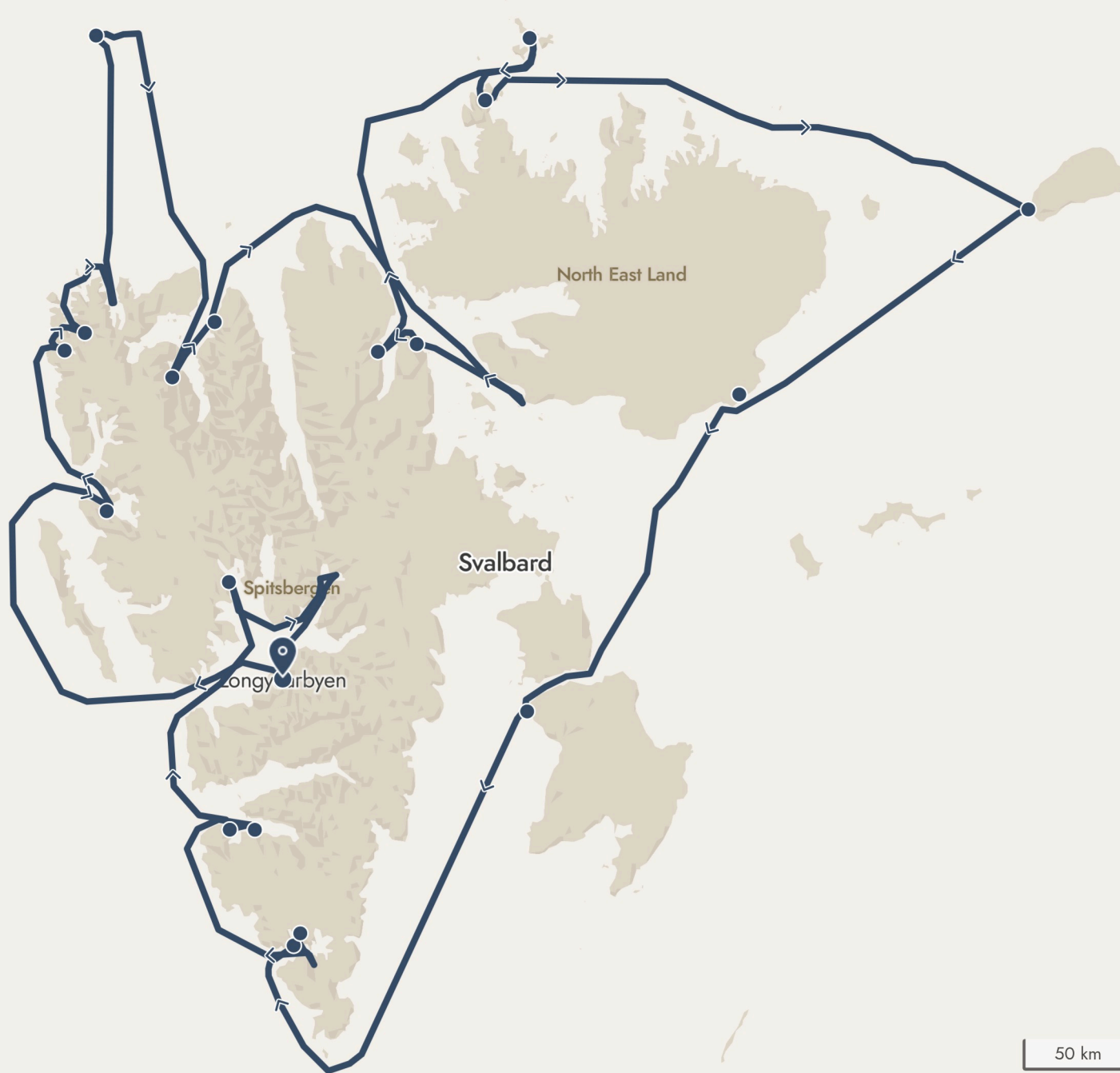




Circumnavigating Svalbard – The Ultimate Expedition

MS Spitsbergen, 14 – 26 July 2026



Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km

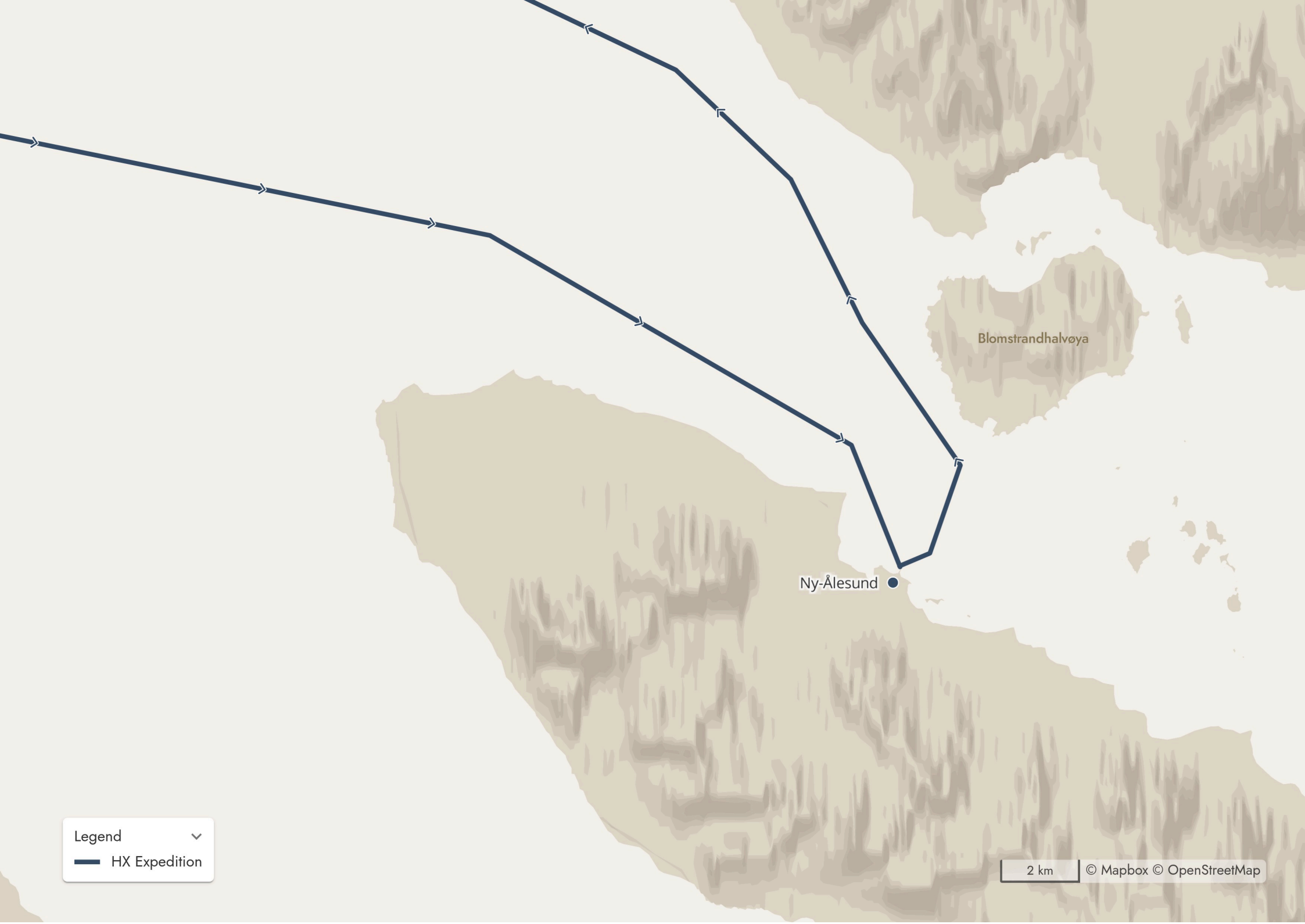
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Day 1 - Embarkation in Longyearbyen

The voyage began in Longyearbyen, the gateway to the High Arctic. Nestled between rugged mountains and Arctic waters, this distinctive settlement gave guests their first taste of Svalbard's landscapes and history. Many spent the hours before boarding exploring the town, visiting its museums, or simply absorbing the polar atmosphere. In the afternoon, guests made their way aboard MS Spitsbergen.

Once settled, we ran the mandatory safety drill, ensuring everyone was familiar with the ship's emergency procedures. The Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager then welcomed guests on board and introduced the plan for the days ahead. With the Arctic stretching out beyond the harbour, the expedition had begun.





Legend

HX Expedition

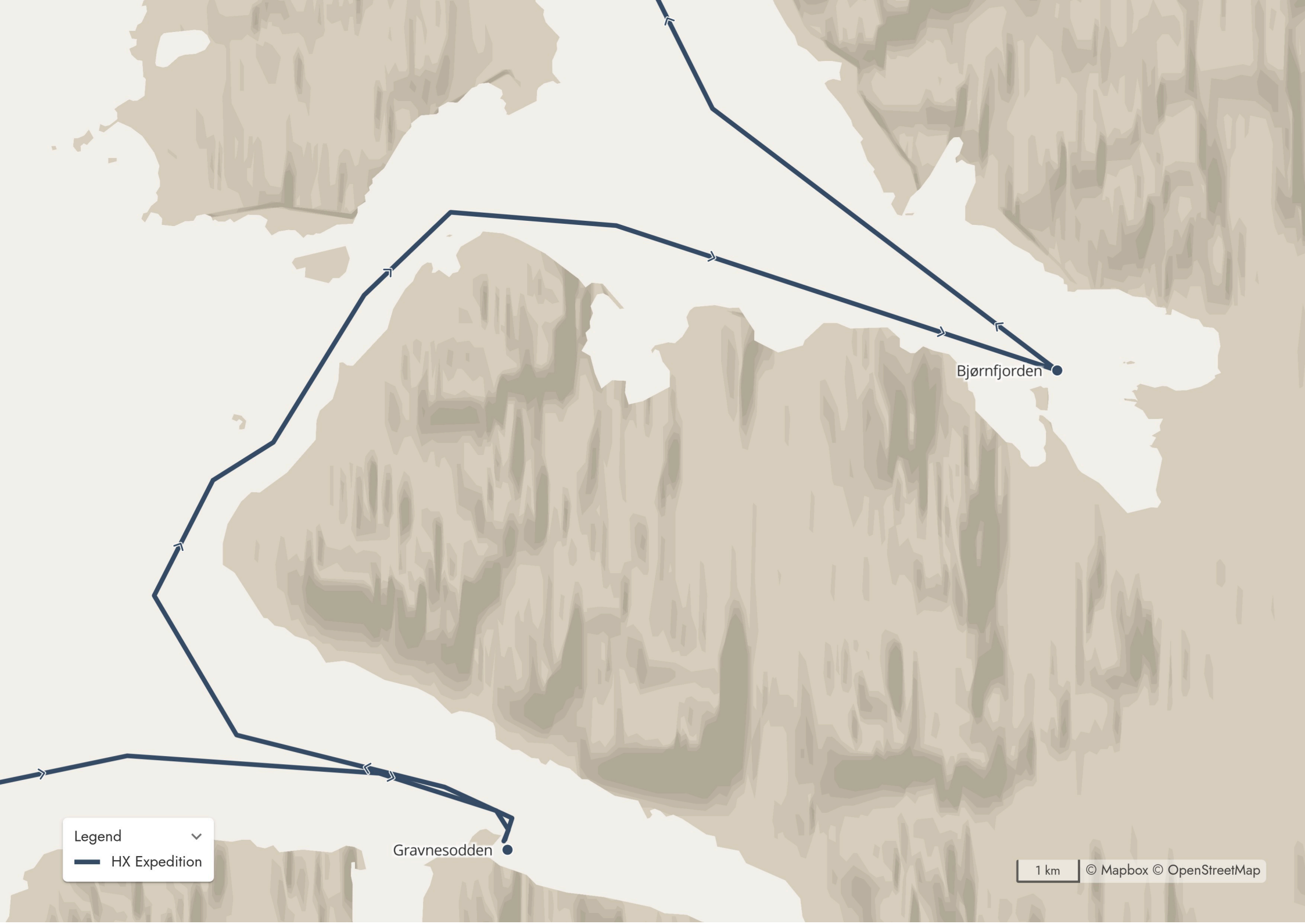
Day 2 - Ny-Ålesund

The first full day brought us to Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost communities and a place woven into the history of Arctic exploration. Before going ashore, we gathered guests on board for morning briefings — walking them through the AECO guidelines and the onboard science programme, including the citizen science opportunities available throughout the expedition.

Ashore, we led guided walks through the settlement, tracing its

evolution from a coal mining community to one of the most important research stations in the Arctic. At the Amundsen mast, from where pioneering airship expeditions set out for the North Pole, guests paused to take in the weight of what had been attempted here. Back on board, guests signed up for kayaking attended their briefing. Exploration, science, and history — threaded through the day in equal measure.





— HX Expedition

Gravnesodden

Bjørnfjorden

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 - Gravnesodden (AM)

We made our first nature landing at Gravnesodden, where Arctic history, wildlife, and open scenery converge. The Expedition Team introduced guests to the area before we spread out across the tundra. The coastline and nearby slopes were alive with birdlife, and we spent time observing the species that made use of this short but productive

summer season.

The landing also offered a polar plunge. Several guests exchanged their expedition gear for icy Arctic waters, met with enthusiastic encouragement from the shoreline — a fine start to the voyage.



Day 3 - Bjørnfjorden (PM)

In the afternoon, we arrived in the sheltered waters of Bjørnfjorden for a small boat cruise. Calm seas and excellent visibility let us fully appreciate the scenery. From the water, the surrounding glaciers revealed themselves in detail, their ice fronts displaying shades of white and blue against the rugged mountain backdrop. A group of guests set out on their first kayak — a close and unhurried connection

with the silence of the High Arctic.

Later in the evening, after dinner, we positioned MS Spitsbergen off Smeerenburg to observe the walrus haul-out. Guests followed proceedings through binoculars and the ship's camera system, watching the animals rest along the shoreline as the light held long into the Arctic evening.



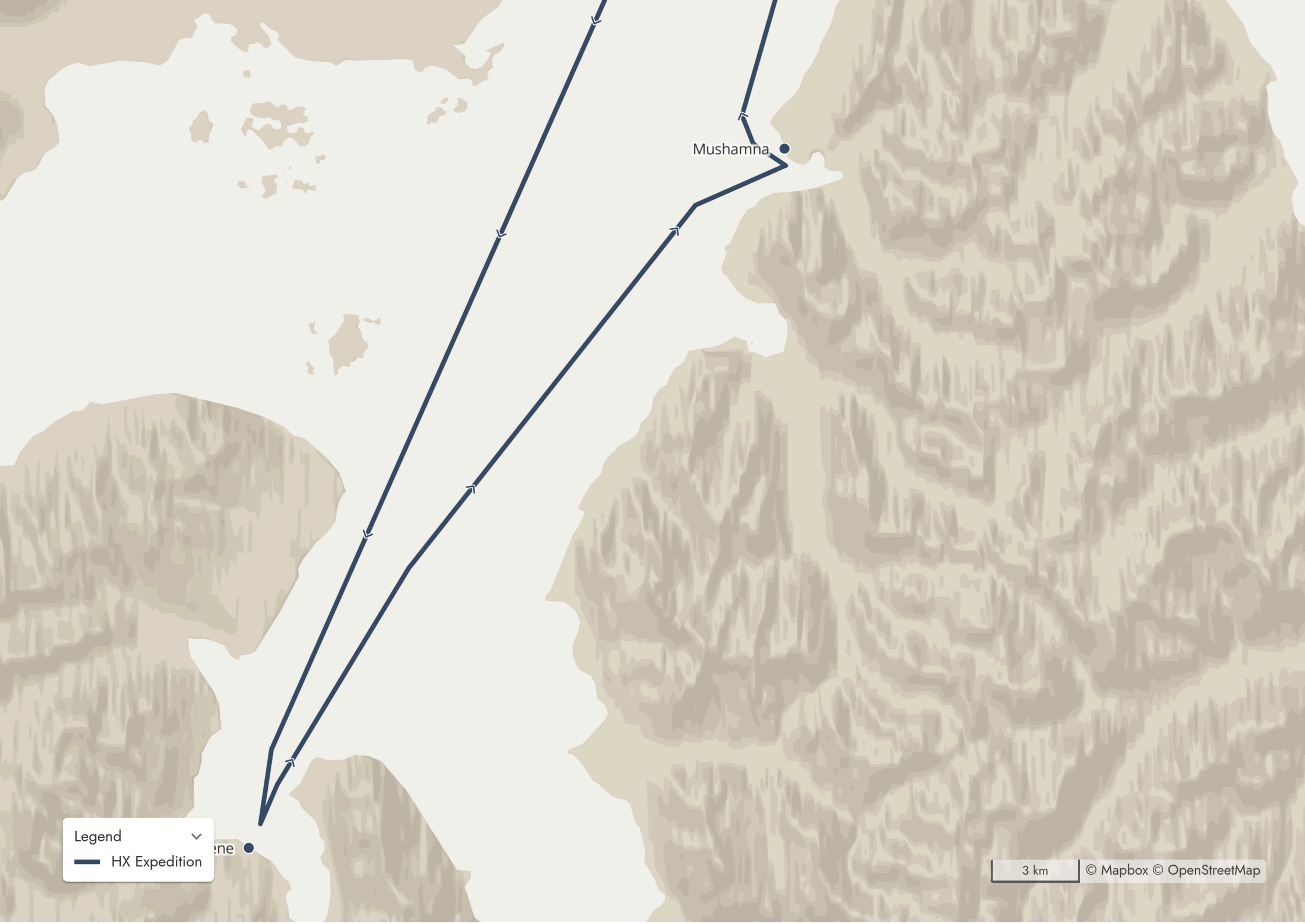
Day 4 - Ice Edge

We reached the ice edge during the morning at approximately 80°40' North. Conditions were excellent. We launched the small boats and cruised along the edge of the pack ice, surrounded by floes of every shape and size. Harp seals rested between the ice at ease; Brünnich's guillemots and puffins moved through the skies and

across the surface.

Back on board, a polar plunge drew willing guests off the stern, with plenty of noise from the decks above. Hot dogs followed on the outer deck. As MS Spitsbergen turned southward, we settled into a full onboard programme of lectures, activities, and time on deck.





Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 5 - Jotunkjeldene (AM)

We spent the morning exploring Jotunkjeldene in Bockfjorden, one of Svalbard's most unusual natural sites. After landing, we set out toward the famous hot springs — a rare geothermal feature in an archipelago more often associated with ice and glaciers. As we gained elevation, views opened across rugged mountains and broad valleys. At the

springs, the contrast was striking: warmth from deep within the Earth surfacing in the midst of the High Arctic.

An extended hiking group pushed to the neighbouring bay, where glacier views rewarded the extra distance. A morning that balanced effort with reward.



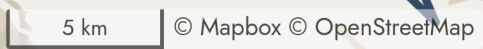
Day 5 - Mushamna (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued toward Mushamna as the weather turned, with increasing winds sweeping across the fjord. Despite the conditions, we found a sheltered anchorage and carried out our planned landing. Mushamna is home to one of the largest cabins in Svalbard — a reminder of the trapping era that shaped so much of

the archipelago's history. Although occupied during our visit, we observed it from a respectful distance.

Birdlife filled the coastline and nearby cliffs. As we returned to the ship, the surrounding mountains, fjords, and open tundra — the scale of it — was the last thing to let us go.





Day 6 - Alkefjellet (AM)

We had planned to visit Torellneset, but winds reaching up to 100 km/h made a landing impossible. Turning northward toward Alkefjellet, the Arctic more than compensated. Below the dramatic cliffs, we spotted our first polar bears of the voyage: a female with her cub, resting peacefully, entirely unconcerned. The ship's camera

system brought us remarkably close.

Thousands of guillemots and kittiwakes crowded the cliffs. Fin whales appeared in the surrounding waters. Despite the necessary change of plans, the morning delivered more than we had hoped for.

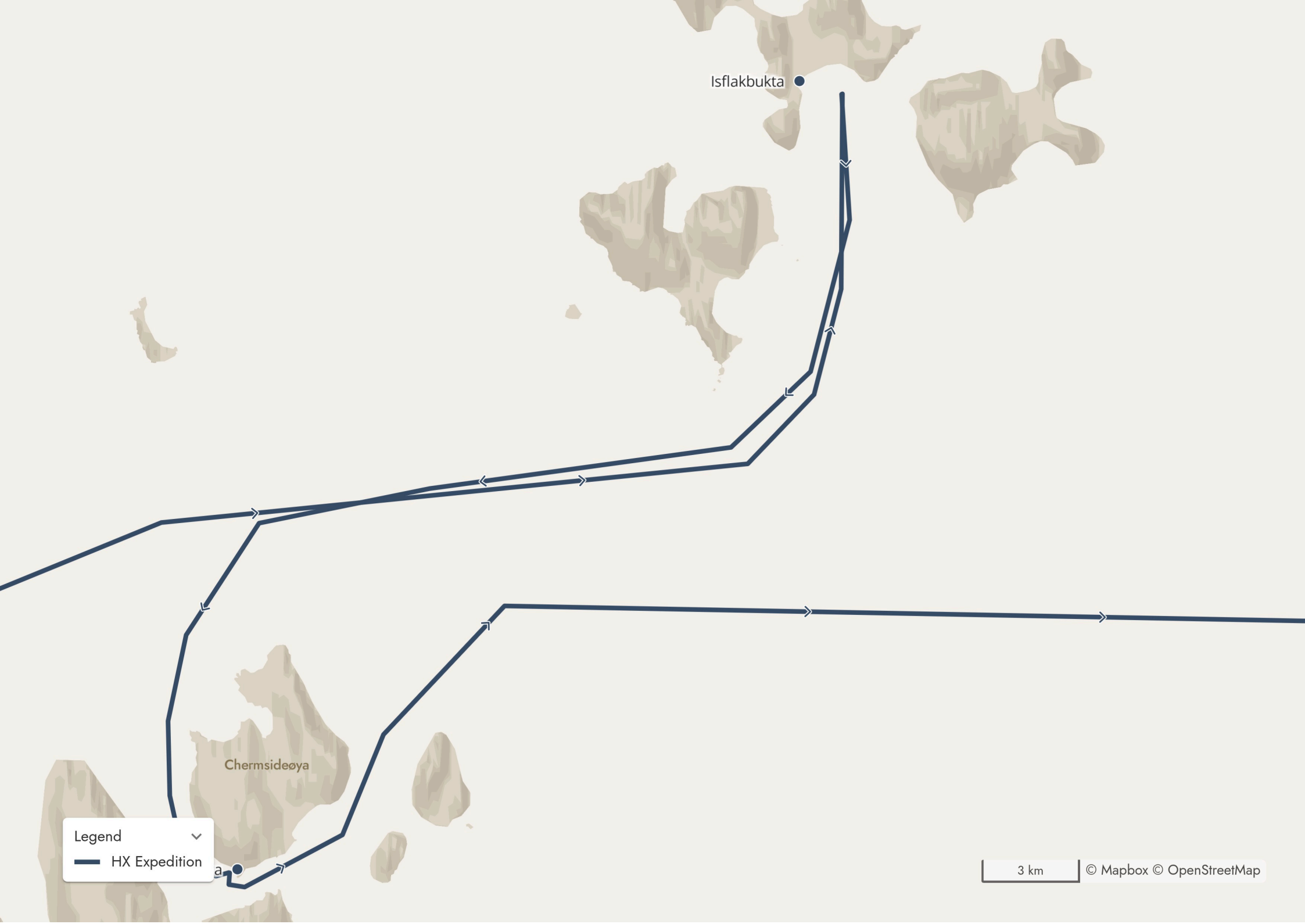


Day 6 - Faksevågen (PM)

In the afternoon, we moved into the more sheltered waters of Lomfjorden and returned ashore. The landing site offered something unexpected: a landscape of striking geological formations, the mountainsides layered in red, yellow, green, and grey — colours

rarely associated with the High Arctic, and a story of millions of years told in rock. Some guests walked leisurely; others pushed further into the terrain. Lomfjorden proved that an alternative plan can be its own destination.





Day 7 - Isflakbukta (AM)

We arrived at Isflakbukta on the island of Phippsøya under low cloud. This was our northernmost position — 80°41' North. After a thorough reconnaissance by the Expedition Team, we went ashore. Near the landing site, a small emergency cabin stood as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by those travelling in these High Arctic latitudes.

We then turned to an important environmental initiative: a beach clean-up that removed approximately 25 kilograms of debris from the shoreline, much of it from the fishing industry. Despite the overcast conditions, the landing earned its place among the most purposeful of the voyage.



Day 7 - Chermsideøya (PM)

In the afternoon, we continued to Chermsideøya under the same overcast skies. The island's remote location and human history made for a compelling landing. We walked with the Expedition Team to the geoglyphs — inscriptions carved into the ground and rocks over the years by explorers, trappers, and scientists. Standing among them, we

felt the accumulated presence of those who had passed through before us.

Many guests then took part in an impromptu beach clean-up, collecting debris carried here by ocean currents — adding to the work begun that morning at Isflakbukta.





Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 8 - Andréeneset (Kvitøya, AM)

We spent the morning off the coast of Kvitøya, the easternmost and most rarely visited island of the Svalbard archipelago. It emerged from low cloud as a wilderness of ice, sea, and open shoreline. Setting out in the small boats, we explored Andréeneset in lively seas. Along the ice-free shoreline, hundreds of walrus had gathered —

the beach filled with movement, noise, and the sharp smell of the colony. Their sheer numbers and the deep vocalisations carrying across the water made for one of the great wildlife encounters of the voyage. A pair of polar bears rested along the coast, indifferent to the boats moving slowly offshore. A morning that spoke for itself.



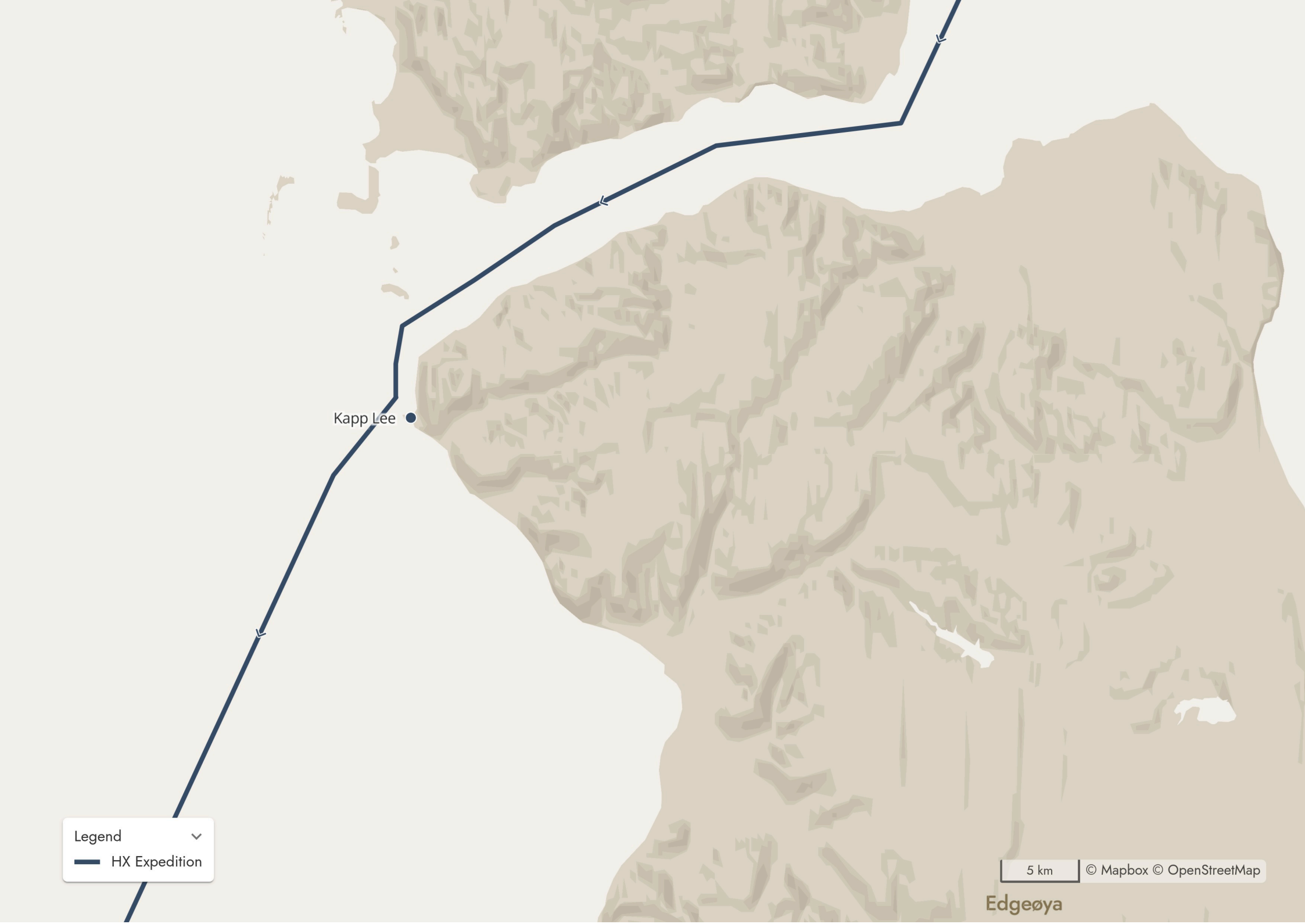
Day 8 - Bråsvellbreen (PM)

After Kvitøya, we continued southwest, settling into the rhythm of a sea day. Lectures, activities, and time on deck filled the hours — and throughout, an imposing companion kept pace with us: Bråsvellbreen, part of one of the largest ice caps in Europe, renowned for the near-continuous ice wall that defines its seaward

edge.

By evening we drew closer, and the glacier revealed itself in full — its length, the texture of its face, the quiet authority of something built over centuries. One of the most imposing glacial panoramas of the voyage.





Kapp Lee

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Edgeøya

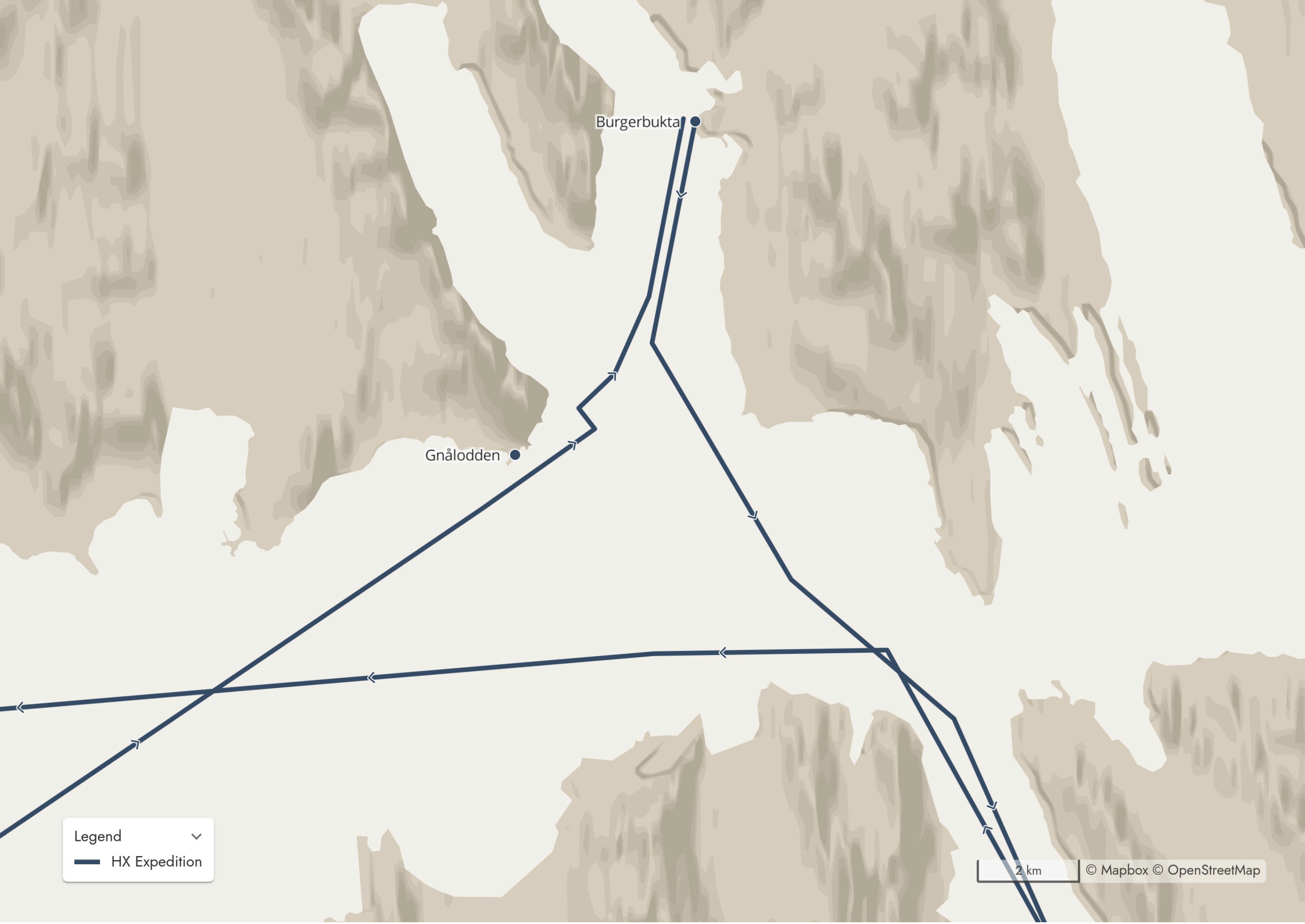
Day 9 - Kapp Lee

We awoke to excellent conditions at Kapp Lee, one of the most renowned wildlife sites in eastern Svalbard. After landing, we made our way across the tundra toward the walrus haul-out — their size, tusks, and whiskered faces more immediate from the shore than from the ship. A close and unhurried encounter. Throughout the landing,

Svalbard reindeer wandered nearby, grazing peacefully and occasionally passing within a few metres of us.

Back on board, we turned westward. A full onboard programme carried us through the afternoon as Edgeøya receded behind us.





Burgerbukta

Gnålodden

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 10 - Gnålodden (AM)

We arrived at Gnålodden in Hornsund under favourable conditions — a site that brings together rich human history, abundant wildlife, and views that hold the eye. After landing, we visited the historic cabin once inhabited by Wanny Woldstad, among the first women to trap professionally in the Arctic. The bird cliffs above us were alive with

activity, thousands of seabirds filling the air. Then the Arctic foxes appeared, moving through the nesting colonies in search of food. With the cliffs above us and the fox at work below, Hornsund was doing what Hornsund does best.

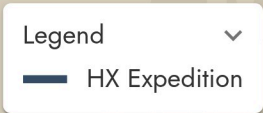


Day 10 - Burgerbukta (PM)

In the afternoon, we sailed deeper into Hornsund and arrived at Burgerbukta for a perimeter landing. On arrival, we found Arctic terns nesting in the area. The Expedition Team adjusted the landing perimeter to ensure a respectful visit. Many guests walked toward the nearby moraine, from where the glacier at the head of the bay came

into full view. A group of kayakers set out to explore the bay from the water, paddling in the particular stillness that Burgerbukta holds. A fitting way to close a day that had offered both history and open water.





Day 11 - Bamsebu (AM)

We spent the morning at Bamsebu under excellent conditions — one of the most well-known historic sites in Svalbard, on the shores of Van Keulenfjorden. A large group set out on an extended hike toward Ahlstrandhalvøya, the scale of southern Spitsbergen opening up around them on foot.

Those near the landing site explored at their own pace, guided by the

Expedition Team through the site's history. The cabin, and the whale and beluga remains along the shoreline, anchored the visit in something real — the long relationship between people and the Arctic, worked out over centuries. Bamsebu gave generously to everyone who came ashore.

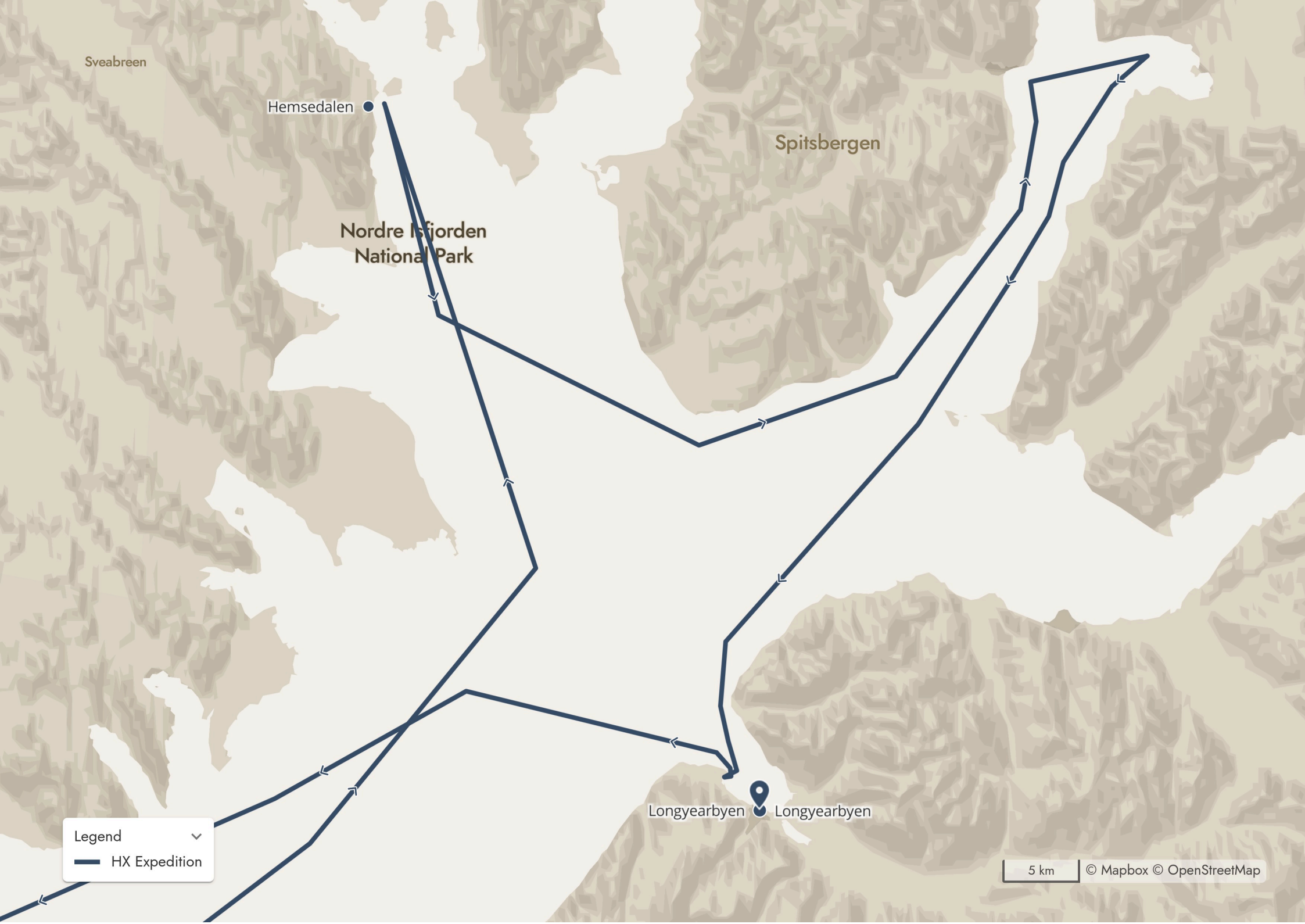


Day 11 - Calypsobyen (PM)

In the afternoon, we arrived at Calypsobyen, a former mining settlement set against mountains, tundra, and wide Arctic skies. Clear conditions and a calm pace invited reflection on the lives of those who had worked in this remote corner of Svalbard. Near some

cabins, Arctic terns and their chicks had taken up residence — we gave them space and watched from a distance. Some guests sat along the shore; others ranged further. Open ground, good light, and the quiet that comes with a place where nature has had the final word.





Sveabreen

Hemsedalen

Nordre Isfjorden
National Park

Spitsbergen

Longyearbyen



Longyearbyen

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 12 - Hemsedalen

We woke to another clear Arctic morning. Arriving in Hemsedalen at the heart of Ekmanfjorden, we came ashore for the final landing of the voyage. Guests divided into three walking groups, setting out into a landscape of gorges, wide mountain flanks, and the glacier Selfstrømbreen rising above the Kolosseum. The morning gave guests what the voyage had always offered — land underfoot, clean air, and the sense of being inside the landscape.

Back on board, the Captain invited guests into one of MS Spitsbergen's lifeboats for a behind-the-scenes look at the vessel they had lived aboard. The Captain's Farewell brought everyone together before dinner, followed by an end-of-voyage quiz, the photographer's slideshow, and a slow pass in front of Pyramiden in the long northern light.





Day 13 - Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

In the early morning, we arrived back in Longyearbyen, bringing the circumnavigation of the Svalbard archipelago to a close. As guests prepared to disembark from MS Spitsbergen, many paused for a last look at the landscape that had been their home for twelve days. The voyage had taken us from Ny-Ålesund to the edge of the pack ice above 80° North, from the remote shore of Kvitøya to the deep fjords

of southern Spitsbergen. Wildlife had shaped the journey at every turn. Weather had asked something of us too — reminding us that flexibility is not a compromise in expedition travel, it is the point. As guests stepped into the buses in Longyearbyen, they carried a closer understanding of the Arctic, and a connection to a place that does not fade quickly.



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