



Northwest Passage – Through the Arctic Labyrinth

MS Fridtjof Nansen, 15 August – 7 September 2026





Sermitsiaq Island

Egalunnguit Nunaat

Nuuk

Kangerluarsunnguaq

Qaqort Iluat

Legend



 HX Expedition

5 km

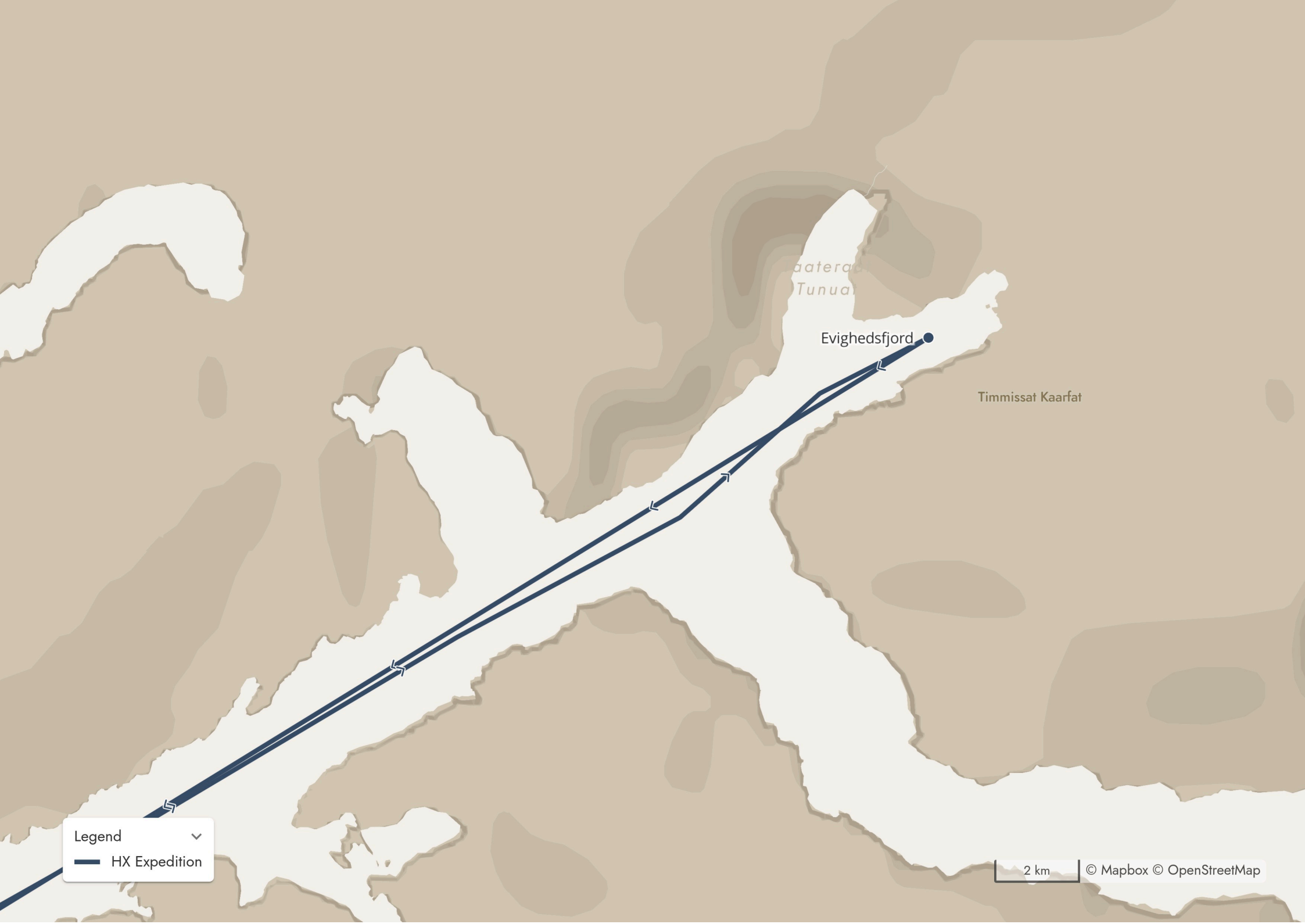
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 1 – Embarkation Day in Nuuk

It was a slightly grey and wet start to the voyage as MS Fridtjof Nansen set off on the 24-day journey up the coast of Greenland, through the Northwest Passage, and on to Nome, Alaska. Guests

arrived throughout the evening, all making it on board in time for the 10pm departure out of Nuuk harbour.





Evighedsfjord

Timmerstassat Kaarfart

Kaaterrad
Tunua

Legend

HX Expedition

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 2 — Evighedsfjord

Our first full day started with important talks and briefings, as well as an Arctic Circle baptism. We were not due to cross the Circle until later in the evening, but we had to ask Njord, God of the seas, to grant us safe passage on our journey north. In the afternoon, after our

first lunch on board, guests headed out in the expedition boats for a cruise in Evighedsfjord, close to the glacier front that is rapidly retreating.





Palasip Qaqqaa

AKIA

Sisimiut

Sisimiut

Legend

— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 – Sisimiut

Today we were in the second-largest city after Nuuk, with over 5,000 inhabitants. We started the day with a walking tour. The weather was grey but dry for the most part, so it was pleasant wandering around the hilly paths and roads around town. There was also an Arctic

sounds concert at the culture centre at various times in the afternoon. Guests had free entrance to the Sisimiut museum. After an eventful day, the Captain's Welcome took place, where the Captain introduced his officers and the Expedition Team.





Legend



 HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4 — Ilulissat

Our final stop in Greenland brought us to Ilulissat, the third-largest city in the country, by a few hundred inhabitants. It was another busy day here, with many excursions heading out on boats to visit the ice fjord, flights to see it from above, and more. The day brought all types

of Greenlandic summer weather, with showers as well as sunny spells. As we wrapped up the day, we slowly made our way out into the Baffin Bay area and westward towards our next stop in Canada and the start of the Northwest Passage.





At Sea

At Sea

Disko Island

Baffin Island

Iluli

Legend

— HX Expedition

50 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 5 – At Sea

This was our first sea day crossing from Greenland over to Canada. The seas were mainly calm, which made attending the onboard programme of lectures and activities pleasant. One of the briefings

we looked forward to the most was the kayak briefing, so that guests could sign up for those activities.





Glaciers between Oliver
Sound and North Arm

At Sea

Legend

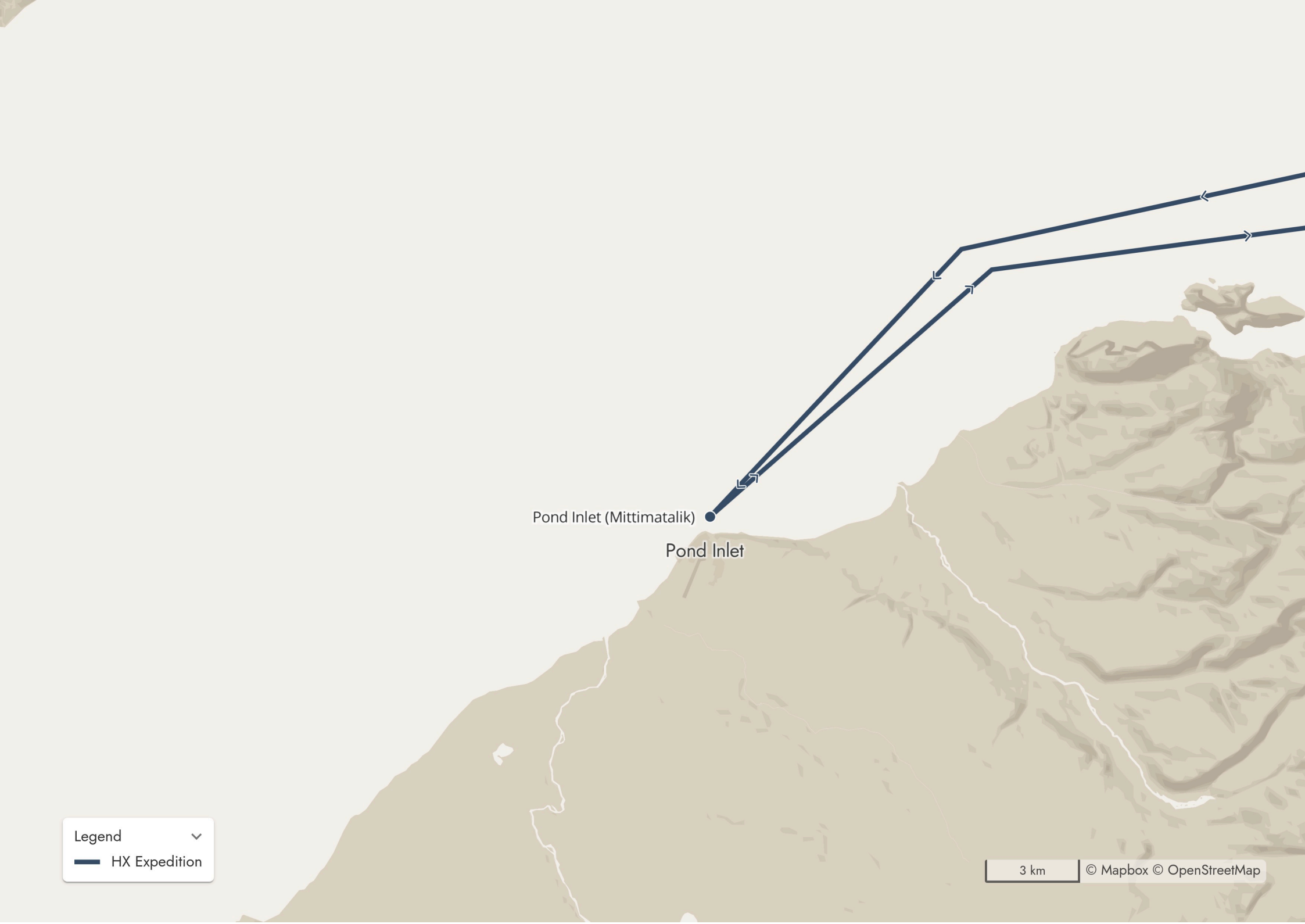
HX Expedition

Day 6 – At Sea

Our second sea day was very similar to our first, where guests could calmly enjoy the onboard programme. Guests had the opportunity to pick up their rubber boots, which they would need for landings in the

Northwest Passage. They also had to check their outer gear at the biosecurity station set-up to avoid any transfer of invasive plant species from Greenland over to Canada.





Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik)

Pond Inlet

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

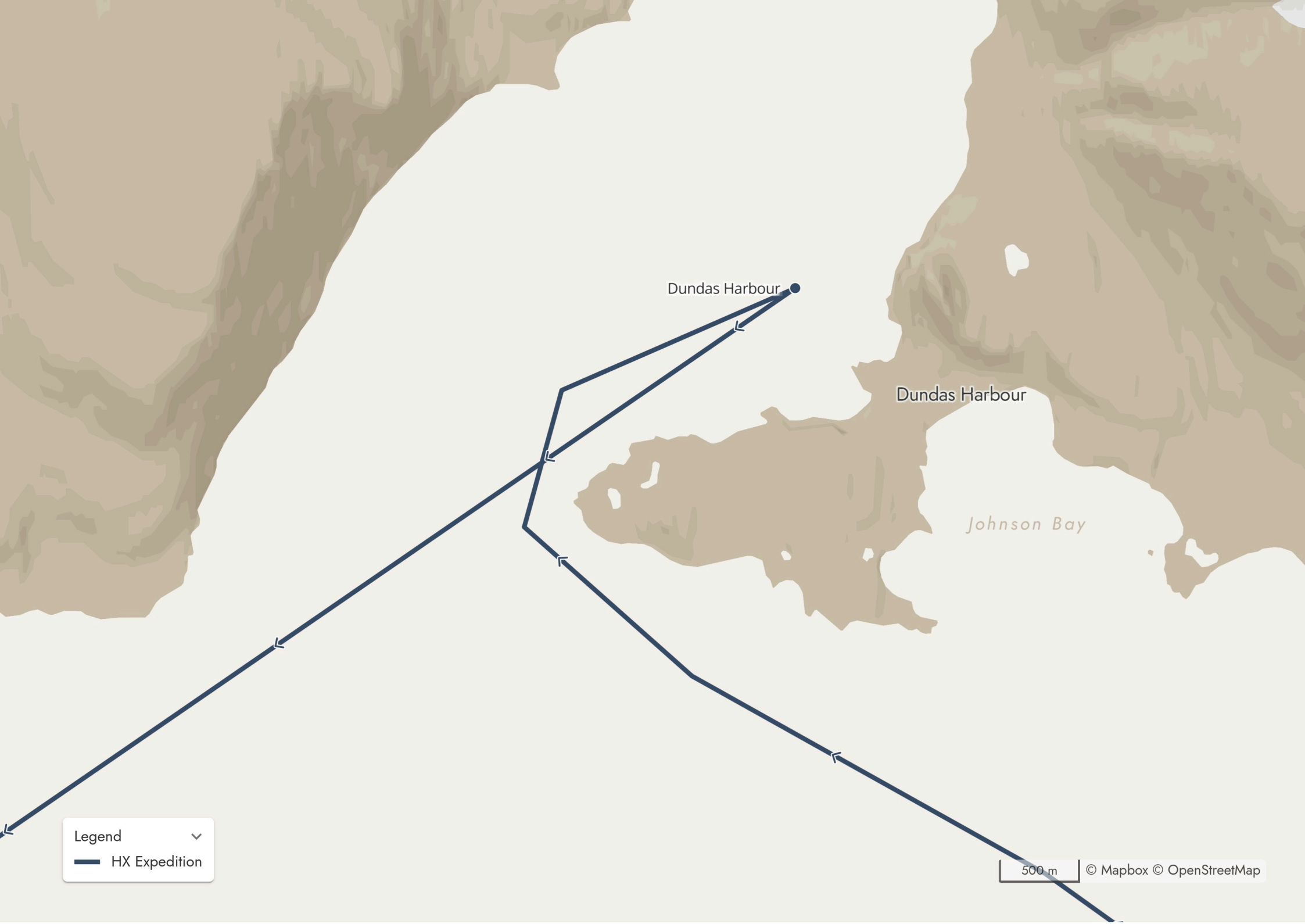
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 7 — Pond Inlet

We could not have had better weather for our first community visit here in Arctic Canada. Warm, sunny conditions welcomed us early in the morning as we approached the settlement and hoisted the

Nunavut flag. Onshore, we had a number of excursions and activities taking place, such as walking tours, hikes, performances, and more.





Dundas Harbour

Dundas Harbour

Johnson Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 8 – Dundas Harbour

It was another fine day in the Canadian High Arctic. Our day in Dundas Harbour was a busy one, with multiple activities going on. We had a landing at the historic site as well as an expedition boat cruise in the harbour. While there was not much ice in the bay, the

geology was striking, and harp seals fed in all of the coves. We also had kayaking and some rounds of the science boat later in the afternoon. Once our activities wrapped up, we had a ship cruise into Croker Bay and even got to see some muskoxen on the slopes.



Union Bay

Beechey Island

Beechey Island

*Erebus and
Terror Bay*

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Day 9 – Beechey Island

We attempted to land at Beechey Island, a remote, windswept island in Nunavut's High Arctic and a place of historical significance, best known for its connection to Sir John Franklin's ill-fated 1845 Northwest Passage expedition. Franklin's crews spent the winter of 1845–46 on the island, and three of the expedition's men are buried there, making it an important site in Arctic exploration history. As we approached

the bay, however, our plans took an unexpected turn when a swimming polar bear followed us into the sheltered waters, apparently fascinated by our presence. The bear lingered nearby, watching and investigating with curiosity, and with safety in mind we decided to cancel the landing and give our Arctic visitor plenty of space.





Prince Leopold Island

Prince Leopold Island

Legend

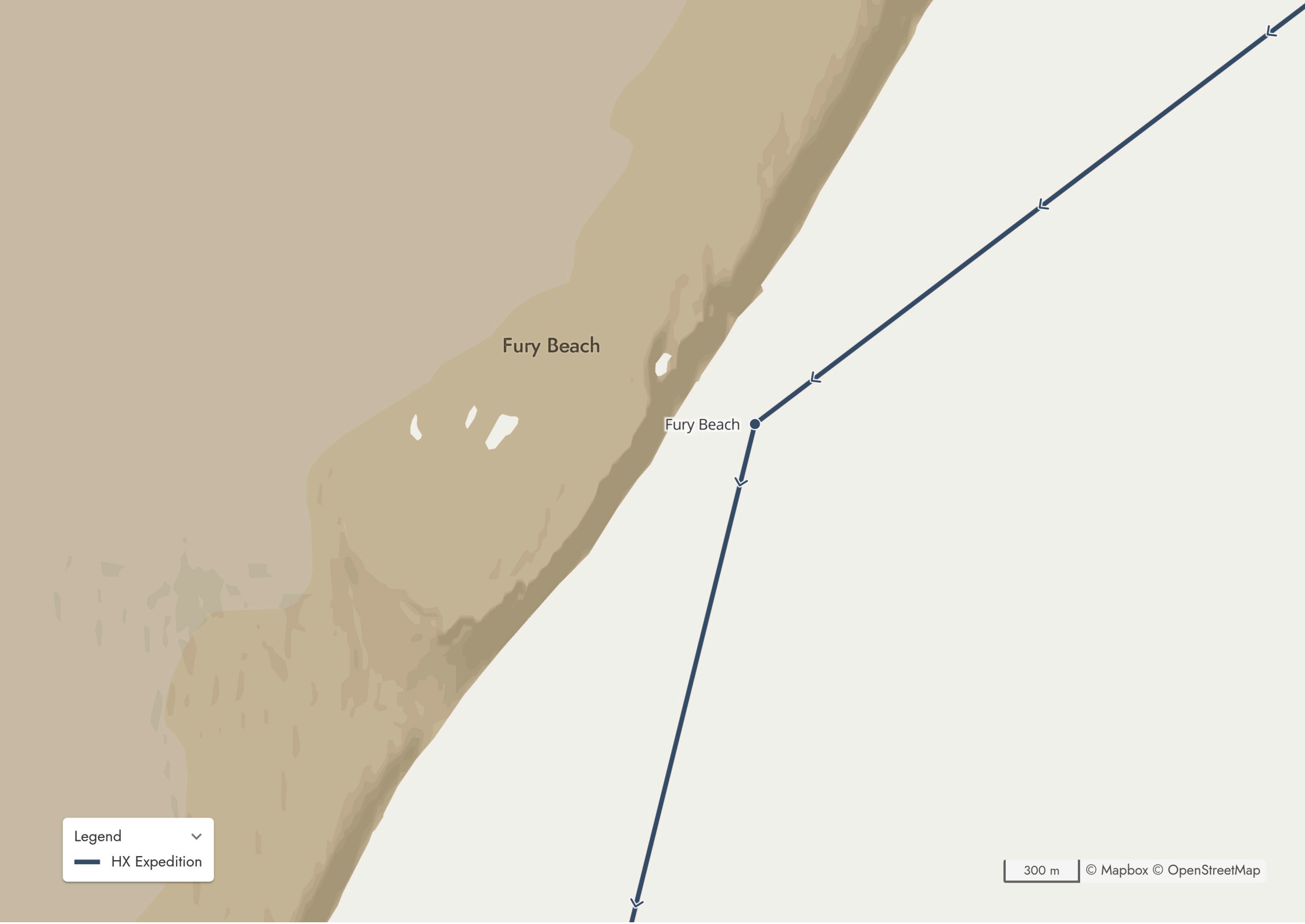
HX Expedition

Day 10 – Prince Leopold Island

We headed out by expedition boat to explore the cliffs of Prince Leopold Island, a remote Arctic island in Nunavut and one of the region's most important seabird colonies. Rising more than 250 metres above the sea, the sheer cliffs are home to tens of thousands of nesting seabirds, including thick-billed murres, northern fulmars, and black-legged kittiwakes, creating a spectacle of birds filling the skies and ledges above us. As we cruised quietly along the base of

the cliffs, we also kept a close eye on the shoreline, where a polar bear had been spotted in the area. With the towering cliffs overhead, thousands of seabirds swirling around us, and the possibility of a polar bear appearing along the coast and in the water at times, the expedition boat cruise offered a glimpse into the wild and pristine character of the High Arctic.





Fury Beach

Fury Beach

Legend

— HX Expedition

300 m

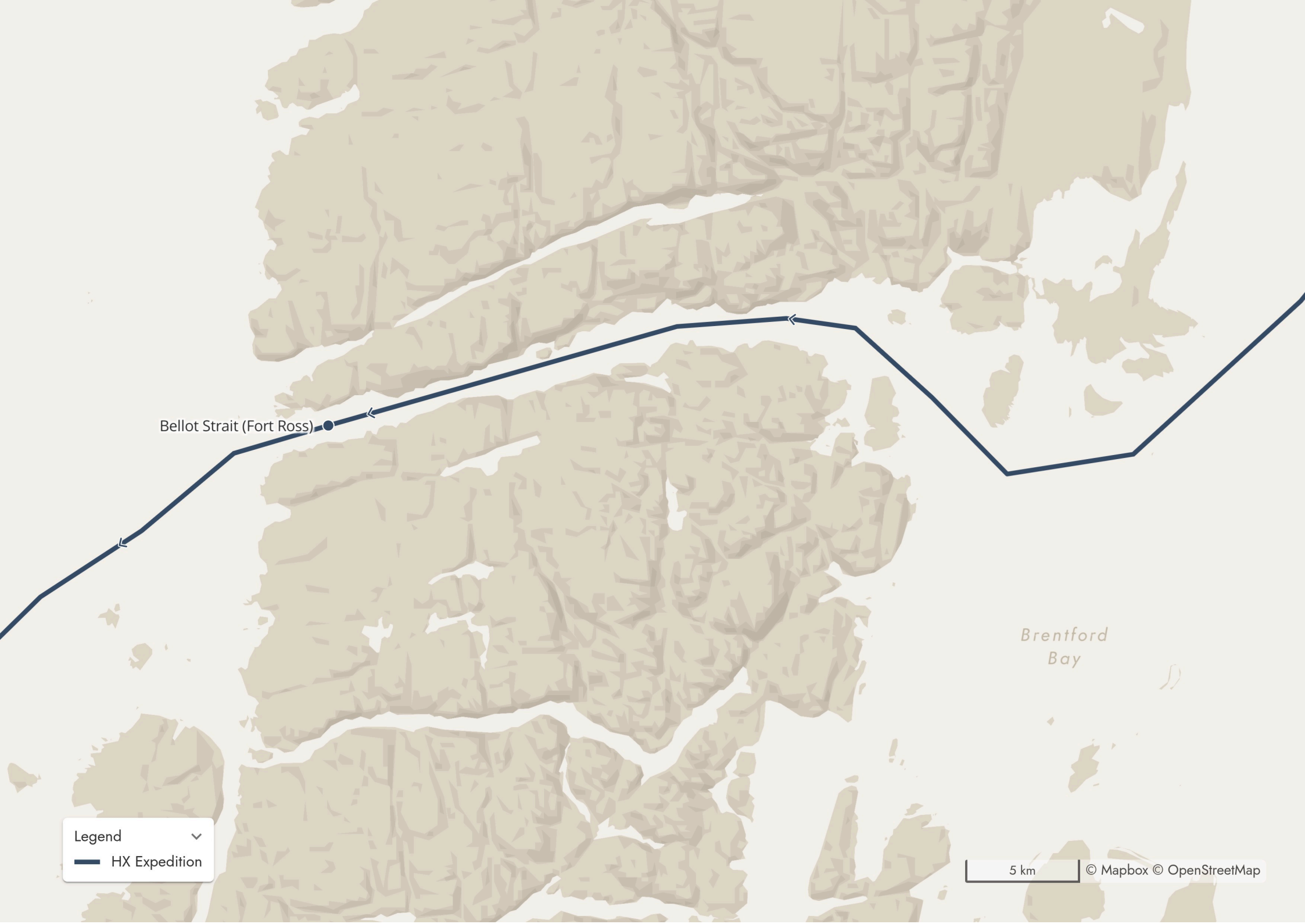
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 11 — Fury Beach

Landing at Fury Beach was a remarkable Arctic experience, as the beach combines a remote landscape with one of the great stories of 19th-century exploration. In August 1825, Sir William Edward Parry's expedition was forced to abandon HMS Fury after ice and damage made the ship unseaworthy; the crew unloaded provisions, boats, and

other supplies onto the shore before returning to Britain aboard HMS Hecla. It was a striking area, with polar bear prints scattered everywhere and even a dead polar bear close to the landing site. Guests had the opportunity to take a polar plunge in the clear waters.





Bellot Strait (Fort Ross)

Brentford
Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 12 – Bellot Strait & Fort Ross

Early this morning we sailed through the Bellot Strait, a narrow, dramatic waterway separating Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula and forming an important part of the Northwest Passage. Only about 25 km long and roughly 2 km wide at its narrowest, it is

known for its steep, rocky cliffs, sea ice, strong currents, and challenging navigation conditions. We had some wildlife sightings with muskoxen, and later even saw some narwhal and belugas in the bay.





Legend

HX Expedition

Day 13 – Gjoa Haven

Today we arrived at the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven, located on the southeast coast of King William Island. It is known for its connection to Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, whose ship *Gjøa* spent nearly two years there during his successful 1903–1906 Northwest Passage expedition. Guests took part in the community visit, which

included a walking tour and a stop at the bust of Roald Amundsen. There were other optional excursions throughout the day, as well as some local performances at the community hall.





*Icebreaker
Channel*

Qikiqtaryuaq

Jenny Lind Island

*Queen
Maud Gulf*

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 14 – Jenny Lind Island

It was quite an Arctic experience on Jenny Lind. With the wind conditions, we needed several members of the Expedition Team to stand in the water to help with the boats. The boats had to be turned around and offloaded onto the beach via the stern. Guests could then

roam freely within the perimeter of the polar bear guards on the desolate island. There was not much vegetation, and only the odd flock of geese flying past.





Cambridge Bay

Cambridge Bay

YCB -
Cambridge
Bay Airport

Legend

— HX Expedition

1 km

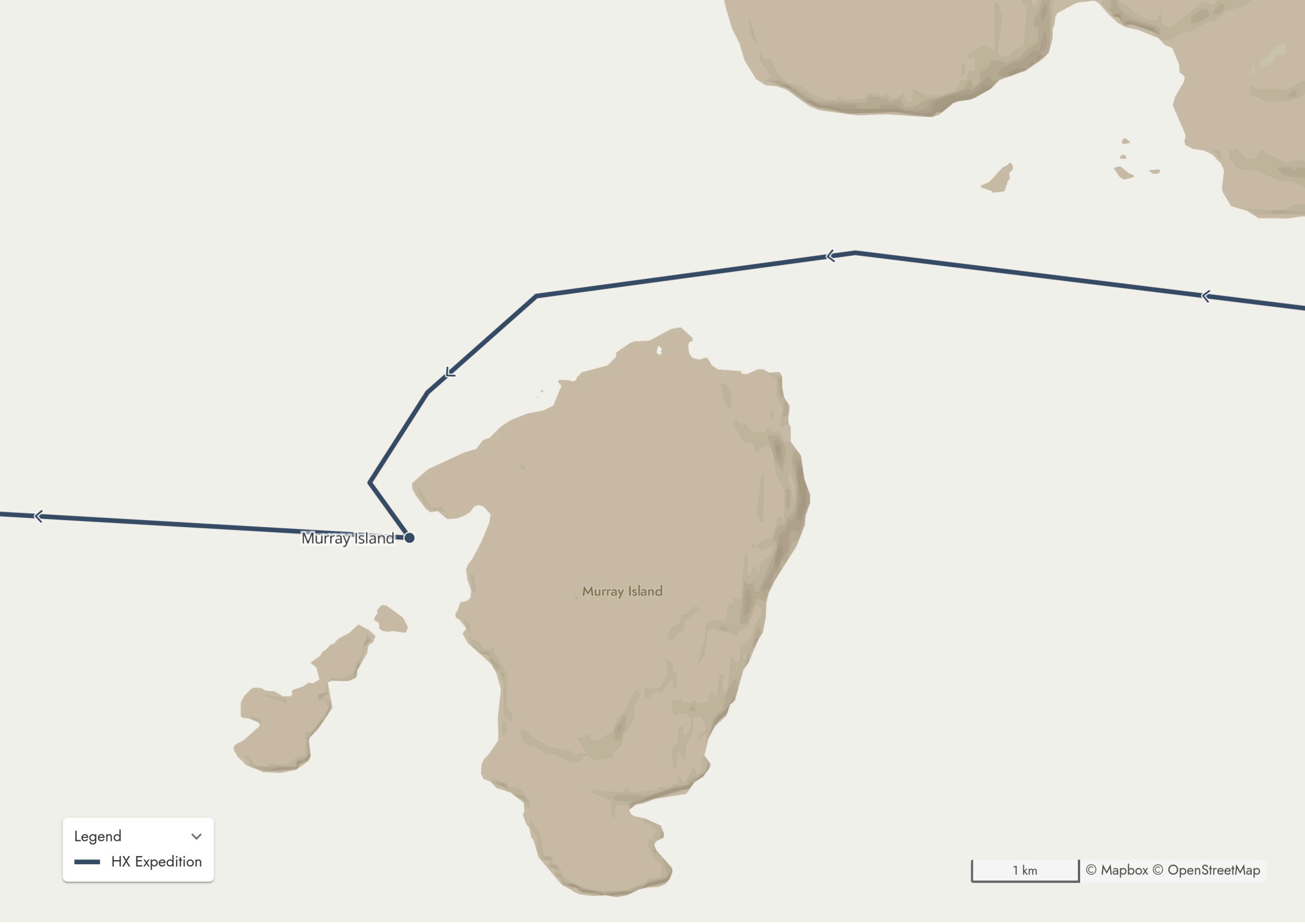
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 15 – Cambridge Bay

Today we went ashore in one of the largest communities in the region, with over 2,000 inhabitants. There were several excursions,

the main one being the community visit, a town walk. We also had optional tours running, including hikes, ATV tours, and fishing.





Legend



— HX Expedition

1 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 16 – Murray Island

The fog seemed to have defeated us today, as we had to evacuate our first landing group early on. However, after some patient waiting, the visibility improved and we could resume the landing. There were more plants to be seen, as well as muskox skulls and even some

Arctic wolf prints in the mud. At the same time, we ran our last few science boat sessions in the bay. This was our last stop in the Nunavut Territory before moving to the Northwest Territories tomorrow.





Ulukhaktok

Legend

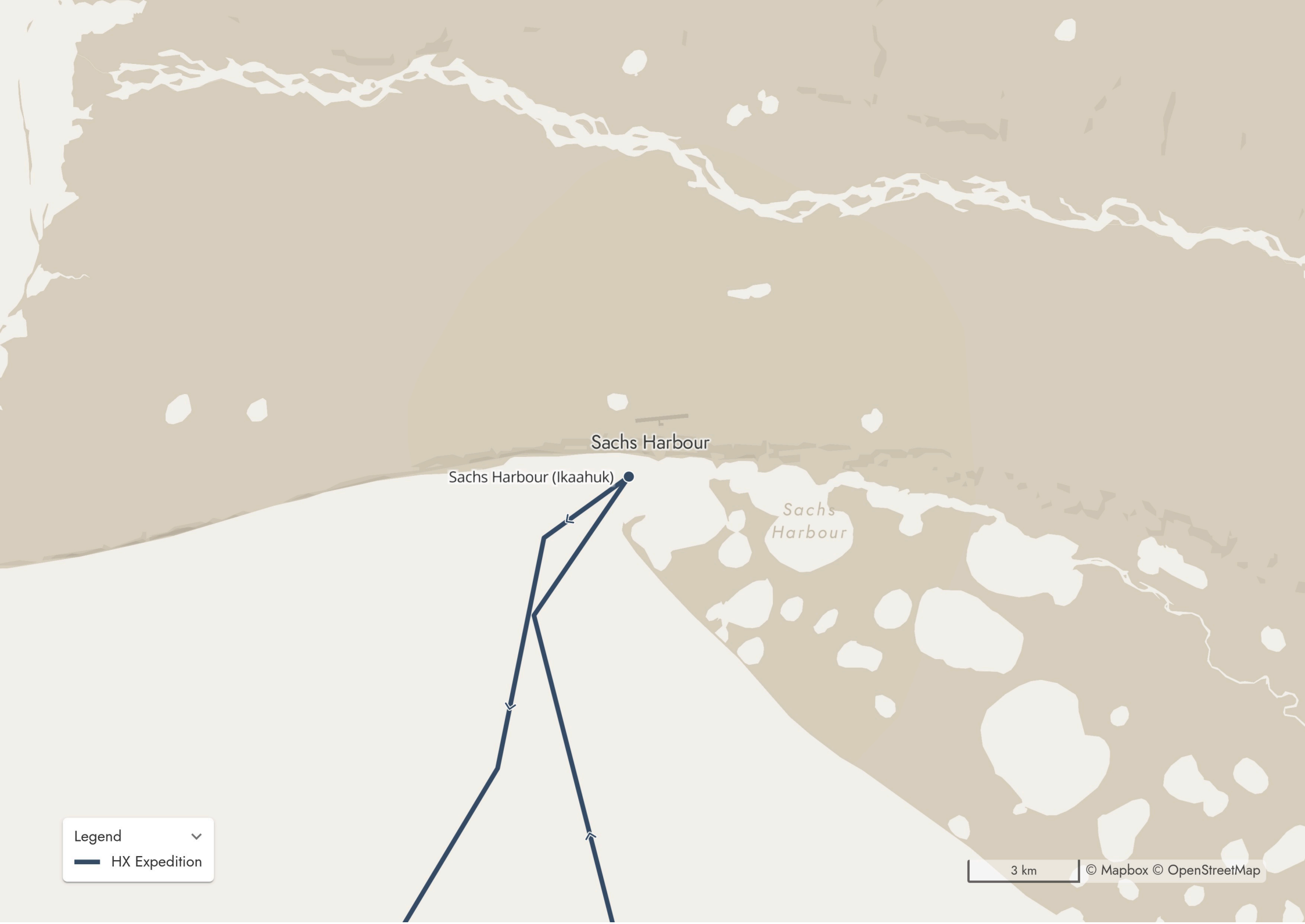
HX Expedition

Day 17 – Ulukhaktok

Visiting Ulukhaktok was a special experience, as it is a small, remote Inuvialuit settlement located on the west coast of Victoria Island in the Northwest Territories. The community was established in 1937 and was formerly called Holman before being renamed Ulukhaktok in

2006. With a population of roughly 460 people, Ulukhaktok has a close-knit community, which was also evident in how well-organised the locals were for our visit. All of them were at the beach, wearing name tags and traditional clothing.





Sachs Harbour

Sachs Harbour (Ikaahuk)

Sachs
Harbour

Legend

— HX Expedition

3 km

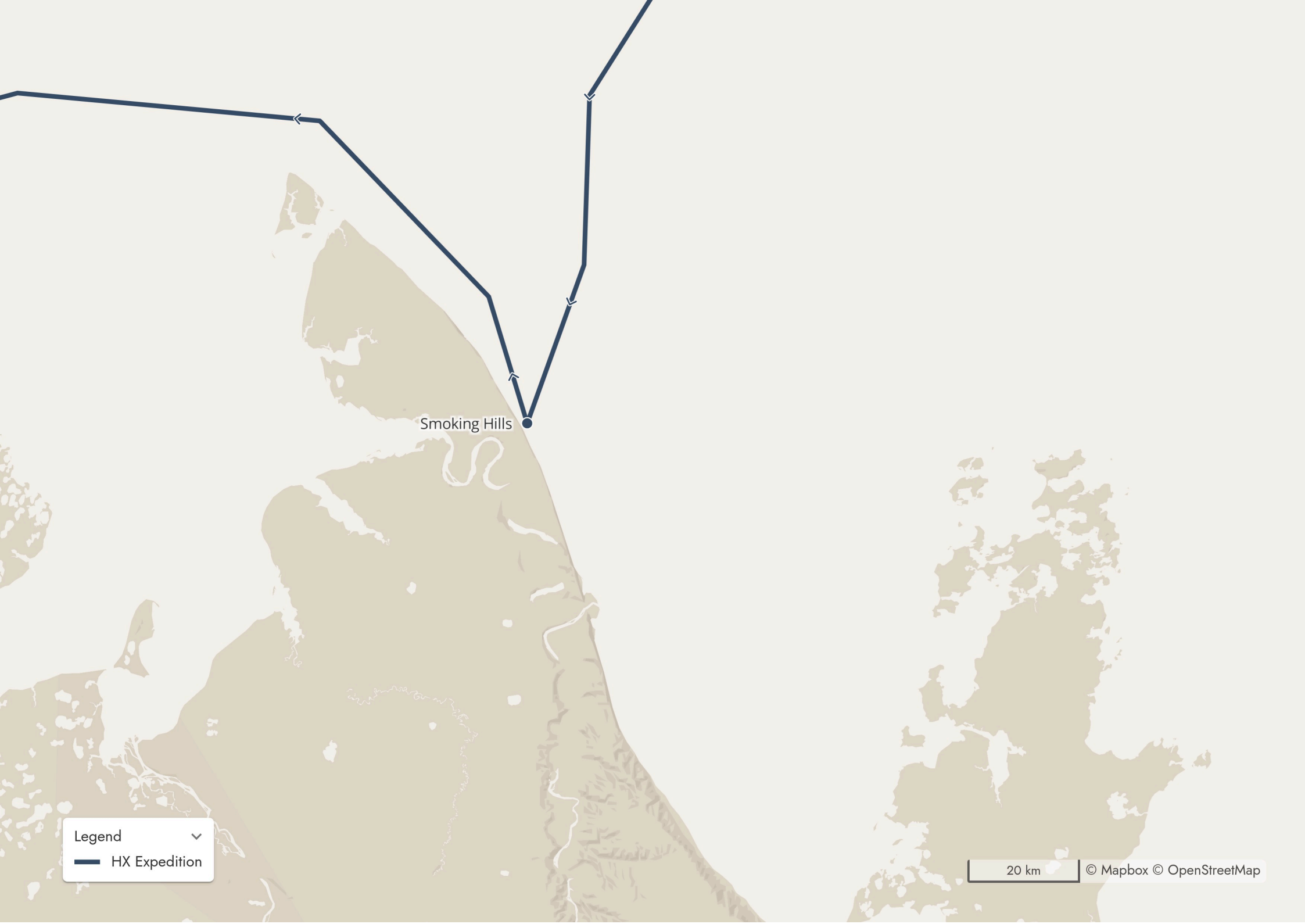
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 18 — Sachs Harbour

Today was quite the expedition. Due to the shallow bay outside the settlement, the ship could only come within a couple of miles of the landing site. The weather today also made it challenging, with intermittent thick fog making it difficult to navigate the long 15–20-

minute expedition boat ride each way. Once on shore, guests could explore the small town, which had recently landed its first beluga whale in five years.





Smoking Hills

Legend

— HX Expedition

20 km

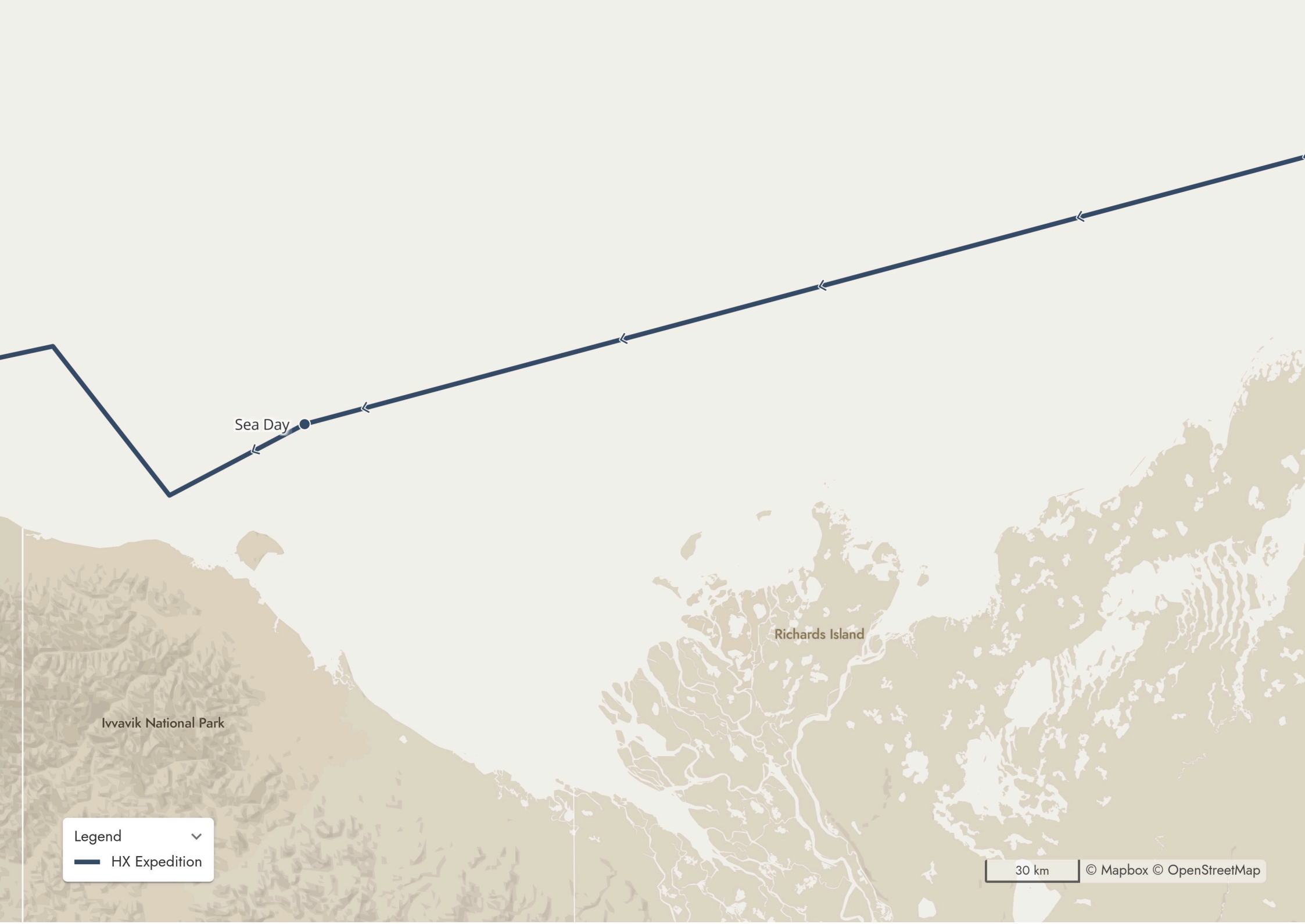
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 19 – Smoking Hills

Our last operation before our long sea crossing to Nome was at the Smoking Hills, on the Canadian mainland. It looked to be foggy with little visibility upon arrival. However, a scout expedition boat was sent

over to investigate, and the expedition boat cruise luckily went ahead. Once through the fog, we were treated to a sight of the hills that appeared to be burning.





Sea Day

Ivvavik National Park

Richards Island

Legend

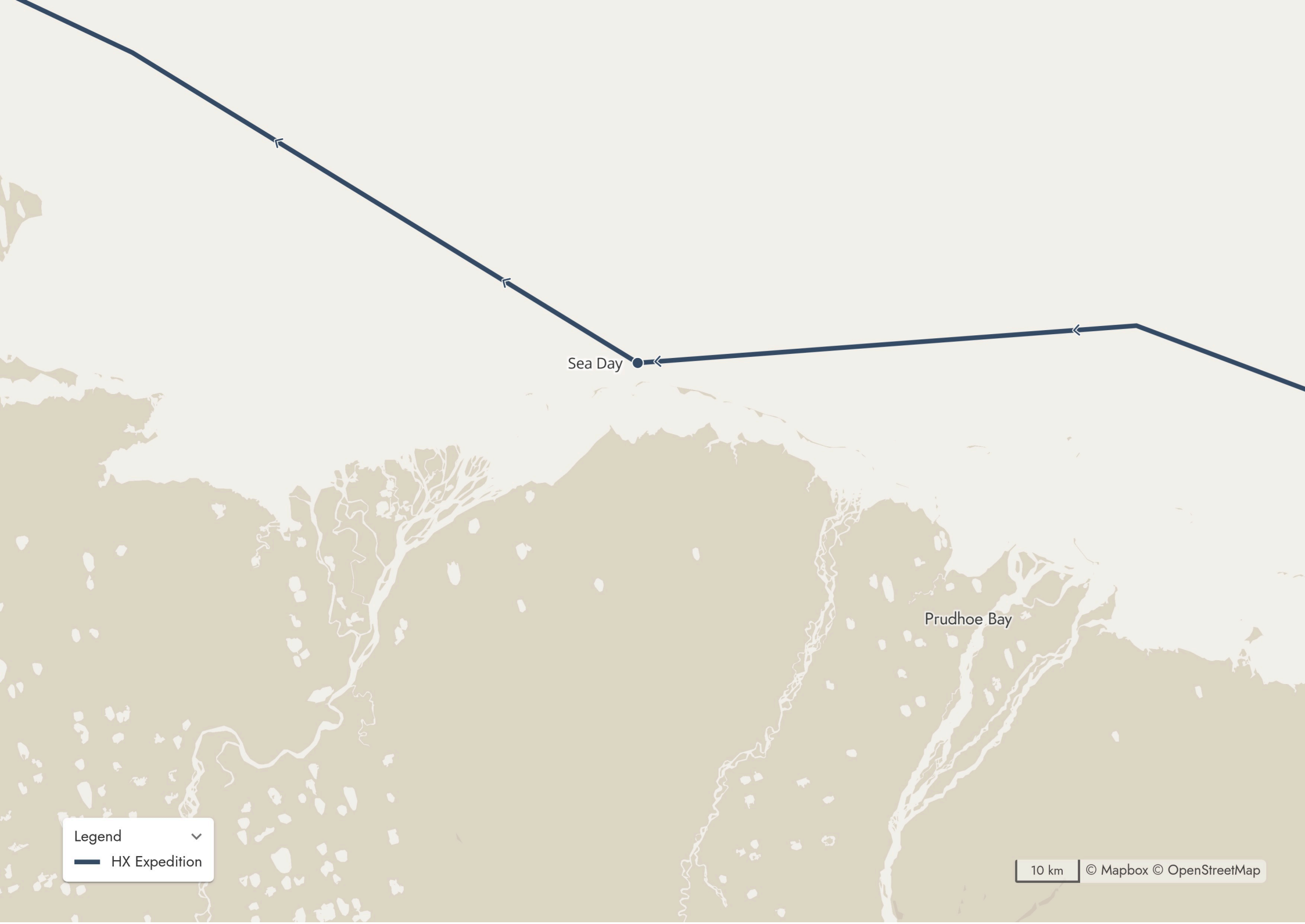
HX Expedition

Day 20 – At Sea

Our first full sea day out of four was eventful. We sailed slowly through huge pieces of sea ice and crossed the border into Alaskan (US) waters in the late morning. The onboard programme offered

lectures, workshops, and a Q&A with the officers. We also saw a couple of polar bears on the ice floes.





Sea Day

Prudhoe Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

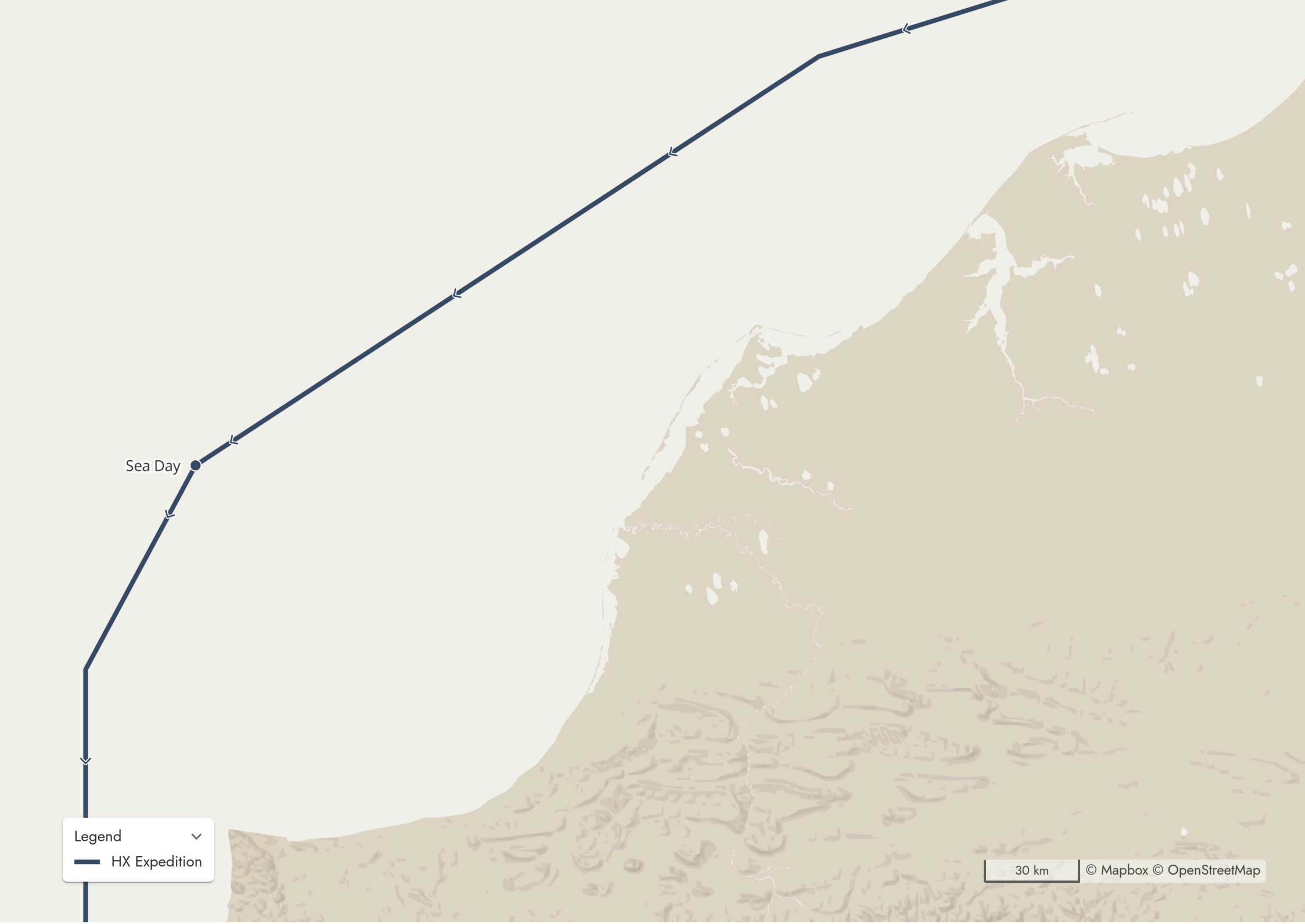
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 21 – At Sea

We were still snaking our way through the sea ice on the morning of our second day at sea. Hugging the coastline of North Alaska, we

made our way steadily west as the day progressed.





Sea Day

Legend

— HX Expedition

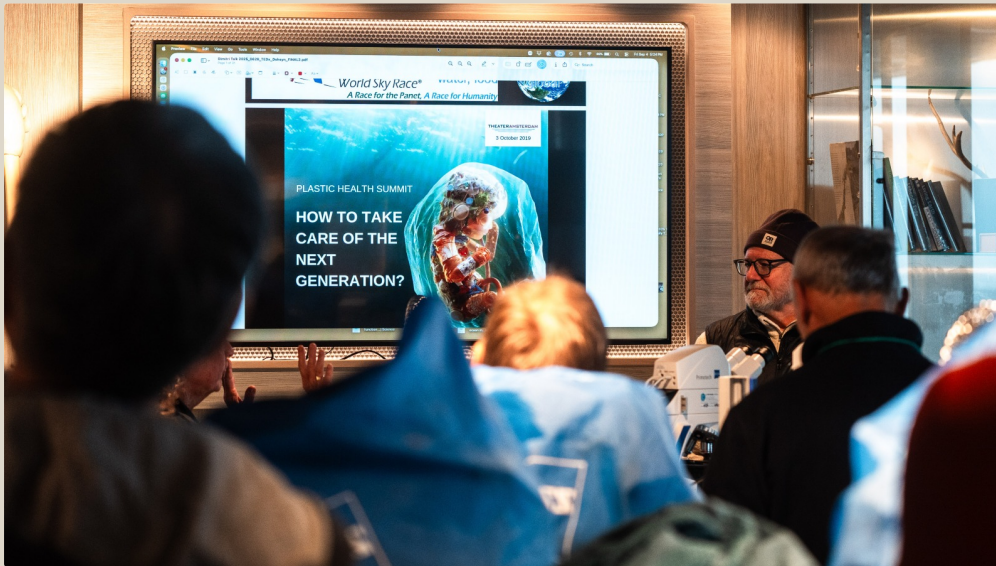
30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 22 – At Sea

We had finally cleared the ice by our third sea day and could increase our speed up to 14 knots. It was mainly an overcast day, but

there was plenty to see and do on board and on the outer decks. There were sightings of walrus in the water, and plenty of seabirds.





Diomedede

Sea Day

Nome

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 23 — At Sea

Our final day on board MS Fridtjof Nansen felt surreal after being on the ship for over three weeks. Starting off all the way in Nuuk, Greenland, felt like a long time ago. Today there was still plenty to do on board, with workshops and lectures. Guests returned their rubber

boots and later headed to the Captain's Farewell in the Explorer Bar on Deck 10. They then packed their bags and left them outside their cabins for collection and transfer for their flights the following morning.





Legend



— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Day 24 – Nome

Our voyage came to an end as MS Fridtjof Nansen arrived in Nome, Alaska. After 24 days on board, guests disembarked for the final time, having travelled from Nuuk, through the Northwest Passage, and on to the shores of the Bering Sea. Guests collected their bags, said their farewells to the Expedition Team, and stepped ashore into

the small gold-rush town. For some, the journey continued onward by air; for others, it was the moment the expedition truly sank in. We bid farewell to our guests and wished them well on the next leg of their travels.



logbook.travelmap.net/20260815-fnnwp2621