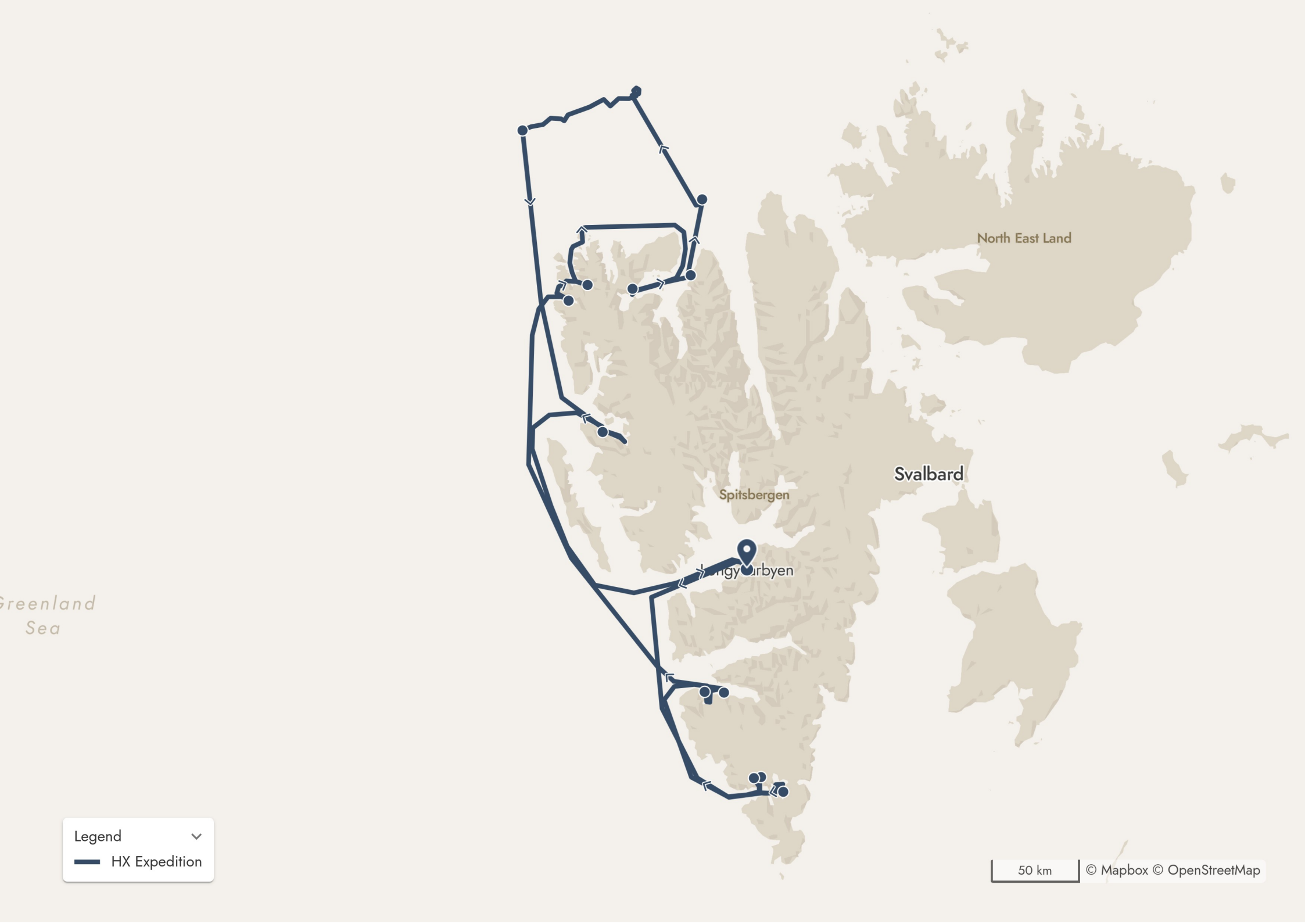
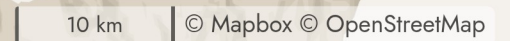
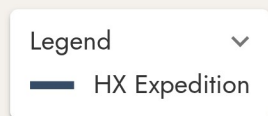




Svalbard in Spring – The Return of the Sun

MS Fram, 24 – 31.5.2026





Longyearbyen

We gathered in Longyearbyen under a crisp Arctic sky, where anticipation quietly shaped the start of our journey. The afternoon unfolded with practical preparations, as we familiarized our guests with expedition procedures and distributed essential equipment for the days ahead. A key moment followed with a comprehensive safety

drill, ensuring all were well prepared for operations in these remote regions. Later, guests attended an engaging introduction to the voyage, where the Expedition Leader outlined the route, ambitions, and spirit of exploration that would guide us. With curiosity sparked and expectations set, the expedition had truly begun.

Hornsund

We sailed into the striking glacier-filled reaches of Brepollen, where towering ice formations and quiet waters created a dramatic Arctic panorama. The morning invited our guests to observe this frozen landscape up close, setting a contemplative tone, already enriched by two earlier polar bear sightings during our scenic navigation. Before any landing attempt, our guests attended a detailed briefing on environmental guidelines and polar bear safety, deepening their

understanding of responsible exploration in Svalbard. In the afternoon, our landing in Burgerbukta began with the remarkable sight of a pod of beluga whales feeding in the fjord, but operations were paused when a third polar bear appeared across the water. Once back on board, we continued westward, exploring along the fast ice by Zodiac, immersed in the Arctic's shifting wilderness.







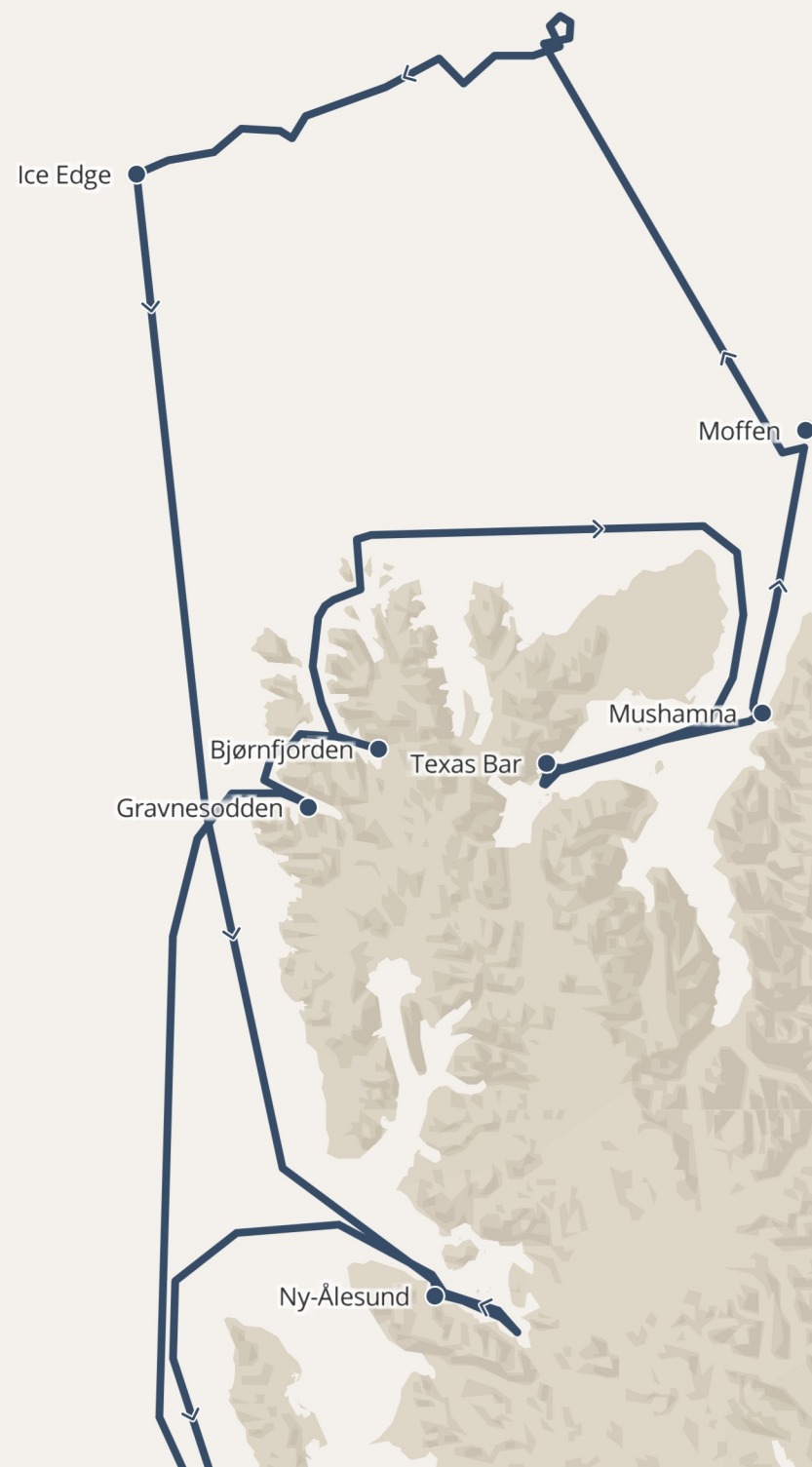
Bellsund

Just before we landed at Bamsebu, another polar bear was spotted at the landing site. In accordance with safety regulations, the landing was cancelled, and we proceeded instead to Calypsobyen, where the impressive remains of a coal-mining endeavor formed the backdrop of our exploration ashore. As conditions gradually deteriorated, we decided against attempting a second landing and turned instead to a

scenic navigation through Recherchefjord, where steep mountains and layered geology unfolded along the water's edge. Throughout the afternoon, our guests' understanding of polar environments deepened through a series of insightful lectures that discussed exploring distant regions, scientific initiatives, and Arctic wildlife.







Legend



— HX Expedition

20 km

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Gravnesodden & Bjørnfjord

We made our way ashore at Gravnesodden (also known as Gravneset), one of the most evocative landing sites on Spitsbergen's west coast. The beach held the remnants of a 17th-century whaling station, and we walked across a white landscape where weathered blubber ovens and rows of small grave mounds marked the final resting place of Dutch whalers who never made it home. A deep

blanket of snow covered everything, and those with the energy pushed up to the ridge, rewarded with a sweeping panorama of the fjord and mountains. In the afternoon, our Zodiacs followed the edge of fast ice stretching in an unbroken sheet across Bjørnfjord.





Texas Bar & Mushamna

A Zodiac cruise in Monacobreen, named after Prince Albert I of Monaco who explored these waters at the turn of the 20th century, had to be cancelled as fast ice extended some seven miles from the glacier front, making a Zodiac cruise impossible. We redirected our morning and made our way ashore at Texas Bar, a remote trapping station on the shores of Liefdefjord: a place whose curious name has no clear origin, lost somewhere in the history of those who first

sheltered here. We explored the old hut and took in the wide, open fjord landscape that shaped the solitary winters of the trappers who once dwelled here. In the afternoon we landed at Mushamna, where a well-kept cabin (complete with a toilet and sauna!) spoke to a softer side of Arctic trapping life. The evening Discovery Session brought us together to examine what a single drop of Arctic water revealed about the microscopic life thriving in these seas.





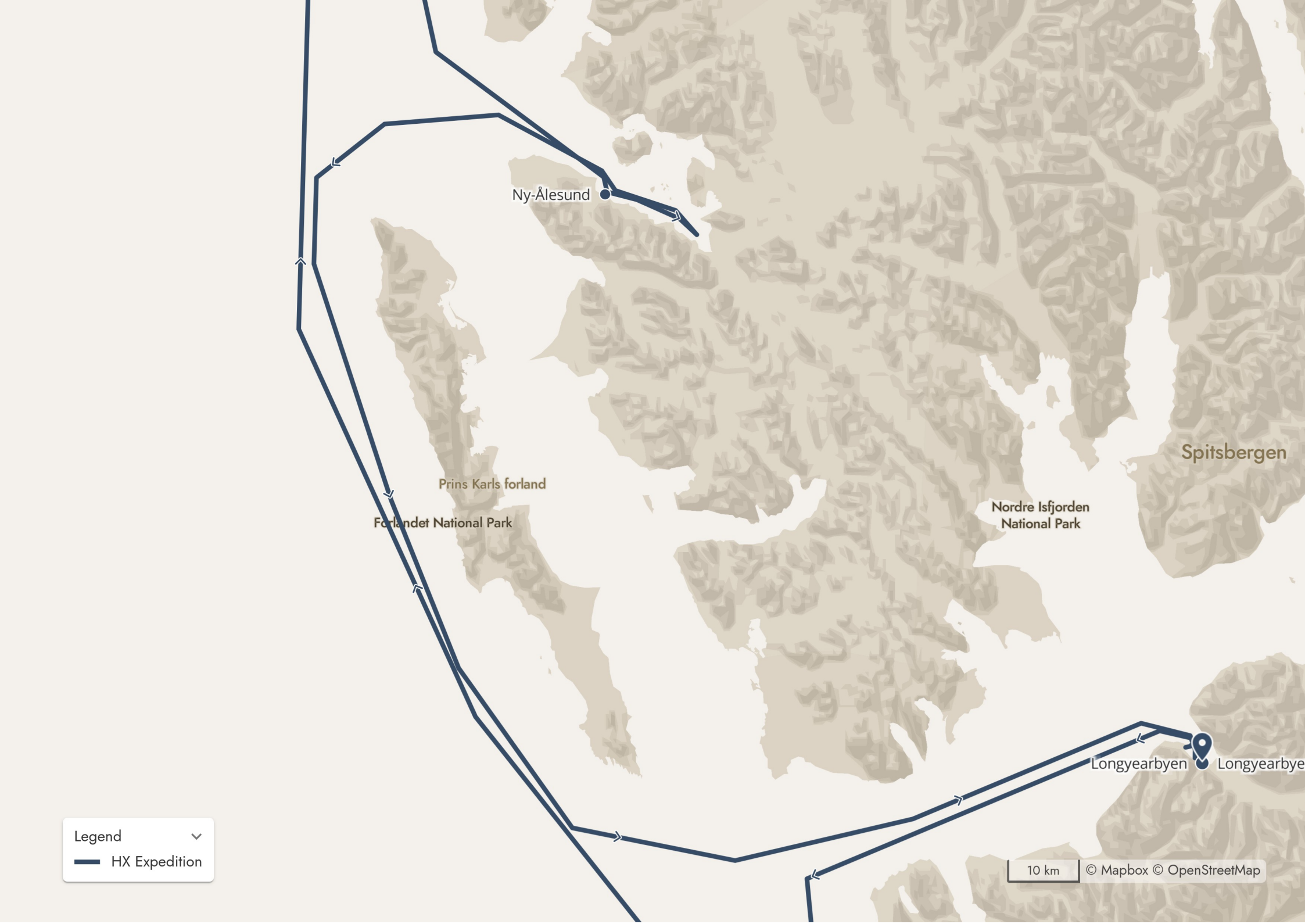


Ice Edge

We spent the day at sea, pressing north towards the sea ice. The morning offered a lecture on the glaciers of Svalbard: how they formed, how they moved, and how they had been changing, followed by a talk tracing the arc of human history on these islands, from the first whalers to the geopolitical contests of the 20th century. On deck, the Expedition Team kept watch for wildlife as the ship pushed further into higher latitudes. When we reached the ice edge, we launched

our Zodiacs and cruised along the boundary between open water and pack ice, a frontier that few people ever see. The light was extraordinary, and the silence at the edge of the frozen ocean was something none of us were likely to forget. In the evening, we gathered in the Explorer Lounge to support the HX Foundation charity auction.





Ny-Ålesund

Prins Karls forland

Forlandet National Park

Nordre Isfjorden
National Park

Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Ny-Ålesund

We arrived at Ny-Ålesund, a permanently inhabited settlement at nearly 79° North, and many guests joined the Expedition team for a guided walk through this remarkable place. We passed the old coal mine infrastructure and the mast from which Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile departed on their historic airship expeditions to the North Pole in the 1920s. We visited the international research stations that now give Ny-Ålesund its purpose, and the settlement's stark, colourful buildings against the backdrop of the Kongsbreen glacier

made for an unforgettable final impression of the voyage. Back on board in the afternoon, our guests attended lectures on whale and vessel interactions in changing Arctic seas, and the geological story written into Svalbard's dramatic landscape. The Captain welcomed our guests for a farewell gathering in the Explorer Lounge before we looked back together at the voyage through an evening slideshow: a fitting close to our visit to the High Arctic.





Longyearbyen Disembarkation

Our time together drew to a close as our guests disembarked in Longyearbyen, where the voyage had begun a week earlier. From Hornsund's glacier-filled waters and beluga sightings, to polar bear encounters that reminded us who truly owned this landscape. Through fast ice, trapping stations, and the research outpost of Ny-Ålesund,

the expedition unfolded as Arctic journeys do, shaped more by the place than by any plan. The long northern light stayed with us throughout, and we hope the stillness of these waters settled into our guests' memory for them to reflect upon for years to come.



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