




MS FRAM

2026.06.14 - 2026.06.21

Greenland
Sea



Legend ▼
— HX Expedition

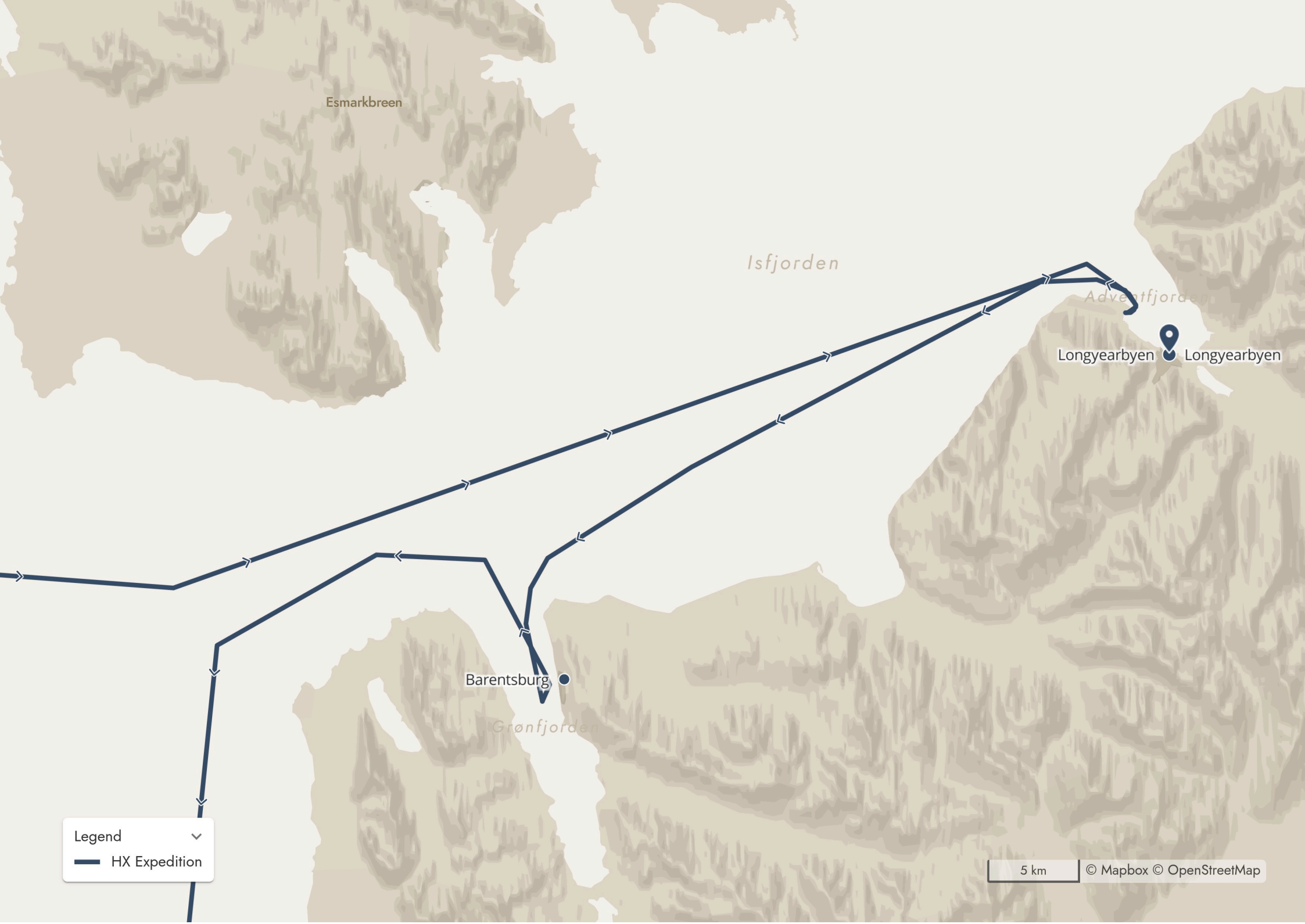
50 km  © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Longyearbyen

Guests boarded MS Fram in Longyearbyen on the first morning of the voyage — stepping aboard the storied expedition ship that would carry them deep into the realm of the polar bear. The ship proved comfortable and well-appointed, and the crew brought genuine

warmth to every arrival. Once guests had settled in and collected their rubber boots, the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager welcomed everyone with the first onboard presentation: life aboard MS Fram. The expedition was under way.





Esmarkbreen

Isfjorden

Adventfjorden

Longyearbyen

Barentsburg

Grønfjorden

Legend

— HX Expedition



Gnålodden

The morning was given over to preparing guests for the days ahead. The Expedition Team took guests through a briefing on AECO guidelines, and [Lara] introduced the kayaking programme for those who had signed up. After lunch, guests went ashore for the first landing of the voyage — and Gnålodden made an immediate

impression. The site was vivid and alive: green tundra spread beneath peaks that did justice to the name 'Spitsbergen', and Arctic birds moved overhead in numbers that drew every pair of binoculars on the shore.



Bamsebu

The morning landing brought guests to Bamsebu — and to a small hut that holds an outsized place in Svalbard's history. Trappers sheltered here, miners passed through, and most recently the site became the base for the first two female scientists to overwinter in Svalbard, devoting months in isolation to climate research. The afternoon took

guests to a nearby mining post from the 1800s, where the ruins of a radio station carried a different chapter of the same story: it had been operated by German forces during World War II. The landscape here keeps its past close to the surface.







Legend

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Smeerenburg

Fuglefjorden

Raudfjorden

Alicehamna

Danskøya

Gravneset

5 km

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Gravneset

The morning brought guests to a Dutch whaling station from the 17th century. While the history spoke for itself, it was the setting that commanded attention: dramatic cliffs fell away to a fjord whose surface caught the light with rare clarity, and loose glacier ice lay at the waterline. After lunch, the Expedition Team led guests to a second

Dutch historical site nearby, where the blubber ovens of the old whalers remained, still recognisable after centuries. The afternoon's most memorable encounter, however, came from the beach: several walrus lay hauled out, entirely indifferent to their audience.





Alicehamna

The morning landing at Alicehamna offered a landscape similar in character to those that had come before — broad geography, glaciers receding into the distance — but the weather had shifted. Low cloud and a cooler light brought the more austere face of Svalbard into view. Guests explored a trappers' cabin before the day's most

anticipated event arrived: the polar plunge. More guests entered the water here than at any previous stop. The afternoon was spent cruising into a fjord framed by glaciers — a quiet and unhurried close to a day that had moved through every mood.





Ice Edge

Moffen

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap





Ice Edge

The furthest north any of us had ever been. The night before, [Luciano] had delivered his evening talk on Nansen and the Fram — and as MS Fram pushed northward, the sea ice rose to meet us. The North Pole lay approximately 1,200 km beyond. The day arrived overcast, the pack ice shifting in slow, ever-changing formations. The

Expedition Team launched expedition boats and kayaks out into the leads, navigating the open channels between the ice, until the bridge called everyone back on safety grounds. It was a brief encounter with the edge of the navigable world, but it left its mark. Back aboard, lectures carried the mood of the day well into the evening.



Ny-Ålesund

Ny-Ålesund carries a distinction few places can match: it is the northernmost permanent settlement in the world. The Expedition Team led guests through the town on a guided tour — a considered and fitting way to draw the voyage's historical and scientific threads together. Clear skies and warm temperatures made it easy to linger.

Then, in the final hours before departure, a polar bear appeared on the shoreline. The sighting moved quietly through the ship. That evening, guests gathered for the Captain's Farewell — and one last dinner aboard the magnificent MS Fram before Longyearbyen and the journey home.





Longyearbyen Disembarkation

The voyage came to a close in Longyearbyen. Bags were packed, and farewells were exchanged — with crew, with fellow guests, and with MS Fram. What guests carried home went well beyond luggage:

eight days at the edge of the Arctic leave a particular kind of impression. We look forward to welcoming them back on the ice.



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