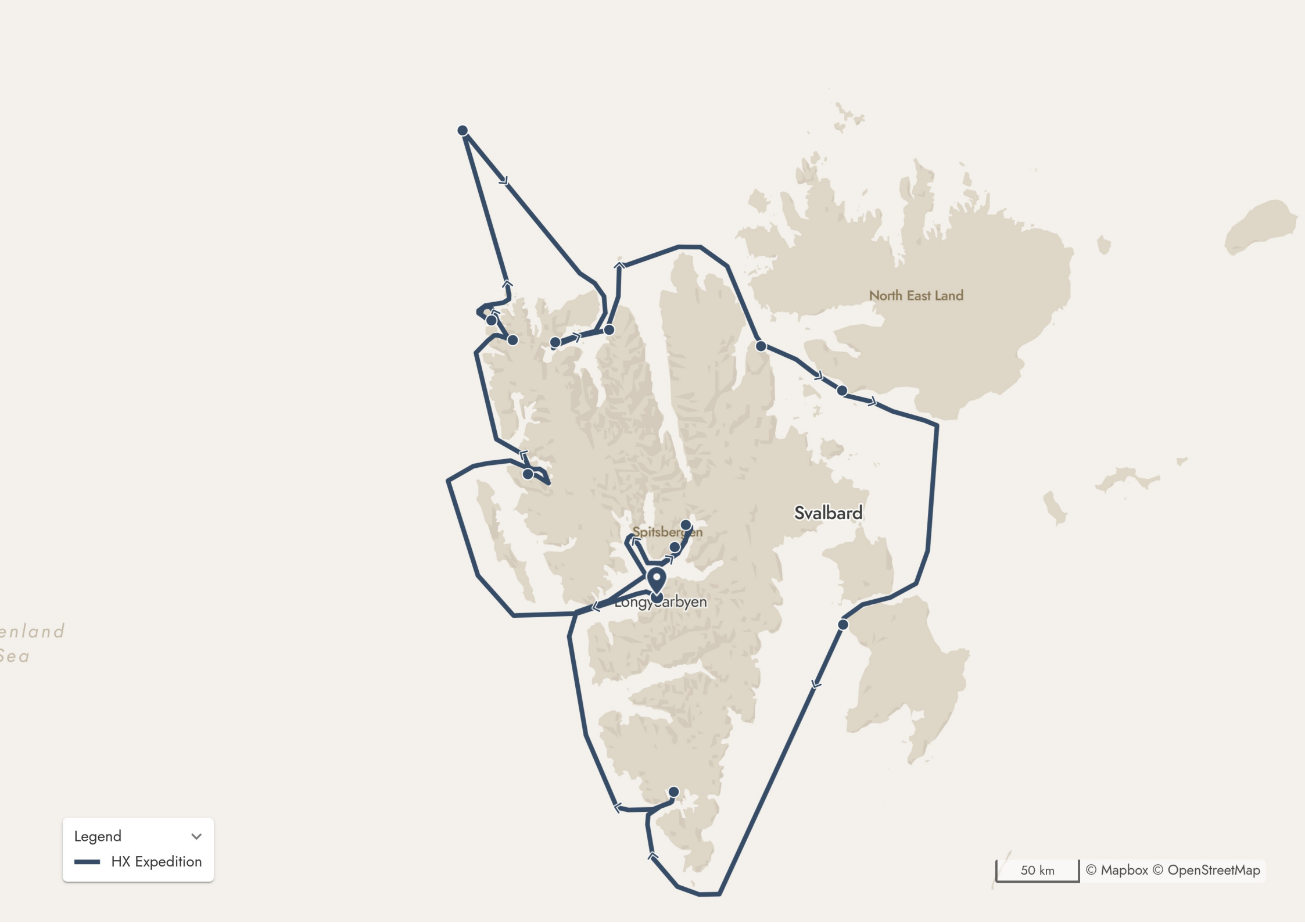




Circumnavigating Spitsbergen – In the Realm of the Polar Bear

MS Spitsbergen, 5 – 14 July 2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km

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Day 1 - Embarkation in Longyearbyen

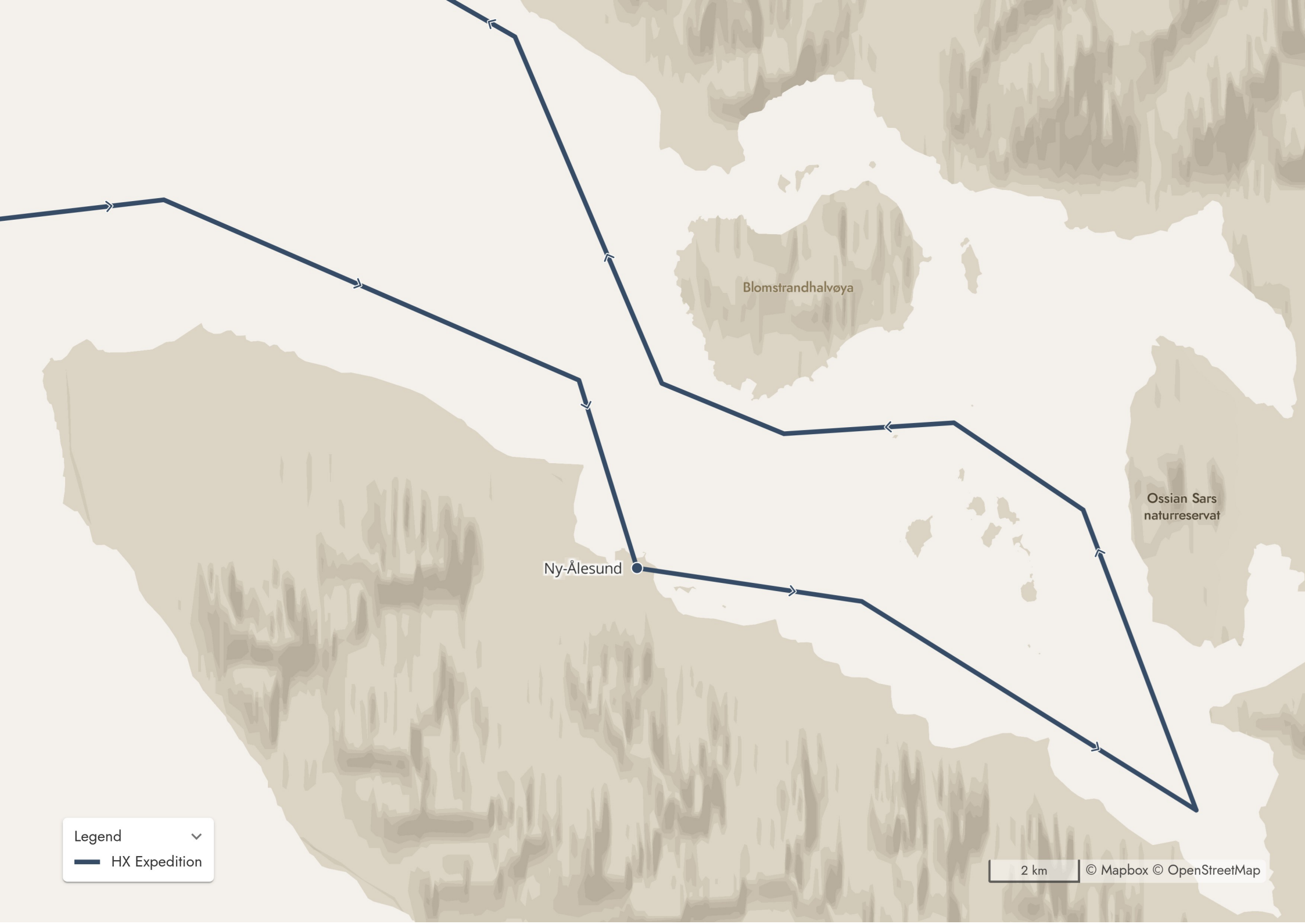
MS Spitsbergen was moored at the Longyearbyen quay as guests arrived in the gateway to the High Arctic. Nestled between rugged mountains and the icy waters of Adventfjorden, this northern settlement offered a compelling first encounter with the landscapes, history, and atmosphere of Svalbard.

In the afternoon, guests boarded MS Spitsbergen and settled into their cabins. As they took in their first views from the decks, the Expedition Team completed its final preparations for departure.

Before leaving port, the mandatory safety drill was conducted, ensuring every guest was fully acquainted with the procedures for the voyage. The Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager welcomed guests on board, shared essential information about the days ahead, and offered a first glimpse into the experiences awaiting in this remarkable corner of the world.

As MS Spitsbergen left port, the Arctic expedition officially began.





Blomstrandhalvøya

Ossian Sars
naturreservat

Ny-Ålesund

Legend



— HX Expedition

2 km

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Day 2 - Ny-Ålesund

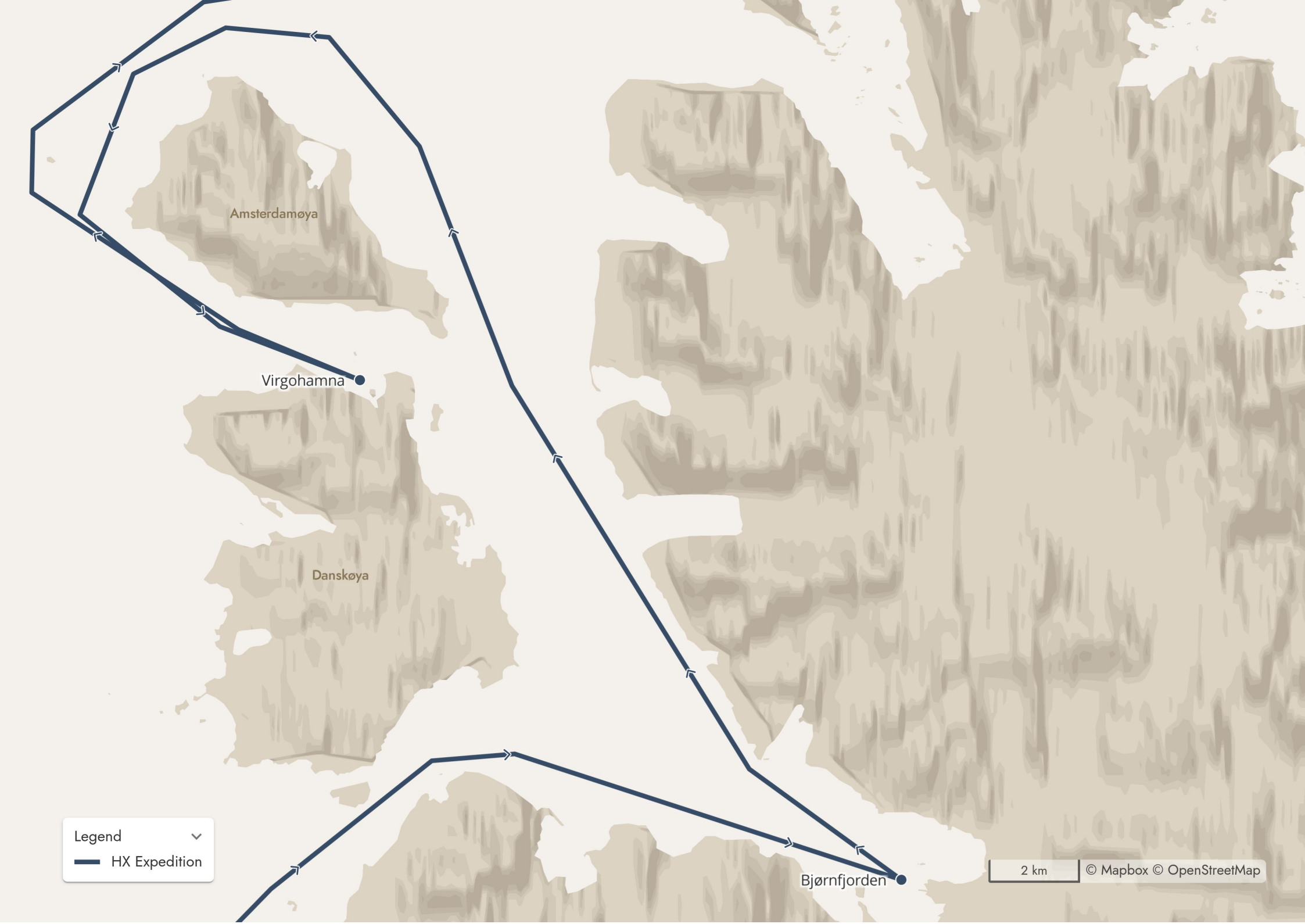
The morning was spent under way, surrounded by glacier-carved mountains and wide Arctic vistas. As the ship moved deeper into the fjord, the Expedition Team led briefings and practical sessions covering expedition procedures, environmental guidelines, and life in the remote wilderness of Svalbard. Between sessions, guests had time on deck to watch the landscape slowly unfold around them.

After lunch, we arrived in Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost settlements and an important centre for Arctic research. The Expedition Team led guests through the town's historic streets,

drawing out its polar heritage and scientific significance. Together, they took in notable landmarks, including the museum and the famous airship mast associated with the pioneering expeditions that once departed from here in search of the North Pole.

Later in the afternoon, guests returned on board and we continued deeper into Kongsfjorden for a panoramic cruise. Glaciers, mountains, and seabirds framed the horizon as the full scale of the Arctic landscape opened before us.





Amsterdamøya

Virgohamna

Danskøya

Bjørnfjorden

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 3 - Bjørnfjorden (AM)

We awoke to a beautiful, unusually warm Arctic morning in Bjørnfjorden, where calm waters and excellent visibility created ideal conditions for exploration. While one group of guests prepared for an expedition boat cruise, another set out by kayak — paddling through tranquil waters beneath towering mountains and glacier fronts, experiencing the silence and scale of the Arctic at its most immediate.

Those in the expedition boats headed toward the glacier front, where the landscape revealed itself in stunning detail. Throughout the

excursion, we witnessed numerous calving events as chunks of ice broke away and crashed into the water — a powerful reminder of the forces at work within these frozen giants. The glacier displayed countless shades of blue and white.

The waters and skies around us were full of life. Kittiwakes, common guillemots, and Arctic terns were constantly on the move near the glacier. We were also fortunate to spot a pair of harp seals resting among the ice, a fine addition to an already exceptional morning.



Day 3 - Virgohamna (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued north through Smeerenburgfjorden toward Virgohamna, one of Svalbard's most significant historical sites. Sheltered by the surrounding mountains and rich in stories of Arctic exploration, this small bay has played a remarkable role in the history of attempts to reach the North Pole.

After landing, guests divided into groups, each led by an Expedition Team member. As they walked through the area, the remains of past expeditions brought its fascinating history to life. Virgohamna served as the departure point for several ambitious polar ventures at the turn

of the twentieth century, including famous balloon expeditions that sought to reach the Arctic from the air. Standing among these traces of human endeavour, it was easy to imagine the determination and challenges faced by those early explorers.

The guided walks offered a deeper understanding of the site's historical importance while allowing guests to appreciate its natural setting — an afternoon that connected them with both Svalbard's wilderness and its rich cultural heritage.



Ice Edge

Virgohamna

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



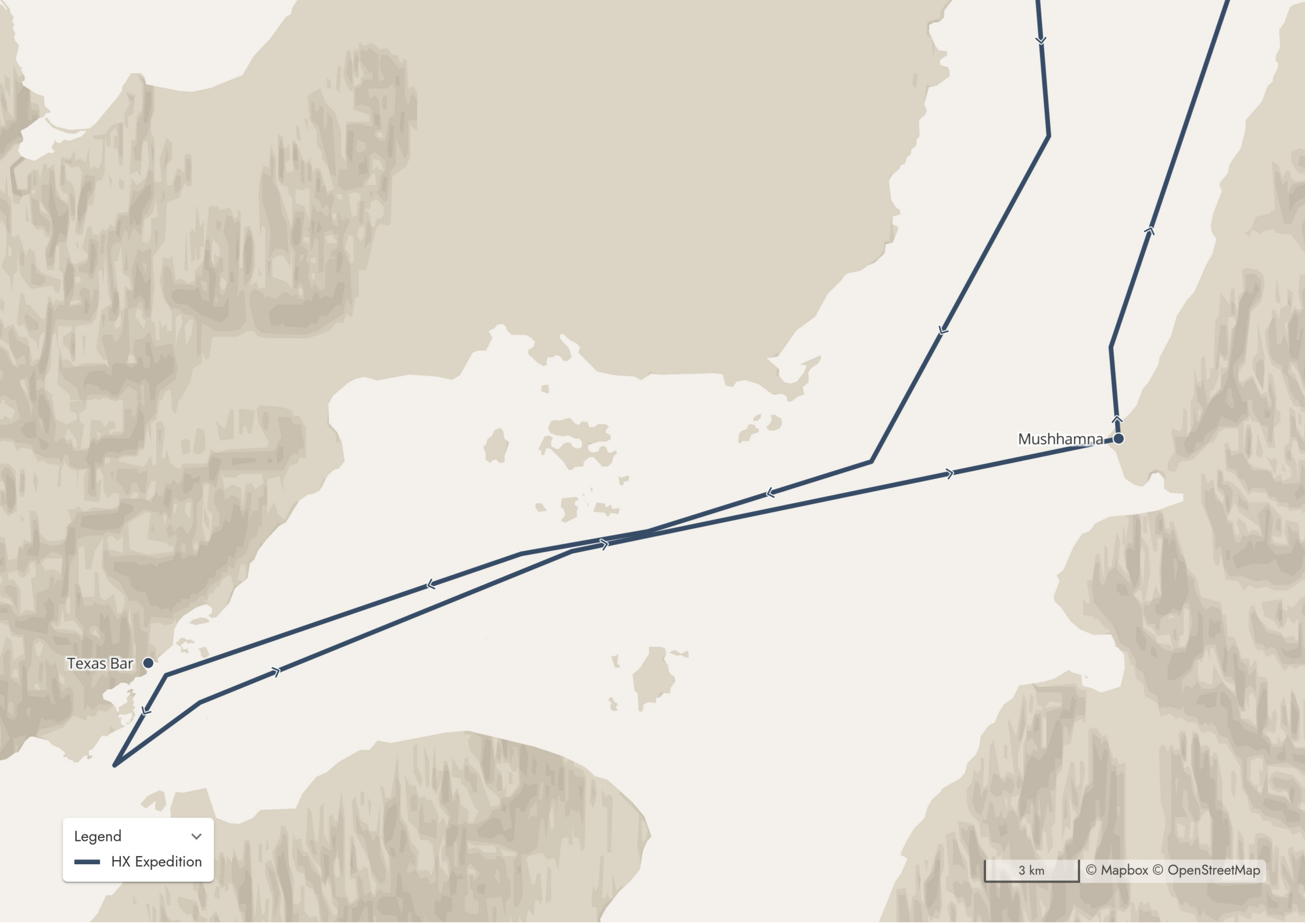
Day 4 - Ice Edge

The morning found us sailing alongside the ice edge at approximately 80°40' North — one of the High Arctic's most iconic environments. Drifting sea ice and the vast Arctic Ocean stretched in every direction, and we took to the expedition boats early, moving through the beauty and stillness of the ice floes.

Back on board, the calm conditions gave many guests the chance to take a polar plunge from the ship's tender pit. With encouragement from those watching on, participants took a dip in the icy Arctic

waters — an experience that will stay with them long after the voyage. It was also a significant day: HX was celebrating 130 years of exploration. Guests gathered for a presentation tracing the company's origins and the generations of expeditions that followed, before the Captain and officers joined to share a celebratory cake. The afternoon brought the Ringing the Bell ceremony, a speech, and a toast to exploration and discovery. Surrounded by Arctic ice, it was a fitting setting for the celebration.





Texas Bar

Mushhamna

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 5 - Texas Bar (AM)

We awoke to a fog-shrouded morning in Liefdefjorden, with the historic cabin of Texas Bar barely visible through the mist. The low clouds and calm conditions gave the landscape a mysterious quality — a reminder of how quickly the Arctic can transform familiar scenery into something entirely different.

After the Expedition Team prepared the landing site, guests stepped onto the beach and began to explore this iconic corner of northern Spitsbergen. Despite the persistent fog, all planned activities went ahead. Guided by the Expedition Team, guests explored the area and

learned about the history of the cabin and the people who once used this remote outpost as a base in the Arctic wilderness.

One of the highlights was gathering outside the cabin for a warming cup of hot chocolate. For those who wanted more, there was the opportunity to attempt a second polar plunge — another invigorating addition to the voyage.

Although the views were hidden by fog, the atmosphere alone made Texas Bar a visit worth making.



Day 5 - Mushamna (PM)

In the afternoon, the persistent fog prompted a change of plans, and we embraced the flexibility that is such an essential part of expedition travel. We sailed further north into Woodfjorden toward Mushamna, a historic site set within a wide and open Arctic landscape.

After landing, guests explored the area with the Expedition Team, visiting the well-known trapping cabin that stands as evidence of the people who once spent long seasons in this remote wilderness. The broad tundra and surrounding mountains gave a wonderful sense of

space, while nearby birdlife added movement and sound to the quiet scenery.

Later in the evening, we made a brief stop at Moffen, a small island north of Spitsbergen renowned for its walrus haul-out sites. Remaining on board in accordance with local regulations, guests observed the colony from a respectful distance — through binoculars on the outer decks or via the ship's camera system. It was a fitting close to another full day in the High Arctic.





Alkefjellet

Torellneset

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 6 - Alkefjellet (AM)

We awoke to another foggy Arctic morning as MS Spitsbergen sailed through the Hinlopen Strait. Low clouds drifted across the water, reducing visibility and lending an atmosphere of mystery to the surrounding mountains and coastlines. Conditions remained suitable for our planned activity, and we soon boarded the expedition boats to explore Alkefjellet — one of Svalbard's most spectacular wildlife sites. As we approached the cliffs, the scale of the bird colony gradually emerged from the mist. Towering basalt formations rose steeply from the sea, their ledges crowded with thousands upon thousands of

Brünnich's guillemots. The air was filled with their calls, creating a constant echo of sound against the rock walls. All around us, birds flew overhead, gathered on the cliffs, or plunged into the water in search of food.

Cruising at water level, we could take in both the dramatic geology and the sheer abundance of wildlife. The fog only enhanced the experience, giving the landscape a wild, almost timeless character. It made for a rare morning in the heart of the High Arctic.



Day 6 - Torellneset (PM)

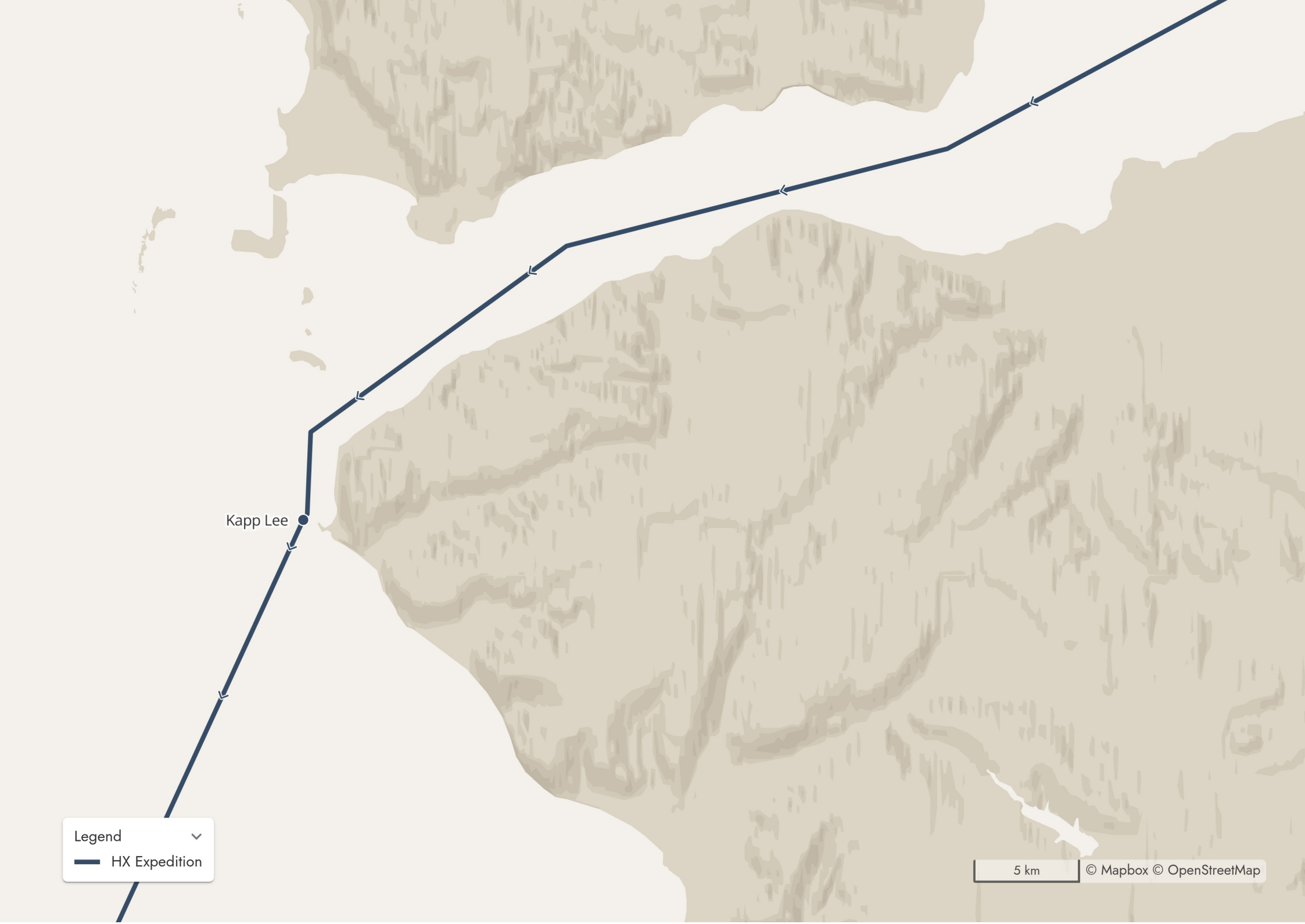
In the afternoon, we continued south through the Hinlopen Strait and arrived at Torellneset, one of the most renowned walrus haul-out sites in Svalbard. A stronger breeze and overcast skies gave the landscape a distinctly Arctic character, but conditions remained suitable for a landing.

Once ashore, guests divided into walking groups at their own pace. Some kept to shorter routes close to the landing area, while others ventured farther across the raised beaches and tundra. A third group took on more extended explorations, making the most of the open

terrain and expansive views across the strait.

The highlight was the walrus colony. Approaching from a respectful distance, guests were able to observe these impressive animals resting along the shore — their sheer size, occasional movements, and social interactions offering a fascinating glimpse into the lives of one of the Arctic's most iconic species. The dramatic skies and sweeping landscapes added to the experience, bringing together wildlife, exploration, and the raw beauty of eastern Svalbard.





Kapp Lee

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

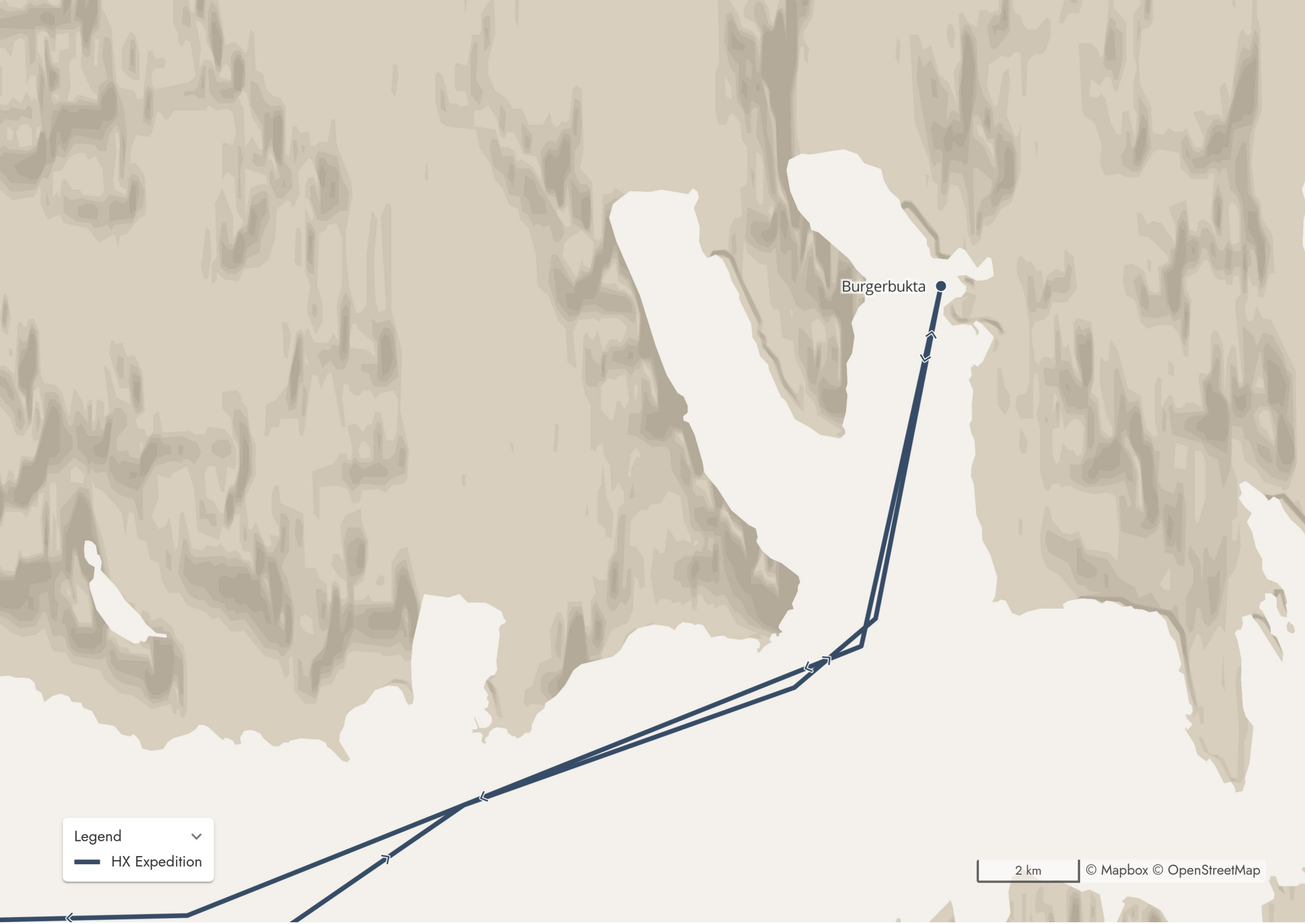
Day 7 - Kapp Lee

We arrived at Dolleritneset, near Kapp Lee, during a morning that presented some of the more challenging conditions of the voyage. A fresh wind greeted us as we prepared for the landing, and patches of fog drifted through the area, occasionally veiling the landscape and adding to the rugged atmosphere of this remote corner of Edgeøya. Despite the conditions, the Expedition Team organised the operation successfully, and guests were able to go ashore and explore the site. Dolleritneset is well known for its walrus haul-out, and we were fortunate to observe these impressive marine mammals resting along

the shoreline. Watching them from a respectful distance, guests could appreciate both their immense size and their importance within the Arctic ecosystem.

Guests also had the chance to explore the historic cabins located in the area. The combination of wildlife, cultural history, and the ever-changing weather created an experience that felt undeniably Arctic. The wind and fog added to the sense of adventure, making the visit to Dolleritneset all the more rewarding.





Burgerbukta

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 8 - Burgerbukta and Sea Day

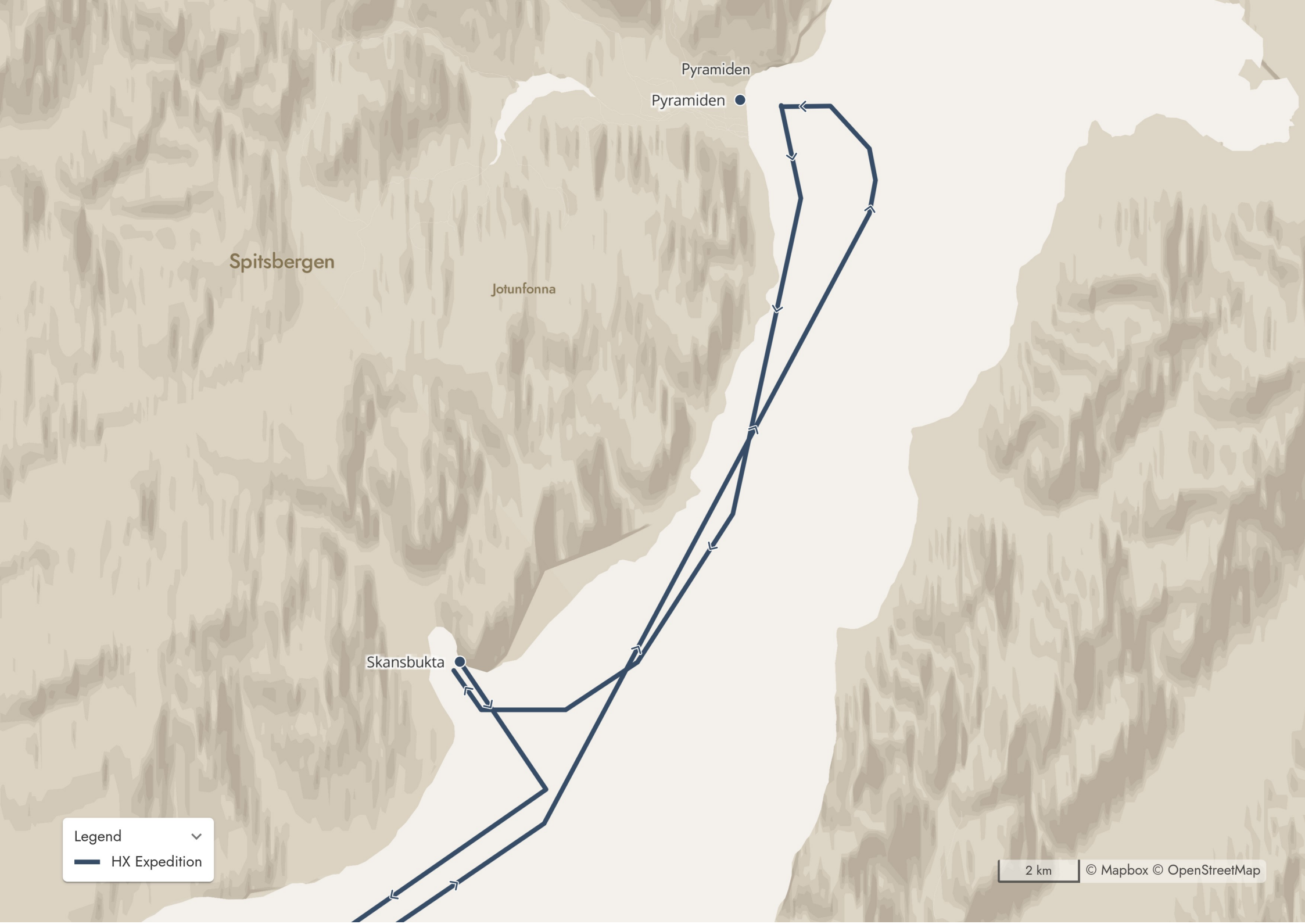
We awoke in Burgerbukta to some of the most challenging weather of the voyage — dense fog and strong wind gusts obscuring the glaciers and mountains that had drawn us here. The Arctic reminded us once again that flexibility is an essential part of expedition travel.

One round of expedition boat cruising was possible before conditions deteriorated further. Even with limited visibility, the excursion gave a true sense of Hornsund's wild and atmospheric character.

With the wind continuing to build, we cancelled the remaining field operations and turned northward toward Isfjorden in search of more sheltered waters.

The day on board filled with purpose — a knots workshop, lectures from the Expedition Team, and a question-and-answer session with the Captain and officers. The weather had altered our plans, but it offered something in return: a closer look at expedition life, navigation, and the remarkable vessel carrying us through the Arctic.





Pyramiden

Pyramiden

Spitsbergen

Jotunfonna

Skansbukta

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 9 - Pyramiden (AM)

We awoke to a lively Arctic morning, with strong winds and a significant swell accompanying us along the coast of Isfjorden. Despite the challenging conditions, excellent views opened from the ship as we passed in front of the storied settlement of Pyramiden.

From the outer decks, guests admired its distinctive buildings — monuments to a unique chapter in Svalbard's history. Nearby, the magnificent Nordenskiöldbreen completed the scene, its broad glacier front stretching across the landscape.

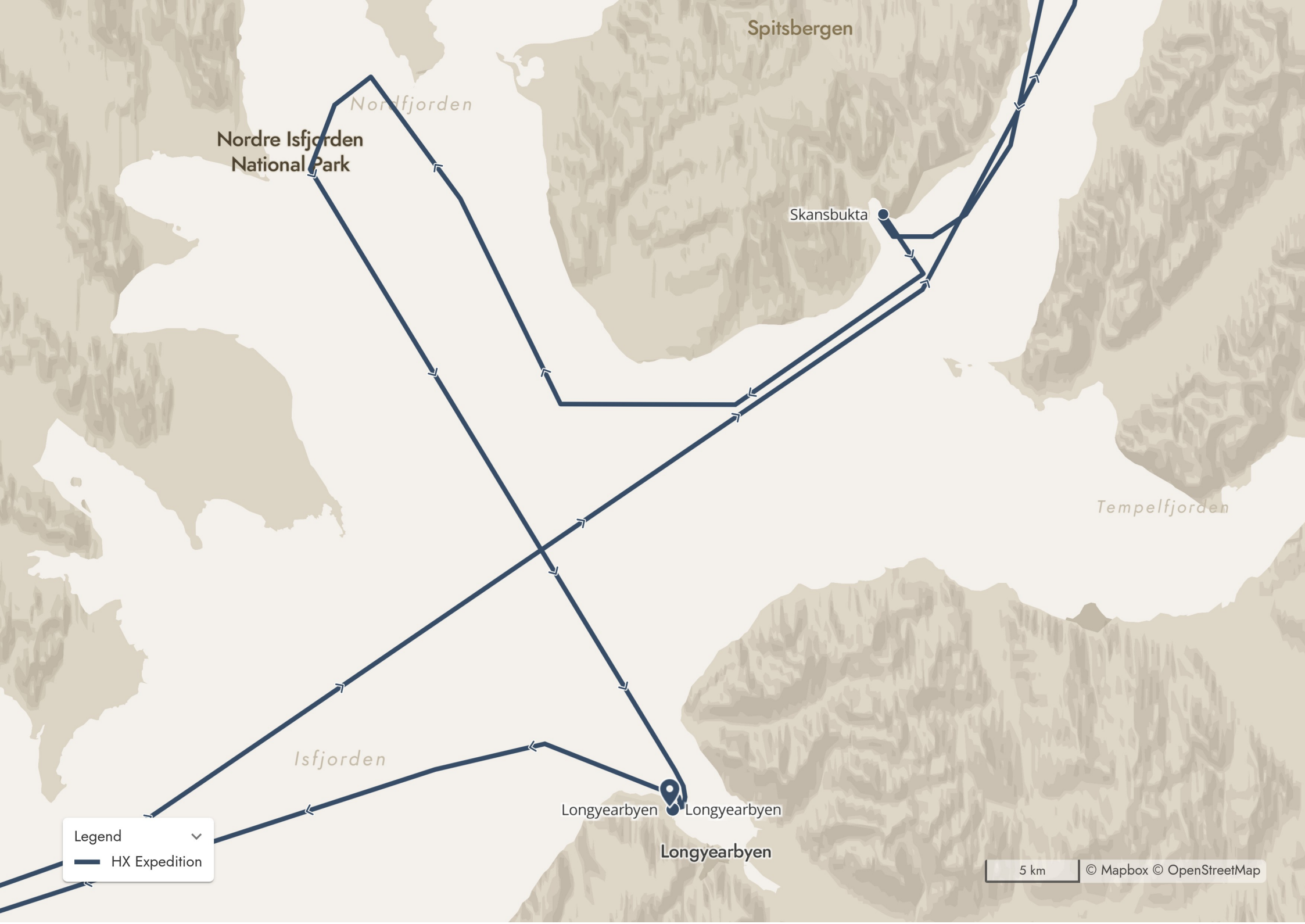


Day 9 - Skansbukta (PM)

As the morning progressed, we continued southwest toward Skansbukta, where the surrounding terrain provided welcome shelter from the weather. Once ashore, guests explored this beautiful location, surrounded by colourful sedimentary cliffs, Arctic vegetation, and sweeping views across the fjord. The peaceful atmosphere offered a strong contrast to the rougher conditions of the morning and made for a fitting final landing of the voyage.

Back on board, it was time to mark the journey shared together. Guests gathered for the Captain's Farewell, reflecting on the wildlife encounters and landscapes that had defined the expedition. The evening continued with the voyage quiz before closing with the photographer's slideshow, revisiting the images that had captured our time in the High Arctic.





Spitsbergen

Nordfjorden

Nordre Isfjorden
National Park

Skansbukta

Tempelfjorden

Isfjorden

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen

Legend

HX Expedition



Day 10 - Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

In the early hours of the morning, we arrived back in Longyearbyen, docking at Kullkaia after an expedition that had taken us across some of the most remote and fascinating corners of the Svalbard archipelago. As guests prepared to leave MS Spitsbergen, there was time to reflect on the many experiences that had filled the days in the High Arctic.

Together, we had explored historic sites rich in stories of exploration, visited remote cabins and former settlements, cruised among glaciers and sea ice, and lived through the ever-changing moods of the Arctic weather. Walruses rested along remote shores, seabird colonies gathered at spectacular cliffs, and the landscape shaped by ice, wind,

and time revealed itself at every turn.

Like every true expedition, this voyage required flexibility — weather and sea conditions occasionally guided our decisions. Those changes became part of the adventure, leading to unexpected discoveries and experiences both ashore and on board.

As guests disembarked in Longyearbyen, they carried not only photographs and memories, but also a deeper appreciation for the wildlife, history, and fragile beauty of Svalbard. Thank you for sharing this journey, and for the spirit of exploration you brought to every day of it.



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