



Alaska and British Columbia — Inside Passage, Bears and Aleutian Islands (Southbound)

MS Fridtjof Nansen, 7 — 23 September 2026



Legend

— HX Expedition



Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m

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Day 1 – Embarkation in Nome

Our voyage began in Nome, where guests arrived along the windswept shores of the Bering Sea and took their first steps into a town shaped by gold rush history, indigenous culture, and life at the edge of the Alaskan wilderness. Throughout the afternoon, guests completed embarkation formalities, explored MS Fridtjof Nansen, and

met fellow travellers before joining the mandatory safety briefings. As the ship prepared for departure, the broad tundra stretched beyond town, migratory birds moved along the coastline, and the last buildings of Nome gradually faded from view as we set a course into the waters of the Bering Sea.







St. Lawrence Island

At Sea

Legend



— HX Expedition

30 km

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Day 2 – At Sea

Our first full day at sea saw MS Fridtjof Nansen continue south through the Bering Sea towards St. Matthew Island, one of the most remote wildlife refuges in Alaska. A programme of lectures and briefings introduced the regions we would soon explore, while many guests spent time on deck watching the sea and scanning for birdlife. During the day, the Expedition Team distributed expedition jackets

and issued boots, ensuring everyone was properly equipped for upcoming landings and excursions. The open ocean stretched to the horizon in every direction, and the cool northern air carried the faint scent of salt and distant land. With preparations underway and the ship making steady progress southward, the voyage was well and truly underway.







St. Matthew Island

Bering Sea Wilderness

Legend

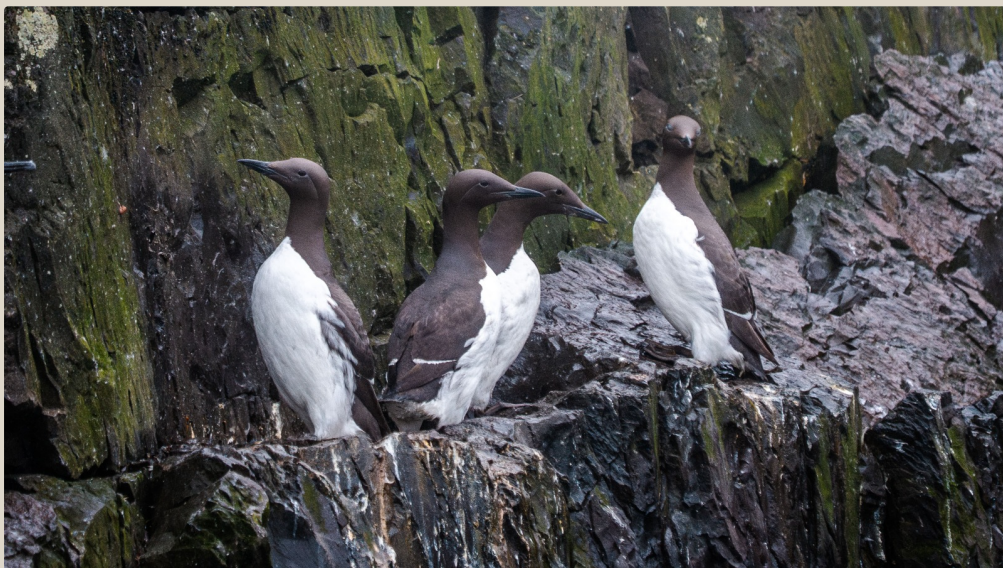
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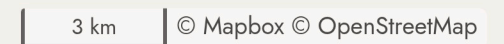
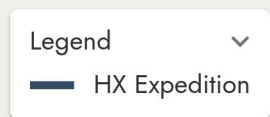
Day 3 — St. Matthew Island

We reached St. Matthew Island beneath a blanket of low cloud and intermittent fog that lingered over the coastline throughout the morning. While visibility varied offshore, conditions at the landing site were surprisingly calm, allowing us to go ashore as planned. Guests remained on the beach, taking time to explore the shoreline, examine the island's volcanic stones and driftwood, and experience

the quiet of this remote wildlife refuge. Seabirds passed overhead, and the fog shifted steadily across the landscape, revealing and concealing the surrounding hills in turn. The stillness of the island was striking, broken only by the call of birds and the gentle wash of waves against the shore.







Day 4 – St. Paul

Due to unfavourable sea conditions and persistent swell around St. Paul Island, a safe landing was not possible, and the planned visit had to be cancelled. Instead, the vessel adjusted course for Dutch Harbor, allowing us to make use of the additional time and arrive a day earlier than originally scheduled. This change provided a smoother and more comfortable transit while ensuring the safety of all guests and

crew. As MS Fridtjof Nansen turned westward, the swell gradually eased and the coastline of the Aleutian Islands began to take shape on the horizon. Upon arrival, we spent the night alongside in Dutch Harbor, giving everyone an opportunity to enjoy a more relaxed evening before heading out on excursions the following day.







Safeway

UniSea Inn

Glass Beach

Bunker Hill

Haystack Hill

Holy Ascension of
Our Lord Cathedral

Unalaska

Dutch Harbor

Unalaska Lake

Legend

HX Expedition

300 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 5 – Dutch Harbor

By early afternoon, MS Fridtjof Nansen had arrived off Dutch Harbor, the largest fishing port in the United States by volume and a community shaped by the sea, war, and the demanding conditions of the Aleutian Islands. Using our expedition boats, we brought guests ashore near Bunker Hill, whose slopes overlook the harbour and played a strategic role during the Aleutian Campaign of World War II. The remainder of the afternoon was left open for independent

exploration. Some guests wandered the waterfront, watching fishing vessels unload their catch, while others visited the local museum and memorials that tell the story of Unalaska's indigenous, Russian, military, and fishing heritage. Throughout town, eagles perched on lamp posts and harbour cranes stood against the green hills that rise steeply from the shoreline.







Top of Ballyhoo

Fort Schwatka
WWII Sign

Dutch Harbor

DUT -
Unalaska
Airport

WWII JIN Crater

WWII JIN Crater

Legend

HX Expedition

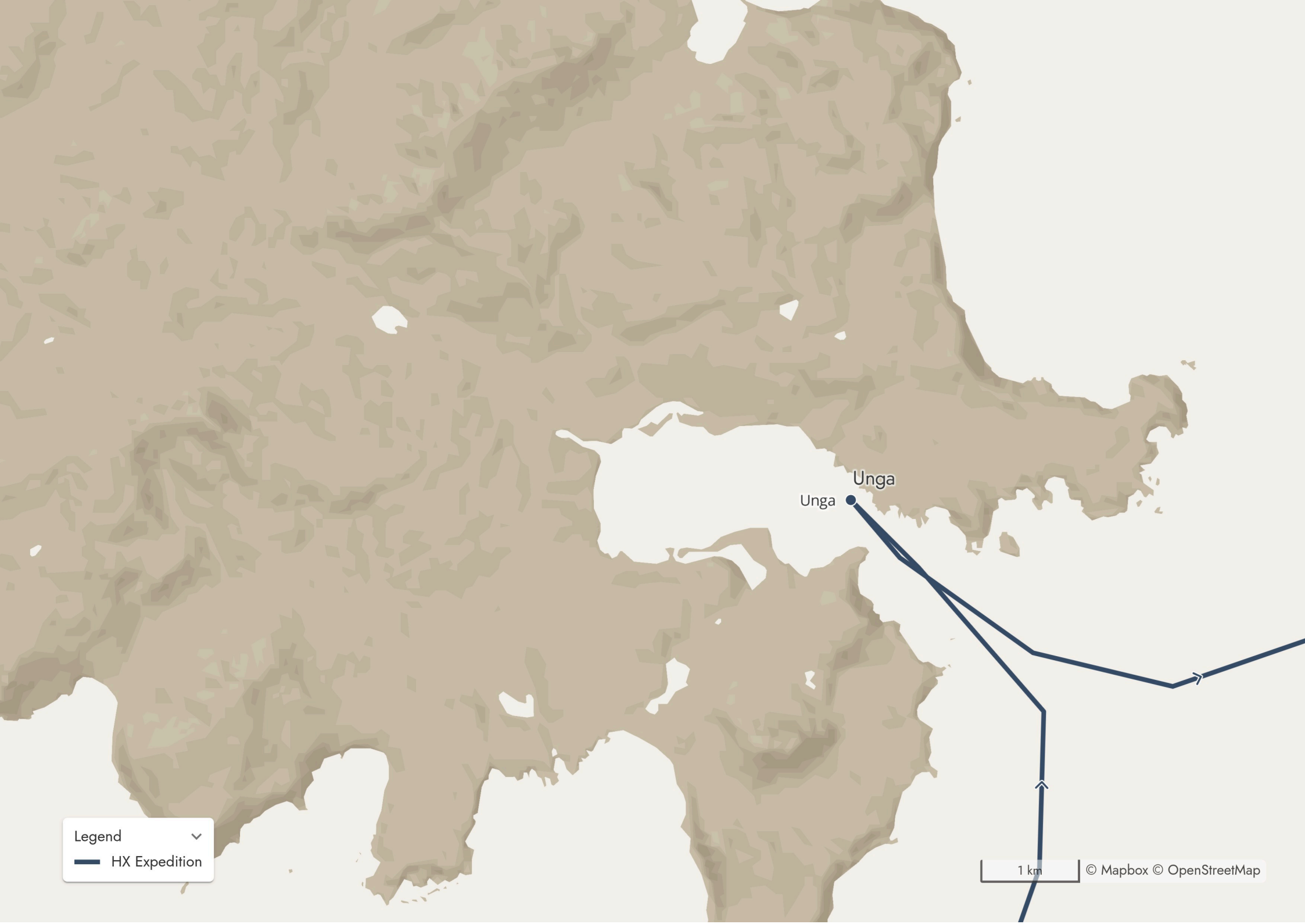
Day 6 – Dutch Harbor

Our second day in Dutch Harbor offered a relaxed opportunity to explore at your own pace, with the ship berthed alongside the port. Guests could walk directly ashore and either enjoy the roughly one-mile stroll into town or make use of the shuttle buses running throughout the day. The service provided easy access to local highlights, including the Museum of the Aleutians, the historic Holy

Ascension of Our Lord Cathedral, shops, cafés, and other points of interest around Unalaska. For those looking to spend more time outdoors, the Expedition Team also led a selection of organised hikes, taking guests into the hills surrounding the harbour for broader views of the shoreline, fishing fleet, and the rugged Aleutian landscape.







Legend



 HX Expedition

1 km

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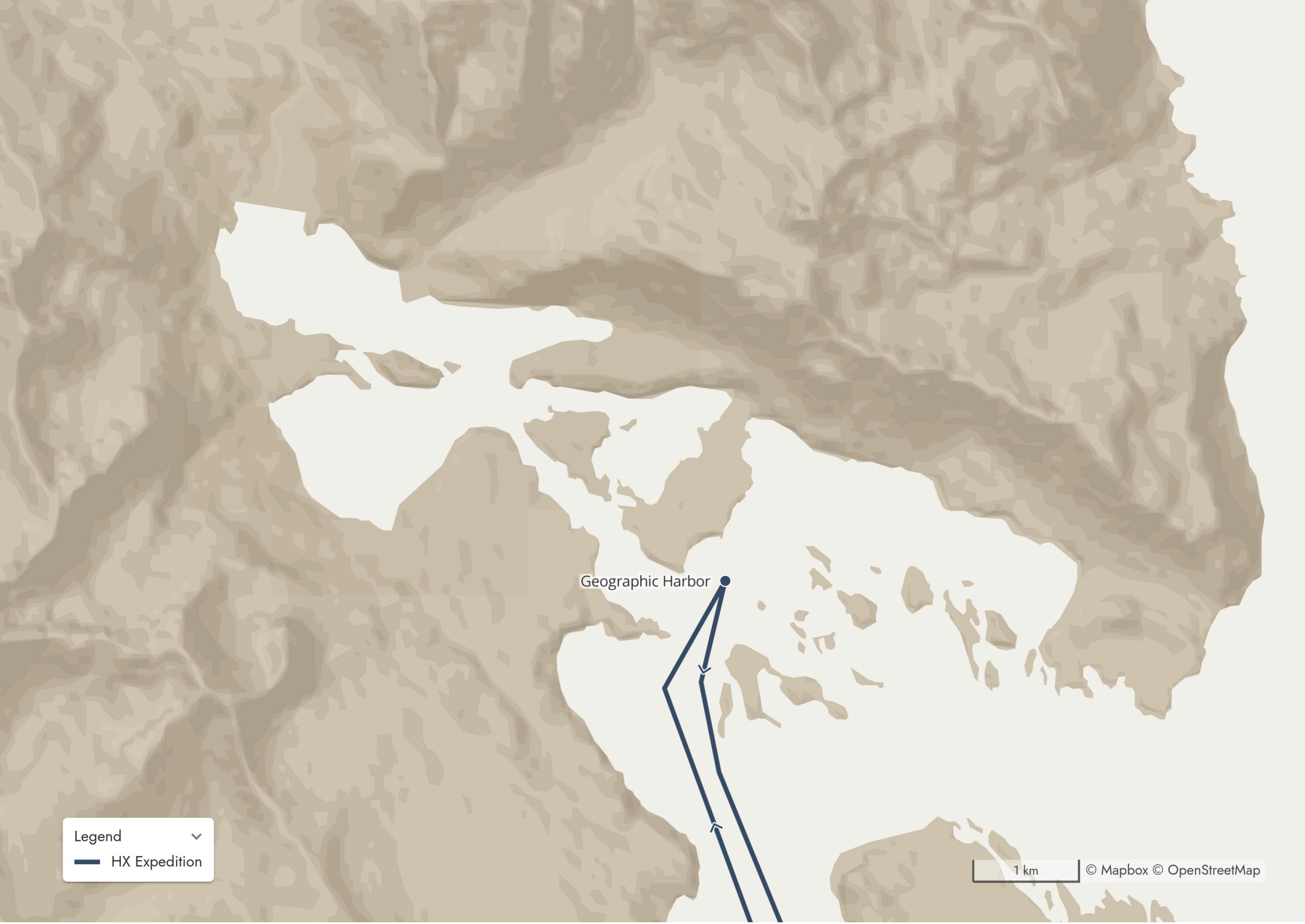
Day 7 — Unga

We went ashore to the abandoned village of Unga, where weathered wooden buildings and the remains of a once-thriving fishing community still overlook the rugged coastline. Walking among the grasses and old structures offered a glimpse into life in this remote corner of the Aleutians. Later, many guests gathered on the beach for

a polar plunge, stepping into the 'cold' North Pacific waters while fellow guests and Expedition Team members looked on from the shoreline. Against a backdrop of dark volcanic hills and rolling surf, the beach became a lively focal point of the afternoon before we returned to the ship.







Geographic Harbor

Legend



— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 8 – Geographic Harbor

We boarded the expedition boats for a cruise through Geographic Harbor, exploring a coastline of forested hillsides, tidal flats, and sheltered coves. Sea otters drifted among rafts of kelp, occasionally diving before resurfacing nearby, while bald eagles perched high in the spruce trees overlooking the shore. Throughout the outing, we encountered brown bears along the coastline, feeding and moving

between the beaches and streams. One particularly rewarding sighting allowed us to watch a bear catch fish in the shallows and settle down to eat its meal, offering a remarkable glimpse into the daily life of this powerful coastal predator. The stillness of the water and the dense green of the surrounding forest made for an immersive morning on the water.







Uyak Bay

Zachar Bay Lodge

Legend

— HX Expedition

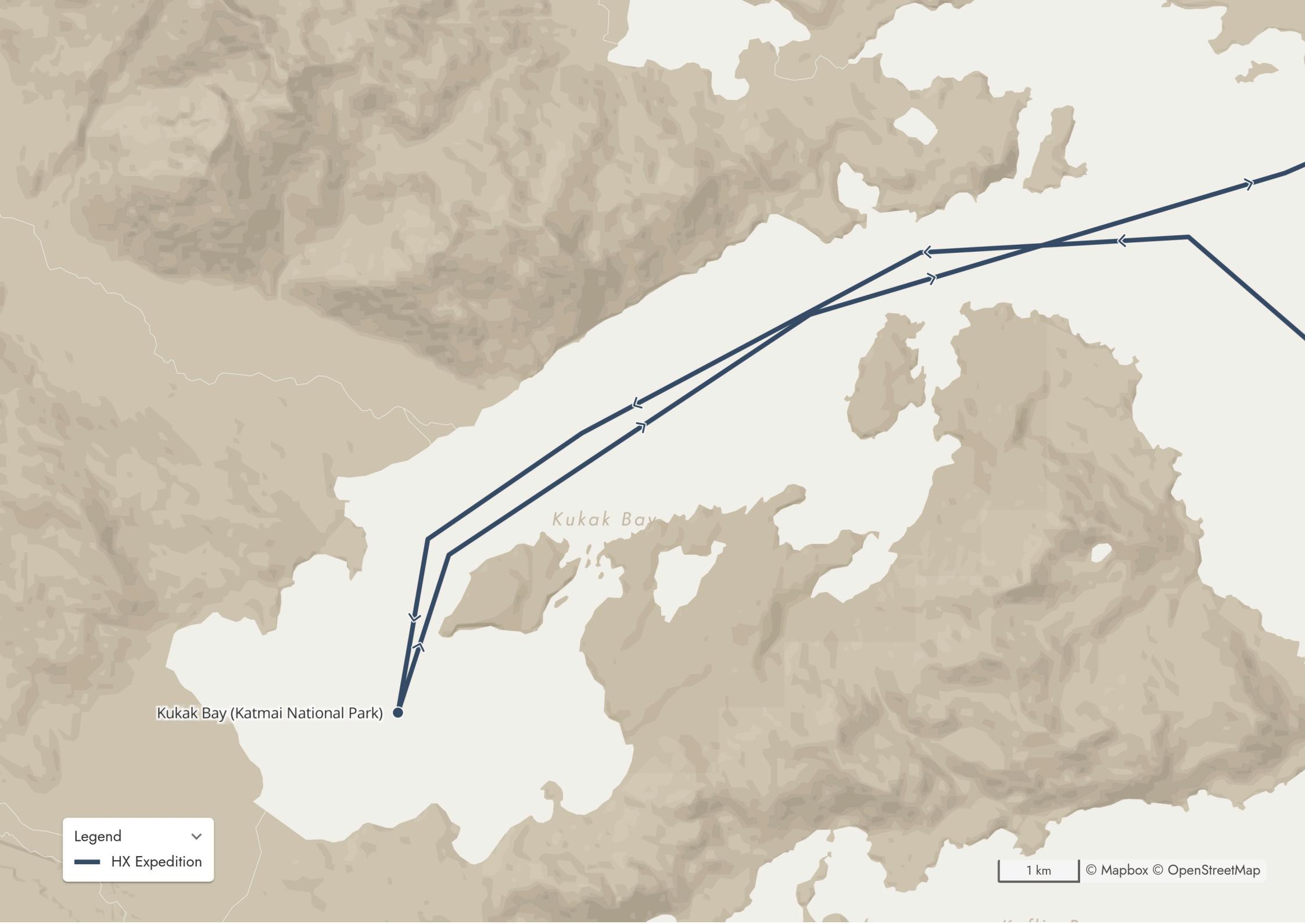
Day 9 — Uyak Bay

We explored Uyak Bay by expedition boat on Kodiak Island, taking guests into the heart of Alaska's wild coastal beauty. The bay's rugged shoreline, backed by dense spruce forests and mist-shrouded mountains, created a dramatic setting for wildlife viewing. Throughout the morning, we scanned the shoreline for Kodiak brown bears, bald eagles, sea otters, and harbour seals, with several rewarding

sightings along the way. Wet weather defined the experience, as light rain and low clouds drifted across the landscape, enhancing the rich greens of the forest and adding an atmospheric sense of remoteness. Wrapped in waterproof gear, guests embraced the elements while cruising through sheltered coves and along rocky beaches, with some even heading out in kayaks to explore the shoreline from the water.





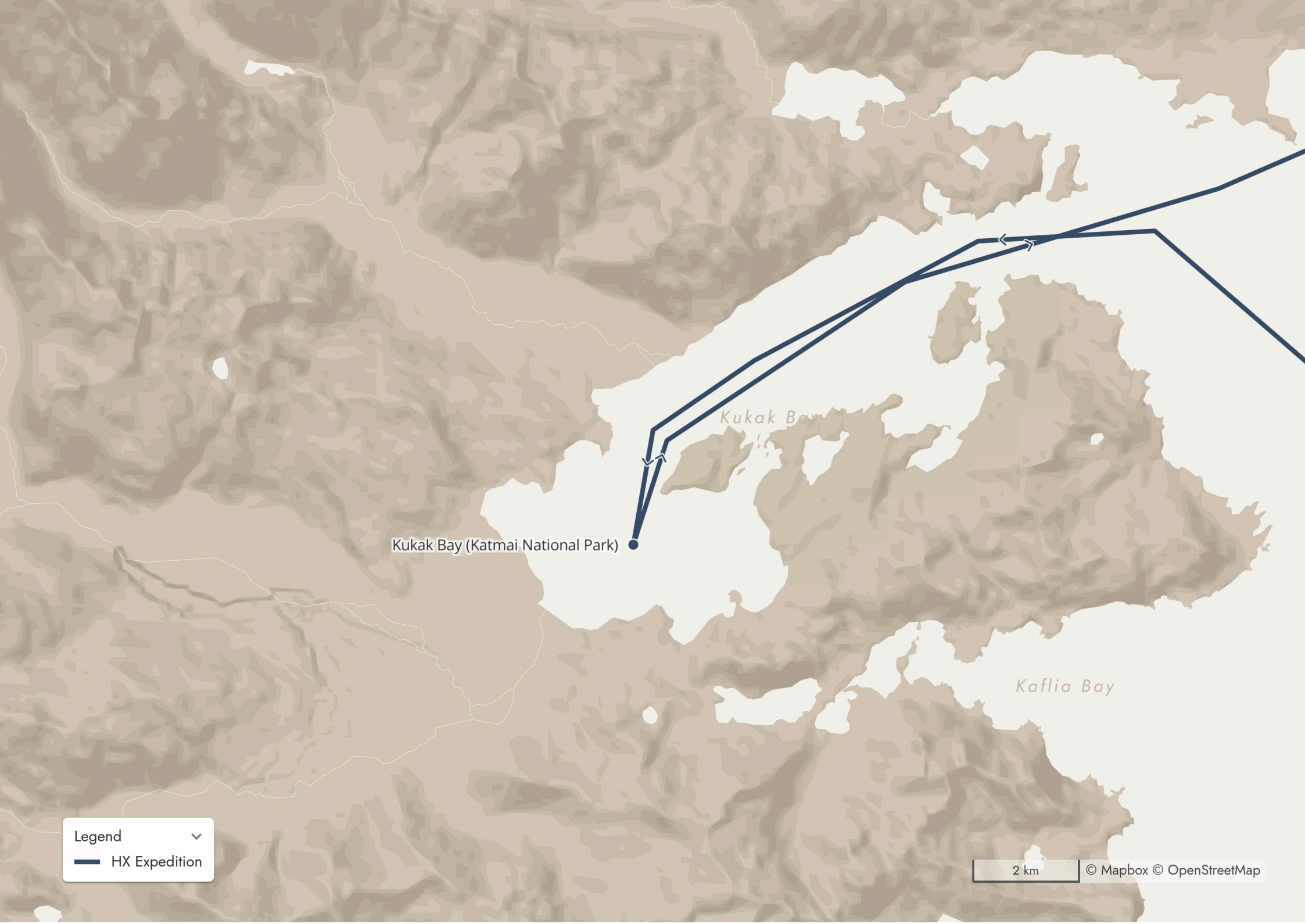


Kukak Bay (Katmai National Park)

Kukak Bay

Legend

HX Expedition



Kukak Bay

Kukak Bay (Katmai National Park)

Kafia Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

2 km

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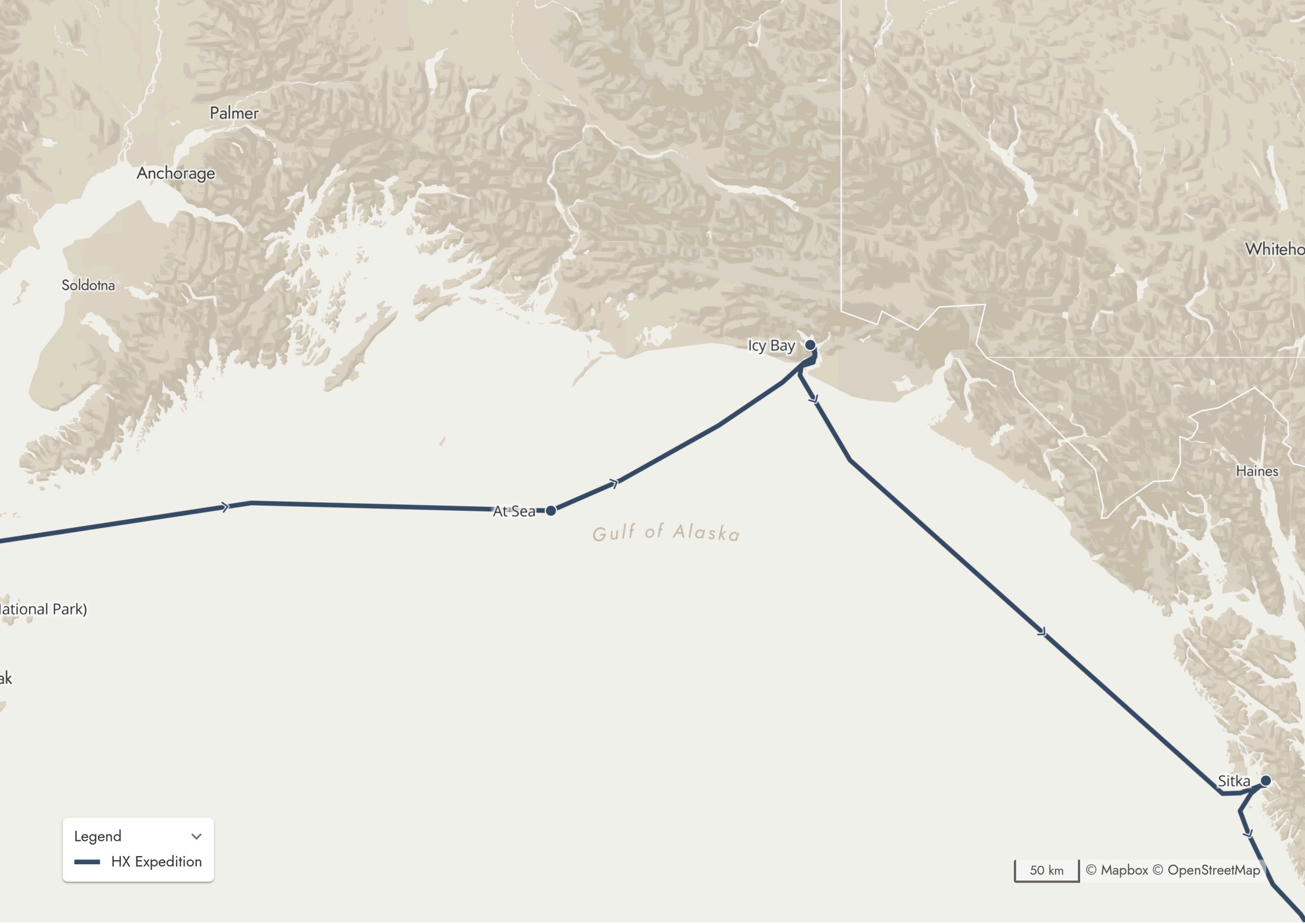
Day 10 — Kukak Bay

Our visit to Kukak Bay in Katmai National Park was an outstanding wildlife experience, made all the more memorable by a beautiful sunny day with mild temperatures. We headed out in the expedition boats, cruising through calm waters and along the rugged coastline, where we were rewarded with sightings of brown bears, including mothers with their playful cubs, as well as bald eagles and other

wildlife. As we sailed away from the bay aboard the ship, the wildlife encounters continued — we spotted another brown bear along the shoreline and, remarkably, even a moose. It was a memorable day surrounded by sunshine, stunning scenery, and the rich wildlife of Alaska.







Palmer

Anchorage

Soldotna

Icy Bay

At-Sea

Gulf of Alaska

Whiteho

Haines

Sitka

Legend



— HX Expedition

50 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

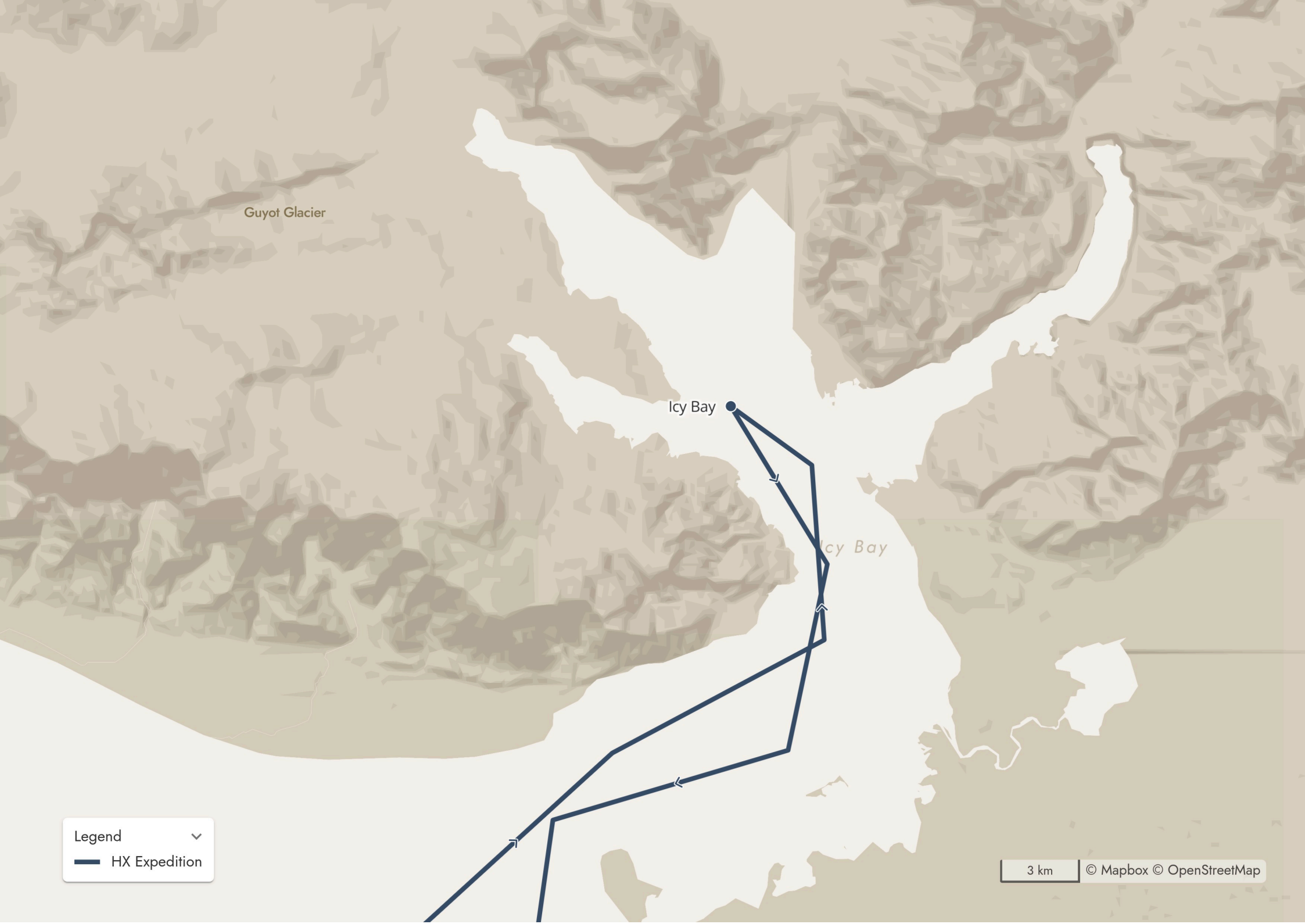
Day 11 – At Sea

Crossing the Gulf of Alaska on a calm, sunny day offered a rare sense of scale. The ship moved steadily towards Icy Bay, with the sea stretched smooth to the horizon and only a gentle swell rolling beneath the hull. Distant mountain ranges gradually emerged from the haze, their snow-covered peaks bright against the afternoon light.

Many guests spent time on deck, watching seabirds glide low over the water and scanning for the occasional whale blow. The mild conditions made for an easy passage, allowing uninterrupted views of the vast coastline as we approached the glacier-carved landscapes that mark the entrance to Icy Bay.







Guyot Glacier

Icy Bay

Icy Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 12 – Icy Bay

During our expedition boat cruise in Icy Bay, calm conditions throughout the morning allowed us to explore a landscape filled with floating ice from the glaciers at the head of the bay. We carefully navigated between ice floes and bergy bits, with numerous harbour seals swimming in the cold water. The snowcapped peaks of the Saint

Elias Mountains rose above the shoreline, while waterfalls traced their way down steep slopes to the sea. Rain moved into the area later in the day, adding a distinctly Alaskan atmosphere as we continued our exploration among the ice-strewn waters of this remarkable fjord system.







Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 13 – Sitka

We went ashore in Sitka using the expedition boats, with light rain passing through the area on and off during the day. Guests spread out across a wide range of activities, including snorkelling in the cold Pacific waters, wildlife boat tours, hikes through the temperate rainforest of Tongass National Forest, and visits to the Alaska Raptor Center. Several boat tours reported numerous brown bear sightings

along the shoreline, offering excellent views of bears foraging on local beaches. Others chose to explore Sitka independently, wandering the waterfront, historic streets, museums, and local shops at their own pace before returning to MS Fridtjof Nansen in the evening.







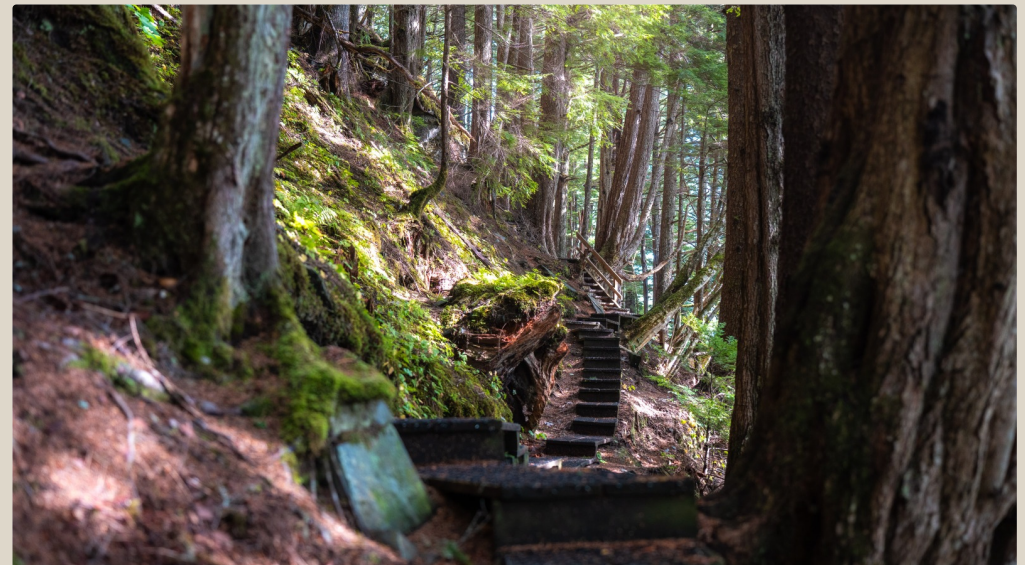
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Day 14 – Wrangell

Wrangell offered a relaxed day ashore in one of Southeast Alaska's oldest communities. Set on Wrangell Island at the mouth of the Stikine River, the town has long served as a meeting place for Tlingit people, traders, fishermen, and travellers. Guests spent the day exploring the waterfront, visiting local museums and shops, or joining excursions into the surrounding wilderness. Eagle sculptures, colourful harbour

scenes, and the forested hills that rise behind town provided a constant reminder of the close connection between the community and the landscapes that surround it. The scent of cedar and salt air drifted through the streets, and the quiet pace of the town invited guests to linger and take in the character of this historic settlement.







Revillagigedo Island

Misty Fjords

Misty Fjords National
Monument Wilderness

Legend

— HX Expedition

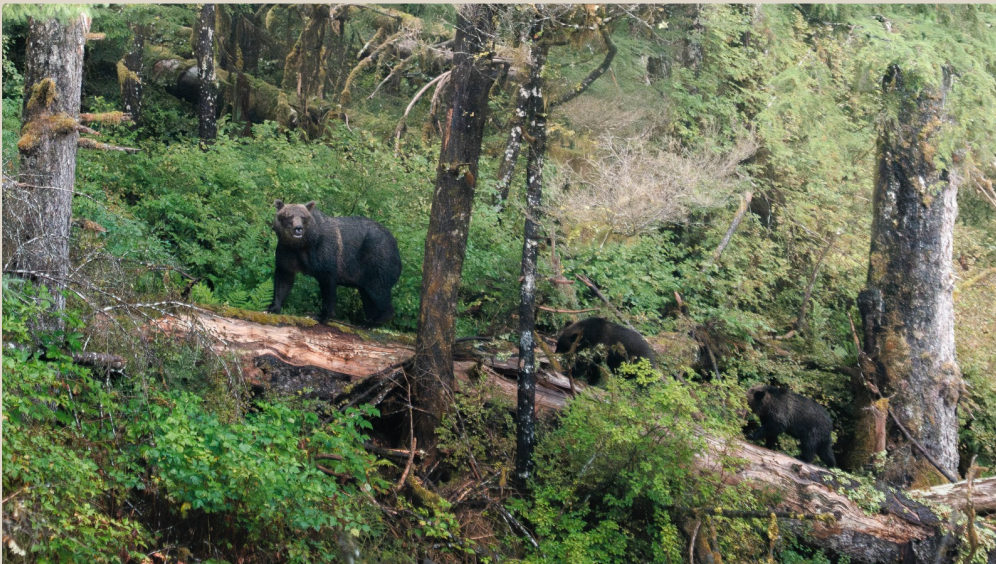
5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

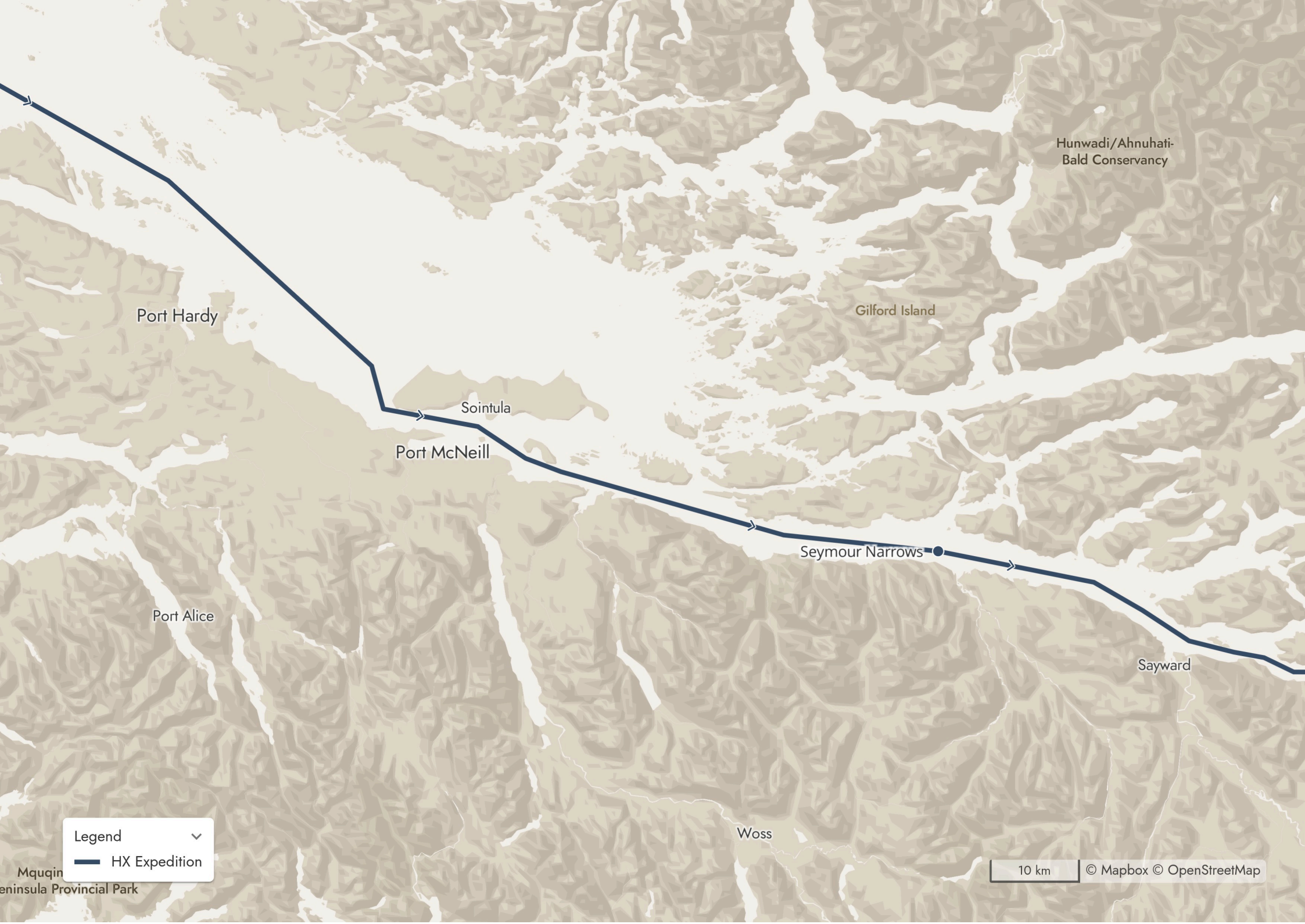
Day 15 – Misty Fjords

This morning, we set out by expedition boats to explore the dramatic landscapes of Misty Fjords National Monument. Calm waters carried us deep into Rudyerd Bay, where towering granite walls rose thousands of feet above the shoreline and small waterfalls traced bright ribbons down the cliffs. Patches of cloud lingered along the mountaintops, adding to the atmosphere of this vast wilderness. As

we cruised through the fjord, guests scanned the shoreline for wildlife, including harbour seals and bald eagles, while taking in the dense rainforest and remarkable scale of the scenery around us. The stillness of the water reflected the cliffs above, and the only sounds were the gentle splash of water against the hull and the occasional call of a bird echoing off the granite walls.







Hunwadi/Ahnuhati-
Bald Conservancy

Port Hardy

Gilford Island

Sointula

Port McNeill

Seymour Narrows

Sayward

Woss

Port Alice

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 16 – Seymour Narrows

As we continued south towards Vancouver, MS Fridtjof Nansen transited Seymour Narrows beneath a blanket of low cloud and steady rain. The forested shores of Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland appeared and disappeared through the mist as we navigated this narrow passage, renowned for its strong tidal currents. Many guests gathered by the windows and on sheltered

decks to watch the scenery slide past, while seabirds moved across the grey water and the ship made its careful passage through one of the most notable channels on the Inside Passage. The tide raced through the narrows with visible force, and the dense forest pressed close on either side, its dark green slopes vanishing into the cloud above.





Legend

HX Expedition



Day 17 – Vancouver

MS Fridtjof Nansen arrived alongside in Vancouver in the early morning, bringing our voyage from Nome to a close. As guests gathered their belongings and prepared to go ashore, the Expedition Team was on hand to assist with disembarkation, answer final questions, and say our farewells. The city skyline rose beyond the harbour — a sharp contrast to the windswept coastlines, remote islands, and glacier-carved fjords of the preceding weeks. Luggage

was collected, travel arrangements confirmed, and guests gradually made their way ashore for the last time. The journey had carried us from the Bering Sea through the Aleutian Islands, across the Gulf of Alaska, and down the Inside Passage, with days defined by wildlife, weather, and the steady rhythm of life on board. As the last guests departed and the ship fell quiet, we wished them safe travels onward.



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