltjarnarnes

Eiðisvík

GRANDAR

GAMLI
VESTURBÆRINN

VESTURBÆR

Reykjavik

Reykjavik

Reykjavik

Hallgrímskirkja

University of Iceland

MIDBORG

NORDURMÝRI

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Reykjavik, Iceland - Jun 2, 2026

240.6 km



logbook.travelmap.net/20260526-fnice2614