

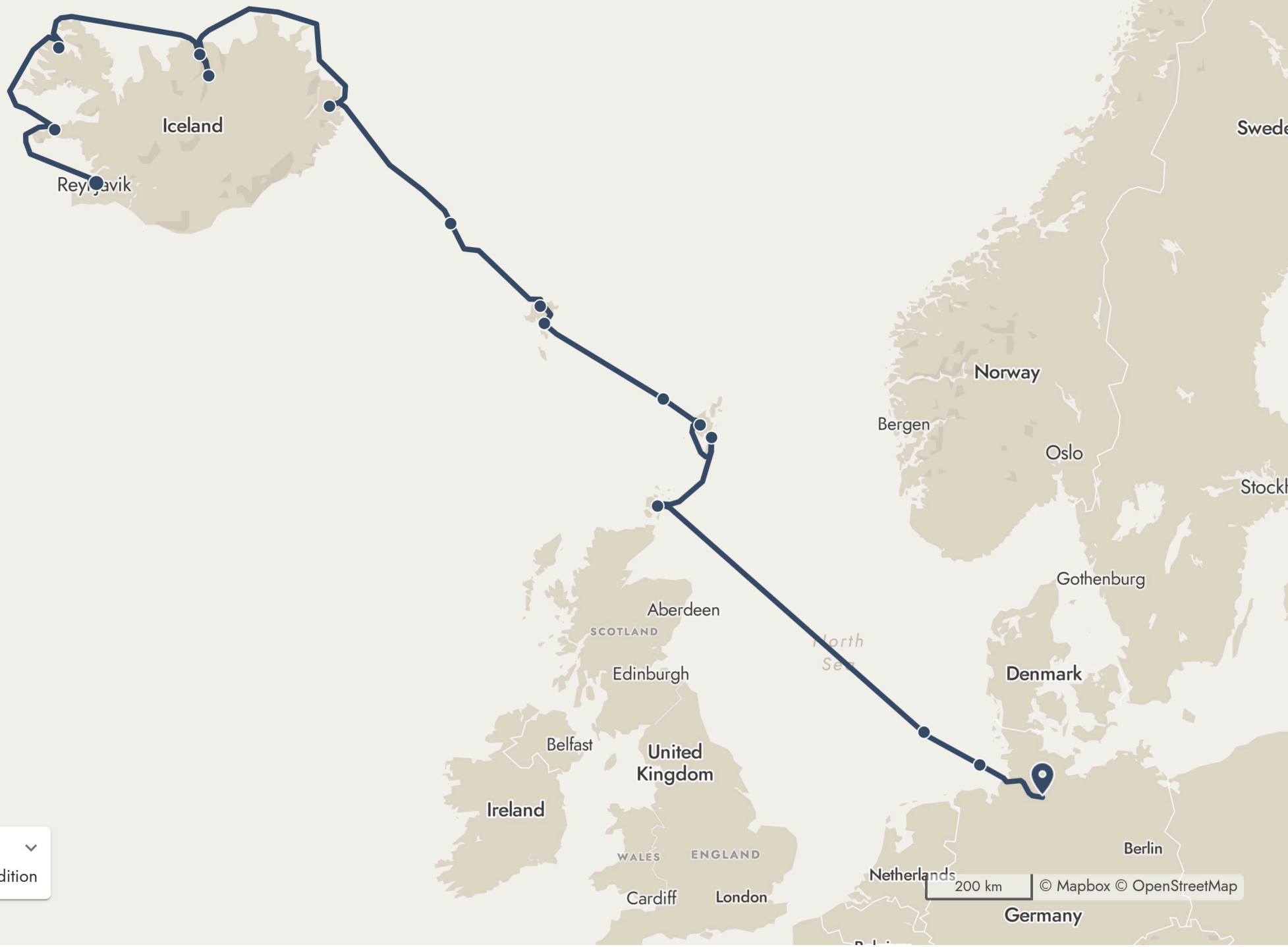


From Iceland to Hamburg – Half Circumnavigation of the Land of Ice and Fire

MS Spitsbergen, 21 September – 5 October 2026

Legend

— HX Expedition

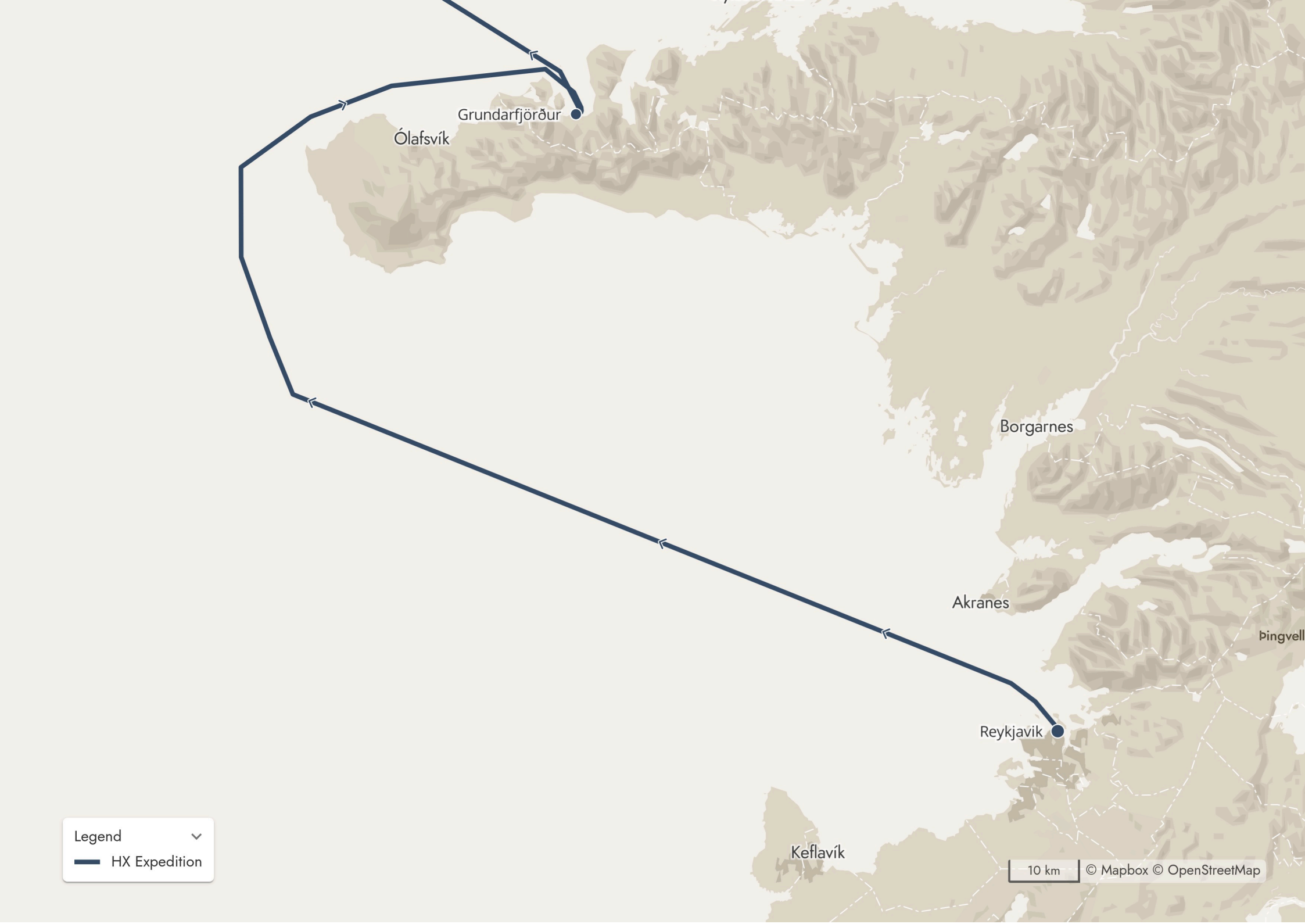


Day 1 - Emabarkation in Reykjavik

MS Spitsbergen began its expedition from Reykjavik, where guests arrived throughout the day and settled into their cabins. As embarkation progressed, guests became acquainted with their home for the days ahead. Later in the afternoon, guests gathered in the Explorer Lounge to meet the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader. During the welcome presentation, the team shared practical information about life on board, daily routines, and the voyage

ahead, providing an introduction to the expedition and the destinations to come. Before departure, all guests participated in the mandatory safety drill. Once everyone had reported to their assigned muster stations and the exercise had been successfully completed, the vessel was cleared for departure. With preparations complete, MS Spitsbergen cast off from Reykjavik and sailed into Faxaflói Bay, beginning the expedition.





Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

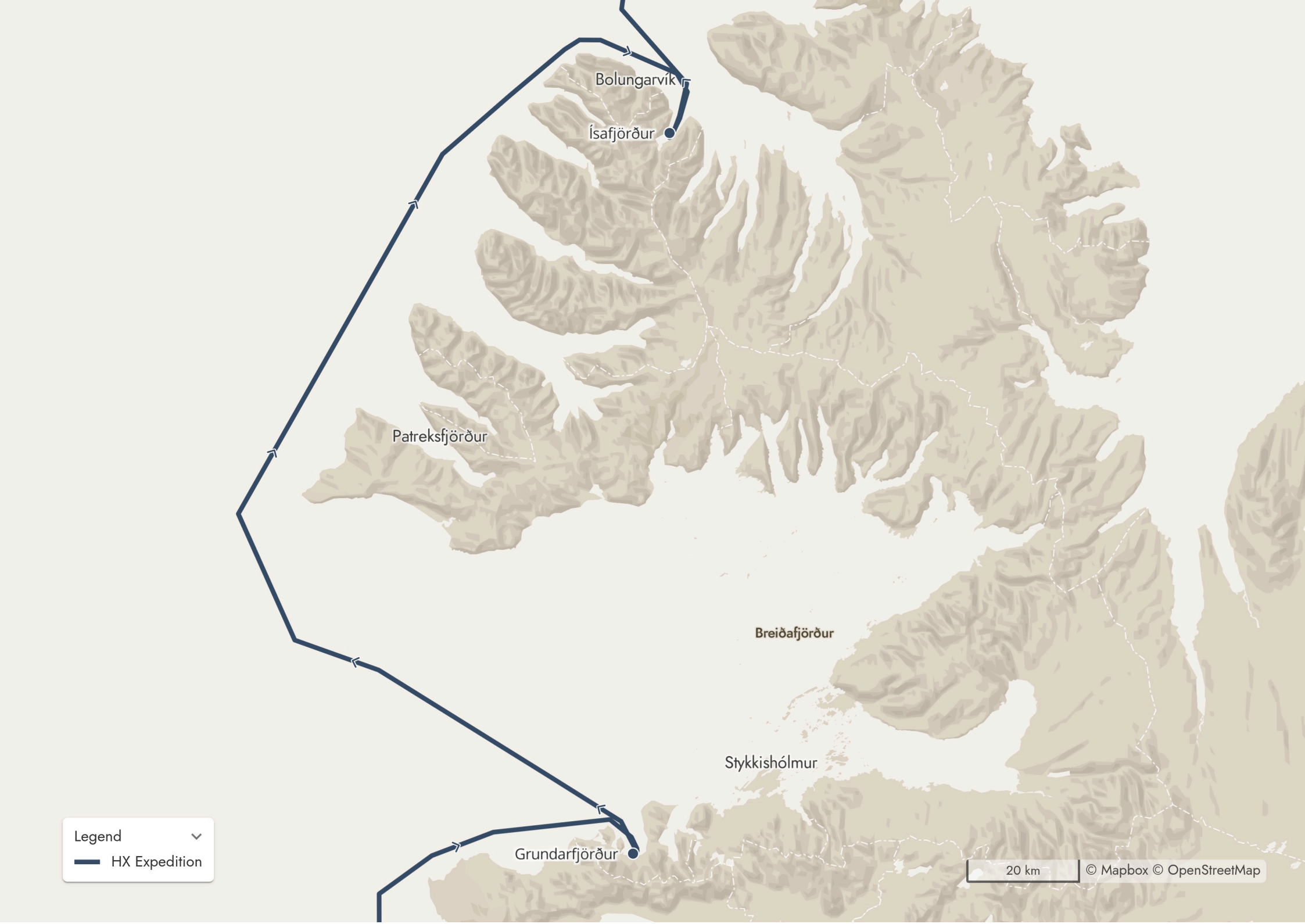
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 2 - Grundarfjörður

The next morning, MS Spitsbergen arrived in Grundarfjörður, a small fishing town situated on the northern coast of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Surrounded by mountains and overlooking the broad waters of Breiðafjörður, the settlement served as the expedition's first port of call in Iceland. After the gangway was opened, guests went ashore to explore the area. Shuttle buses transported many to the famous Kirkjufell, the distinctive mountain that rises prominently from the shoreline and has become one of Iceland's most recognisable landmarks. Some guests joined a guided hike around Kirkjufell,

taking advantage of the views across the peninsula and nearby fjords. Others chose to join the Expedition Team on a nature walk towards the waterfalls near Kirkjufell. Throughout the visit, guests gained an appreciation for both the natural beauty and maritime character of this region of Iceland. Back on board in the evening, guests gathered for the Captain's Welcome, officially marking the beginning of the voyage. The event was followed by a performance from a local guitarist and comedian, providing an entertaining conclusion to the day's activities.





Bolungarvík

Ísafjörður

Patreksfjörður

Breiðafjörður

Stykkishólmur

Grundarfjörður

Legend

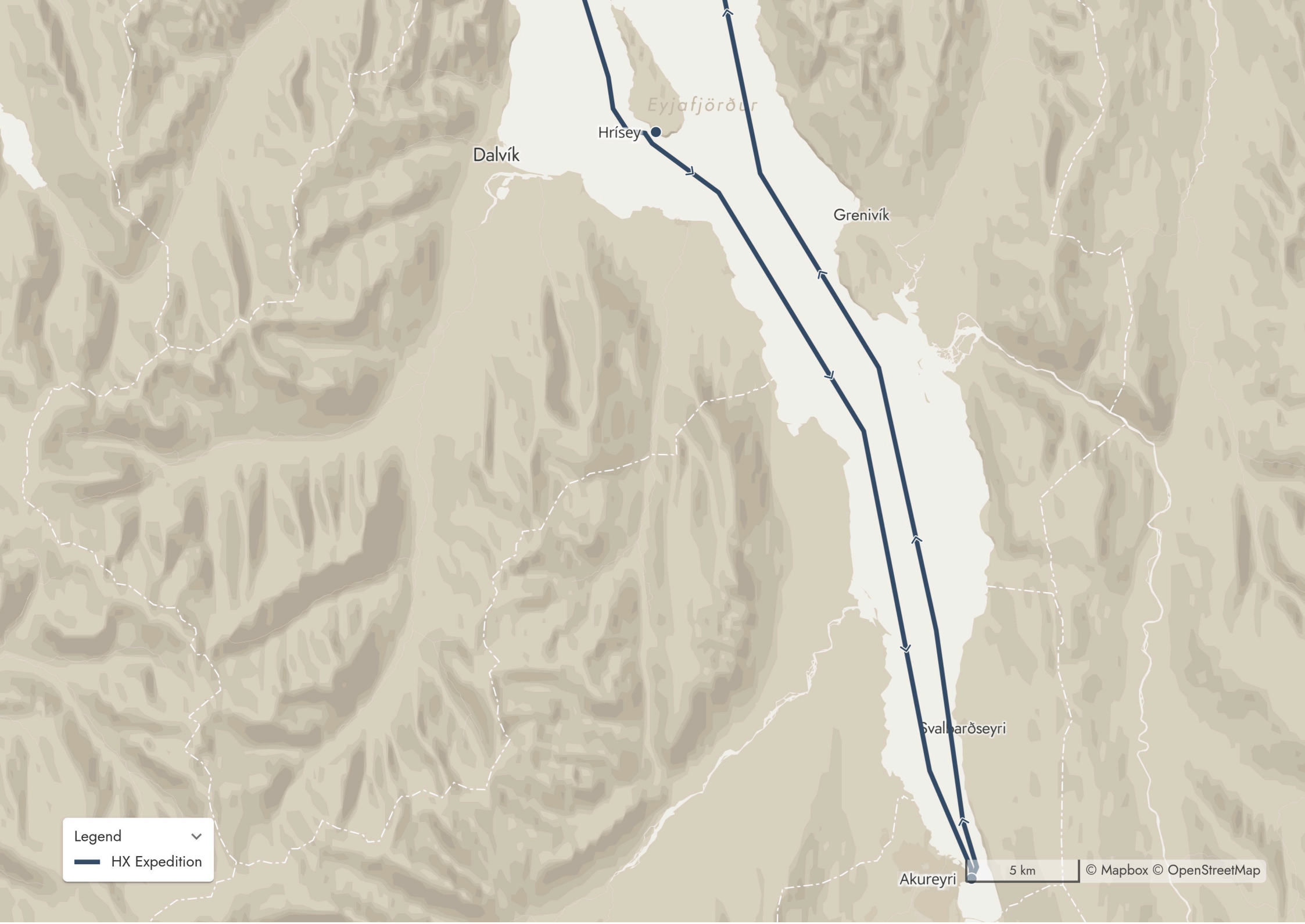
— HX Expedition

Day 3 - Ísafjörður

MS Spitsbergen arrived in Ísafjörður, the principal town of Iceland's Westfjords, on a narrow spit of land extending into Skutulsfjörður. Surrounded by steep mountains and deeply carved fjords, the town provided a gateway to one of the country's most remote regions. After the gangway was opened, guests went ashore to explore. Many joined excursions into the surrounding fjords and mountains, discovering landscapes shaped by glaciers over thousands of years. Others opted for hikes above the town, gaining elevated views over Ísafjörður, the neighbouring valleys, and the waterways that

characterise the Westfjords. Guests remaining in town wandered through its streets and waterfront, where historic timber buildings testify to the region's long maritime and trading history. Throughout the day, the dramatic scenery of the Westfjords remained a constant presence, with rugged coastlines, steep mountainsides, and remote settlements highlighting the character of this unique corner of Iceland. Back on board during the evening, guests attended an introduction to the Citizen Science projects that would accompany the expedition in the days ahead.





Eyjafjörður

Hrísey

Dalvík

Grenivík

Svalbarðseyri

Akureyri

Legend

HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 4 - Hrísey (AM)

MS Spitsbergen spent the morning at Hrísey, a small island located near the entrance to Eyjafjörður. After coming ashore, guests had the opportunity to explore this peaceful community and its surrounding landscapes through a variety of guided activities. A hiking group set out toward the lighthouse located at the northern end of the island, following trails that offered views across the fjord and surrounding mountains. Other guests joined nature walks led by the Expedition Team, exploring Hrísey's rich birdlife and learning more about the

island's natural environment. Throughout the morning, numerous bird species were observed, with rock ptarmigans proving to be a particular highlight due to their abundance across the island. Following the visit, guests returned on board for lunch as MS Spitsbergen continued deeper into Eyjafjörður. During the afternoon, the vessel arrived in Akureyri. Nestled at the head of Iceland's longest fjord, the town provided a striking setting as the expedition continued through northern Iceland.



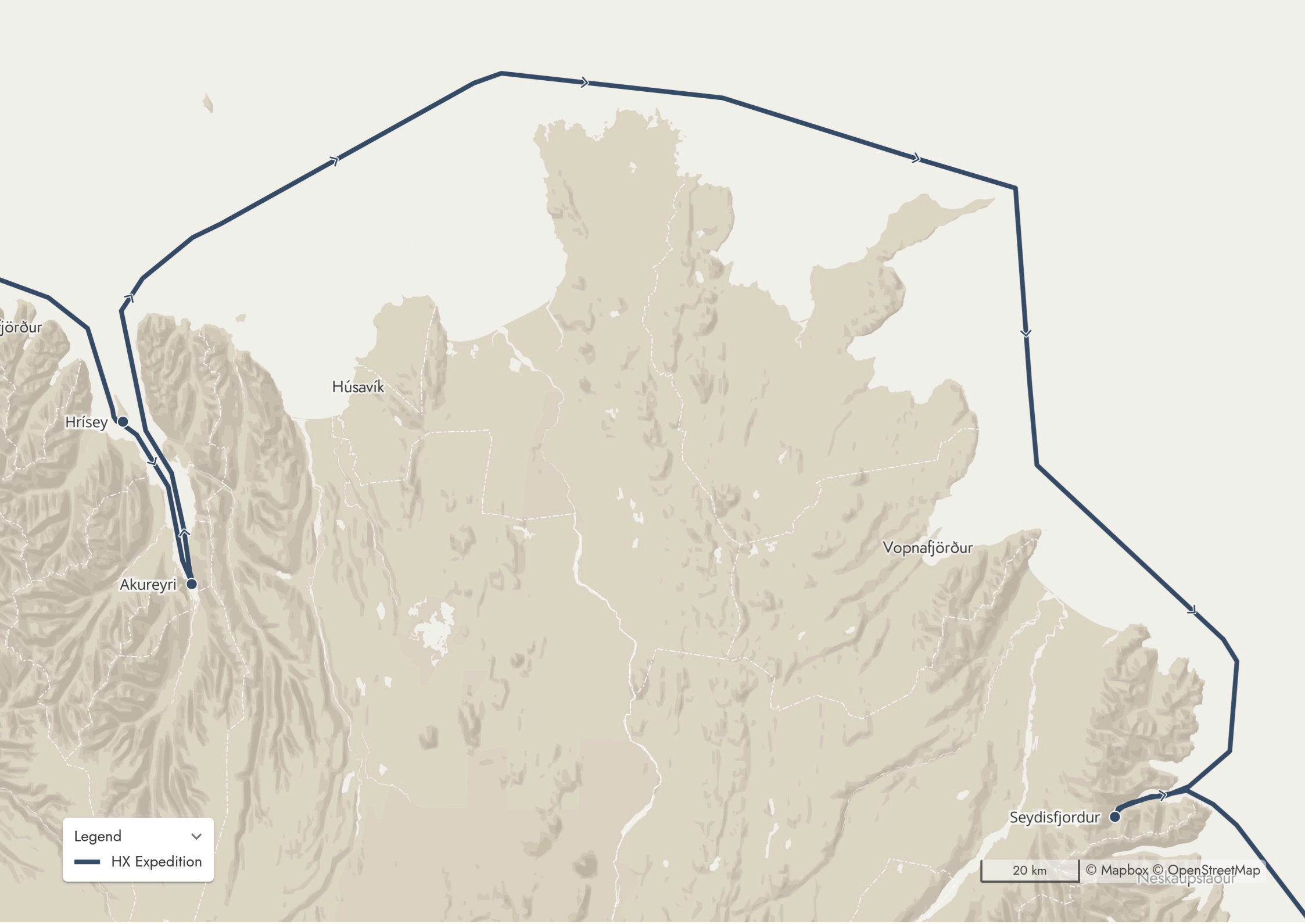
Day 5 - Akureyri

MS Spitsbergen remained alongside in Akureyri, giving guests a full day to explore northern Iceland and its surrounding landscapes.

Located at the head of Eyjafjörður, the town served as the departure point for a variety of excursions, allowing guests to experience some of the region's most notable natural attractions. Many joined the 'Jewel of the North' excursion, travelling inland to visit Goðafoss, the renowned 'Waterfall of the Gods'. The journey continued through the volcanic landscapes of the Mývatn region, where guests enjoyed time at the Mývatn Nature Baths, a geothermal lagoon surrounded by lava

fields and volcanic features. Others chose to remain in Akureyri, exploring the town independently. Popular stops included the waterfront area and the prominent church overlooking the fjord and surrounding mountains. By late afternoon, everyone had returned to the ship and MS Spitsbergen prepared to continue its voyage. During the evening, guests gathered for a presentation on the volcanoes of Iceland, learning more about the geological forces that have shaped the landscapes visited throughout the expedition.





jörður

Húsavík

Vopnafjörður

Hrísey

Akureyri

Seydisfjörður

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 6 - Seyðisfjörður

MS Spitsbergen arrived in Seyðisfjörður during the afternoon, entering one of Iceland's most picturesque fjords. Surrounded by steep mountains and waterfalls, the small Eastfjords town welcomed guests with its distinctive wooden houses and rich cultural history. Many joined a town walk to visit the famous Rainbow Street, leading to the iconic Blue Church and one of Seyðisfjörður's most recognisable landmarks. Several wooden houses lining the waterfront date back to the late nineteenth century, reflecting the strong connection between Seyðisfjörður and the Norwegian fishermen and

merchants who once settled here. Others joined a hike into the surrounding mountains to experience the dramatic landscapes that frame the fjord. Back on board, the programme continued with a lecture exploring a thousand years of Icelandic history, followed by a nautical knots workshop. As MS Spitsbergen departed and sailed away from Iceland, the evening offered one final surprise. Northern Lights appeared above the ship, their green glow visible across the night sky as the vessel set course across the North Atlantic.





Seydisfjordur

kull

At Sea

Legend

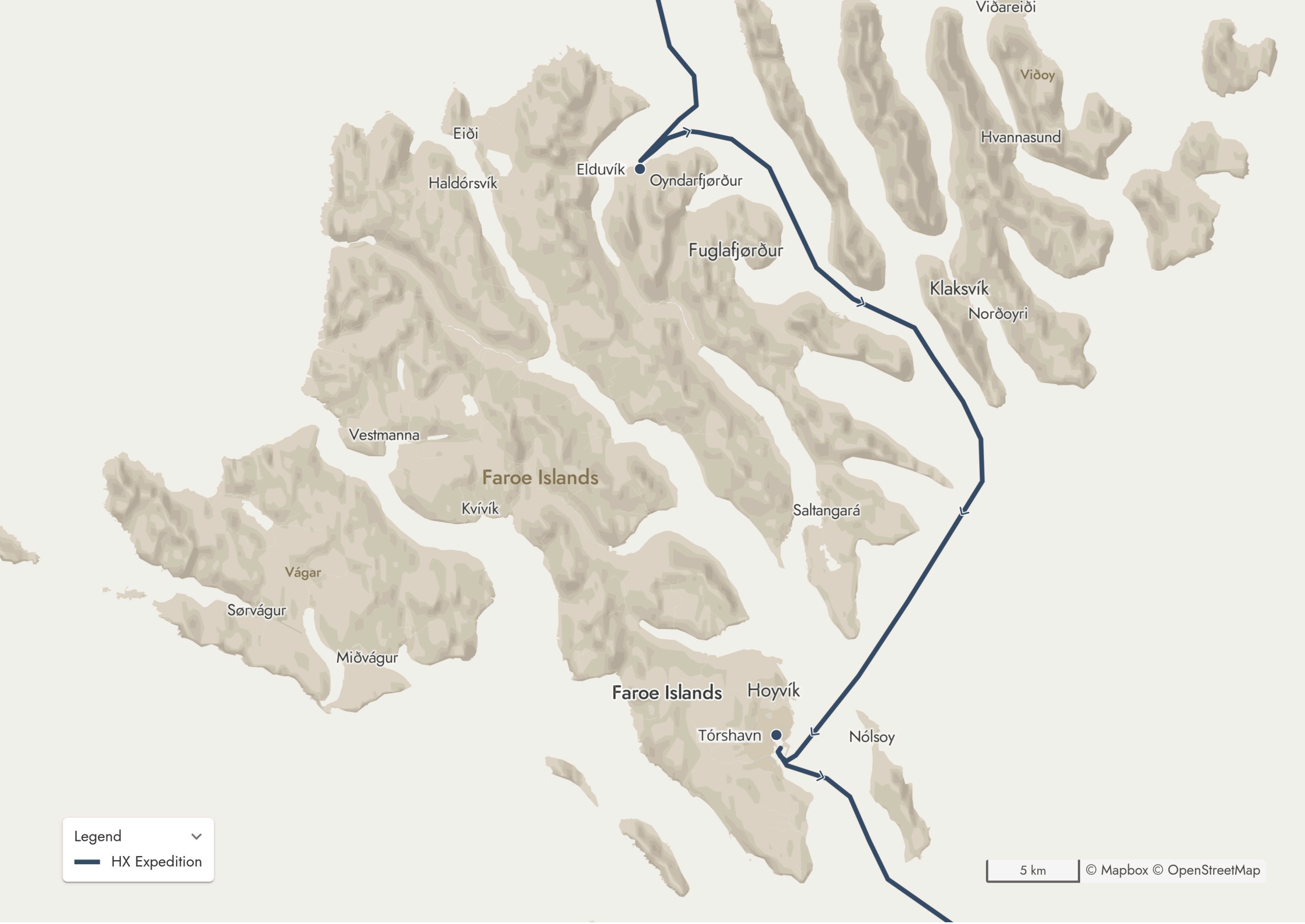
HX Expedition

Day 7 - At Sea

MS Spitsbergen spent the day sailing south through the North Atlantic on its way toward the Faroe Islands. With no landings scheduled, guests enjoyed a full onboard programme while the vessel continued across open waters. The morning began with a presentation on North Atlantic oceanography, exploring the currents and processes that shape this region of the Atlantic. Throughout the day, guests also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops and educational activities. A collaborative mapping workshop allowed participants to create a visual record of the voyage, while a Citizen

Science session introduced the iNaturalist platform and its role in documenting wildlife observations. Many guests spent time on deck during organised wildlife watches, scanning the sea and sky for seabirds and marine mammals. Later, a presentation on the whales of the North Atlantic provided additional insight into some of the species that inhabit these waters. The day concluded with a question-and-answer session with the ship's officers, followed by a presentation about the great auk, the extinct seabird that once inhabited the North Atlantic region.





Viðareiði

Viðoy

Hvannasund

Klaksvík

Norðoyri

Fuglafjørður

Elduvík
Oyndarfjørður

Eiði
Haldórsvík

Vestmanna

Faroe Islands

Kvívík

Saltangará

Vágar

Sørvágur

Miðvágur

Faroe Islands

Hoyvík

Tórshavn

Nólsoy

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 8 - Elduvik

MS Spitsbergen spent the morning at anchor off Elduvík, a small village on the northeastern coast of Eysturoy in the Faroe Islands. Expedition boats operated continuously between ship and shore, allowing guests to explore this quiet community nestled within a green valley. Guests joined guided walks through the village, learning about local life and history while passing colourful houses, the church, and the school that form the heart of the settlement. During the afternoon, guided hikes ventured into the hills surrounding the village, providing elevated views across the valley and coastline, while

others remained in Elduvík to explore at a slower pace. Towards the end of the visit, the locals bid farewell to the guests with a traditional Faroese chain dance before presenting a concert and hymn singing inside the church, offering a memorable moment of Faroese culture and traditions. As the day drew to a close, MS Spitsbergen weighed anchor and continued south through the islands. After sunset, the vessel arrived alongside in Tórshavn, ready for the next day of exploration.

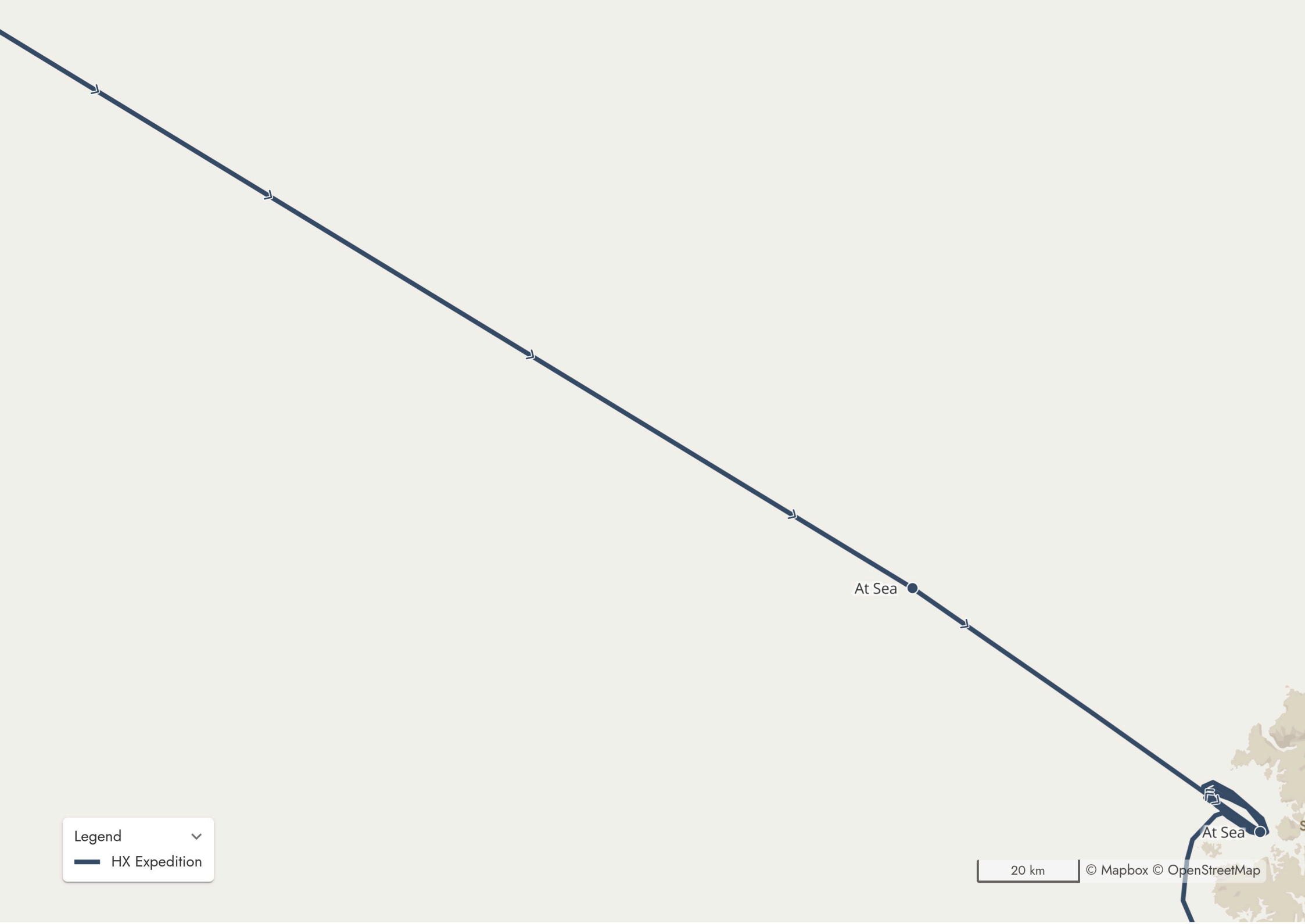


Day 9 - Tórshavn

MS Spitsbergen spent the morning in Tórshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands. Most guests joined a panoramic coach excursion that explored the town and its surrounding areas, providing an introduction to Faroese history, culture, and everyday life. The route passed through Tórshavn and its outskirts, offering views of the rugged landscapes and coastal scenery that characterise the islands. A smaller group opted for a more active experience, setting out on a hike towards Kirkjubøur, one of the Faroe Islands' most important historical sites. Along the way, hikers enjoyed views across the

coastline and surrounding countryside before reaching the village, known for its medieval heritage and cultural significance. Around midday, all guests returned to the ship and MS Spitsbergen departed Tórshavn. As the Faroe Islands gradually disappeared on the horizon, the vessel continued southward across the North Atlantic towards Lerwick in the Shetland Islands. During the afternoon, guests enjoyed the onboard programme and time on deck while the ship made its way towards the next destination of the voyage.





Legend



— HX Expedition

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 10 - At Sea

MS Spitsbergen spent the day at sea. Due to a strong weather front and associated winds, the vessel sought shelter in St Magnus Bay, where it remained throughout the day. Rather than continuing into exposed waters, the ship navigated within the bay while conditions improved outside. With no landings scheduled, a full onboard programme kept guests engaged. The morning began with a wildlife watch on the outer decks, followed by a presentation on photography skills. Creative activities included watercolour postcard painting, while the Science Centre hosted puzzles and informal science-themed

challenges. A lecture explored the connections between plankton, capelin, and the fishing communities of the North Atlantic, highlighting the ecological links supporting life above and below the water's surface. During the afternoon, guests learned about the planning and preparation involved in leading safe hikes during expeditions. A wildlife-themed scavenger hunt added an interactive element. Later, a music session introduced the traditional sounds of Shetland and Orkney, followed by a question-and-answer session with members of the Expedition Team.





Legend



— HX Expedition

2 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

At Sea, United Kingdom - Sep 30, 2026

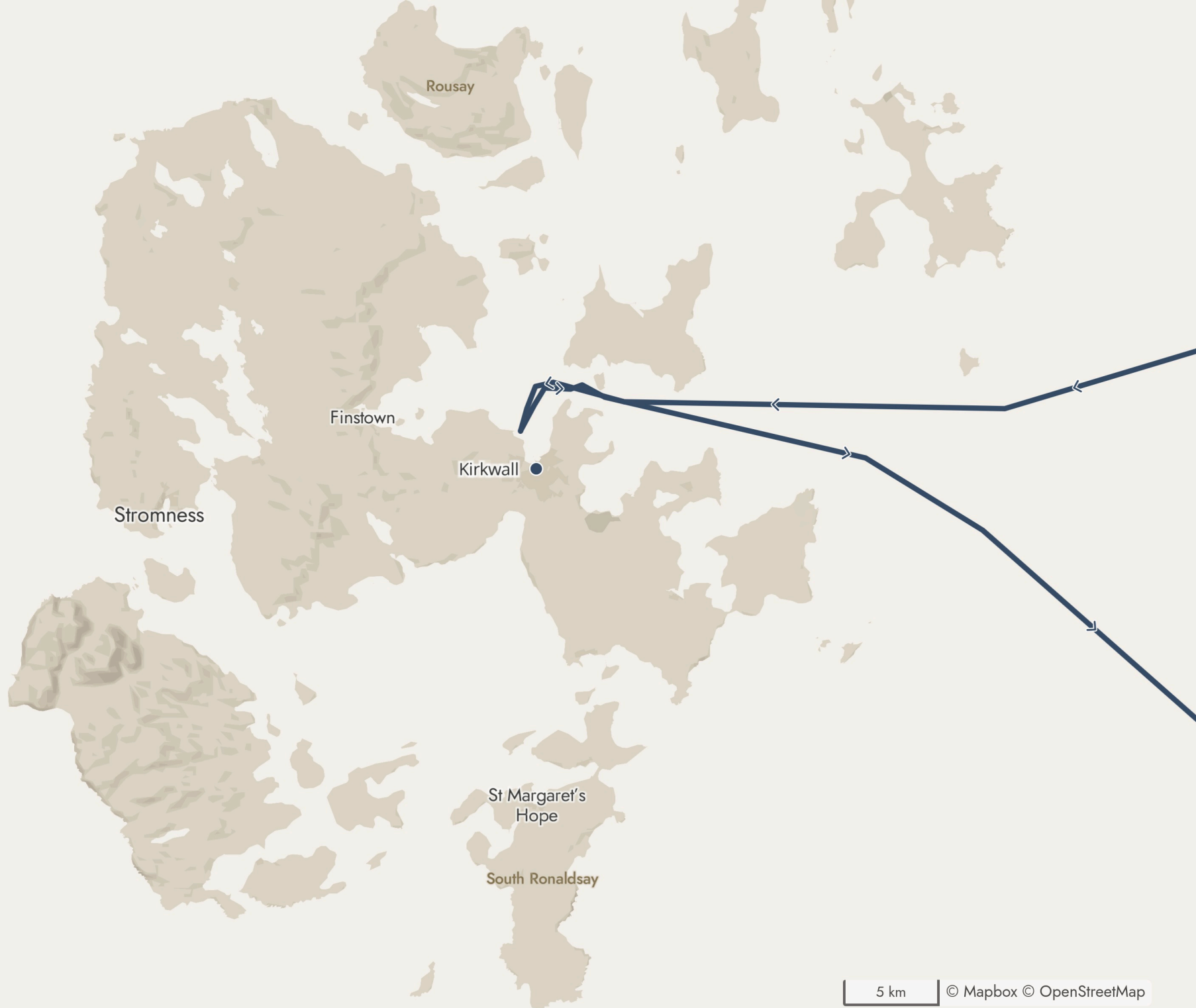
Lerwick, United Kingdom - Oct 1, 2026

Day 11 - Lerwick

MS Spitsbergen arrived in Lerwick, the principal town of the Shetland Islands, along the sheltered waters of Bressay Sound. Before guests could go ashore, face-to-face immigration formalities were conducted on board. Once the ship was cleared, the gangway was opened and guests were free to explore. Many joined excursions across Shetland, discovering the islands' landscapes, history, and cultural heritage.

Others explored Lerwick independently, where historic sandstone buildings reflect the town's maritime past. Before departure, guests gathered in the Explorer Lounge for a performance by the Shetland Fiddlers Society, their music an introduction to one of Shetland's most distinctive cultural traditions. MS Spitsbergen then departed Lerwick and continued southward toward its final destinations.





Legend

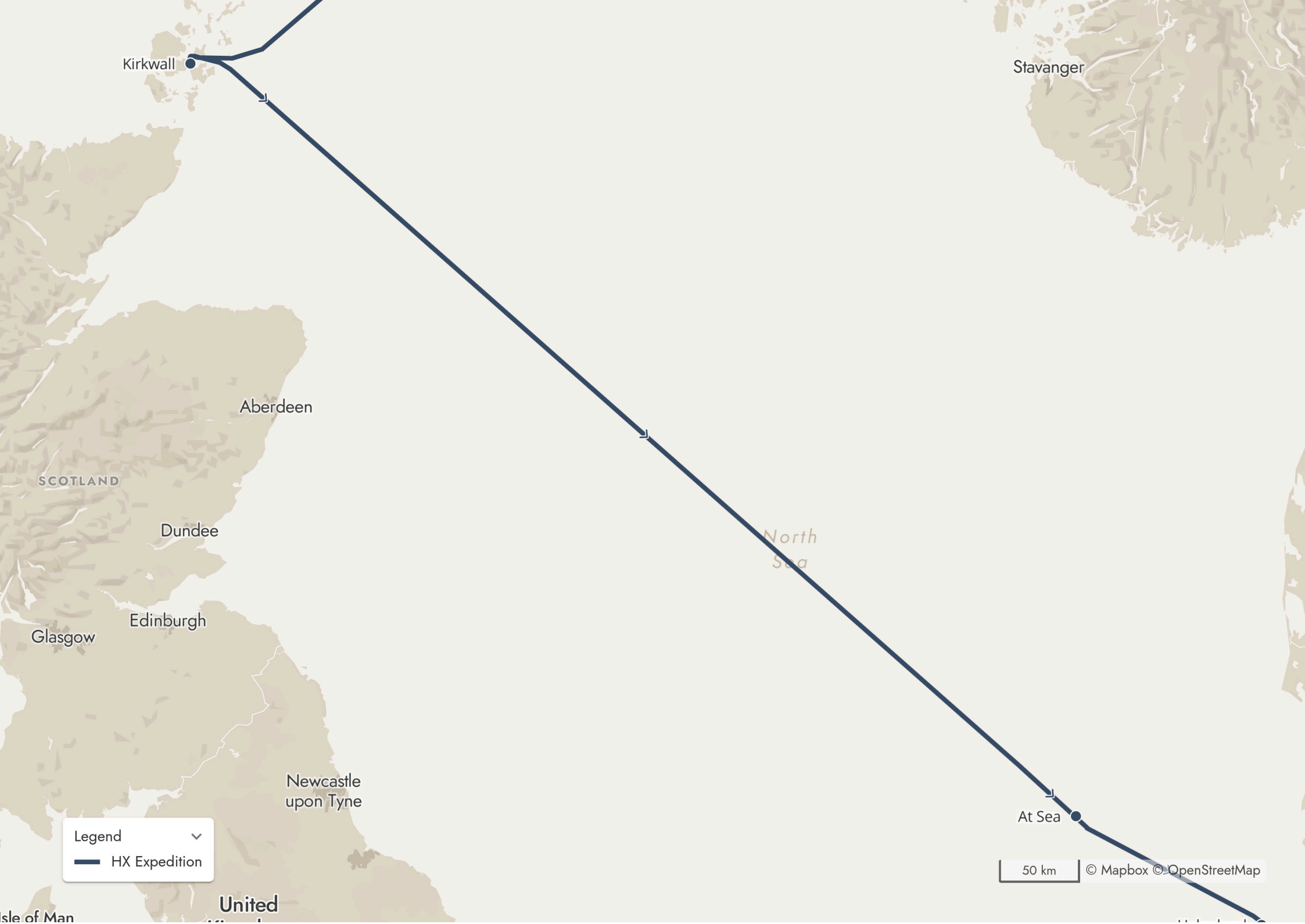
— HX Expedition

Day 12 - Kirkwall

MS Spitsbergen spent the day in Kirkwall, capital of Orkney, berthing at Hatston Pier during the morning. Shuttle buses transported guests to the town centre to explore one of Scotland's most historic island communities. Many joined guided town walks, discovering Kirkwall's Norse heritage through its streets and landmarks. St Magnus Cathedral dominated the skyline, while the nearby Earl's Palace and Bishop's Palace offered insight into the islands' past. Others visited local shops, museums, and cafes at their own pace. A popular option was Skara Brae, the well-preserved Neolithic village offering a

glimpse into life in Orkney over 5,000 years ago. A smaller group hiked with the Expedition Team, exploring the island's coastal landscapes and surrounding countryside. Back on board, a presentation on wildlife tracking showcased techniques scientists use to follow marine animals. Guests also participated in a flag-painting workshop for the Pan-Arctic Vision festival, producing colourful designs inspired by the regions visited. The day concluded with a charity auction supporting the HX Foundation, bringing guests together for an enjoyable final evening in Orkney.





Kirkwall

Stavanger

Aberdeen

SCOTLAND

Dundee

North
Sea

Edinburgh

Glasgow

Newcastle
upon Tyne

At Sea

Legend

HX Expedition

Day 13 - At Sea

MS Spitsbergen spent the day at sea, sailing south through the North Sea toward Helgoland. With no landings scheduled, guests enjoyed a full onboard programme while the vessel continued toward its next destination. Throughout the day, lectures, workshops, and activities offered opportunities to learn about life at sea and the natural phenomena encountered. One presentation focused on navigation, exploring both traditional methods of finding one's way at sea and modern technology used aboard ships today. In the Science Centre, guests examined bone replicas illustrating the evolutionary journey of

marine mammals from terrestrial ancestors to today's species. Creative activities continued with a clay modelling workshop, while later presentations explored the science behind the Northern Lights that accompanied the voyage. Guests also spent time on deck during a wildlife watch, scanning for marine life. During the afternoon, the programme included sea shanties, an animal sounds workshop, and hot dogs on the outer deck. The day concluded with a voyage quiz, testing guests' knowledge of the destinations, wildlife, history, and science encountered throughout the expedition.



Helgoländer Felssockel

Lange Anna

Helgoland

HGL

Legend

— HX Expedition

500 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 14 - Helgoland

After a morning sailing through the North Sea, MS Spitsbergen arrived in Helgoland during the afternoon. Germany's only offshore island is renowned for its striking red sandstone cliffs and maritime character, offering a different landscape from those visited earlier. Guests came ashore to explore the island at their own pace under pleasant weather and warm temperatures. Many wandered through its streets and along coastal paths, enjoying excellent views of the surrounding sea. Others made their way to the beaches where seals regularly haul out, observing them resting undisturbed in their natural

habitat. The favourable conditions encouraged guests to spend time outdoors, enjoying the scenery and relaxed atmosphere of the island. Back on board, guests gathered for the Captain's Farewell before dinner, celebrating another successful voyage. Later, the photographer's recap video brought together highlights from the expedition, revisiting many of the places, activities, and wildlife encounters along the way. The day concluded with a performance by the Crew Band, providing a lively final evening on board as the ship continued toward its final destination.





Brunsbüttel

Krempe

Kaltenkirchen

Kisdorf

Barmstedt

Alveslohe

Glückstadt

Elmshorn

Wischhafen

Norderstedt

Hemmoor

Uetersen

Pinneberg

Lamstedt

HAM

Stade

Schenefeld

Wedel

Fredenbeck

Hamburg

Bremervörde

Kutenholz

Buxtehude

Harsefeld

Legend

— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Day 15 - Disembarkation in Hamburg

During the early morning, MS Spitsbergen arrived in Hamburg, bringing this voyage to its conclusion. Over the previous days, the vessel had connected a remarkable series of destinations, from Iceland's volcanic landscapes and remote fjords to the Faroe Islands, Shetland, Orkney, and the island of Helgoland. Following a final breakfast on board, guests gradually departed the ship and continued on to their onward destinations. Throughout the morning, farewells were exchanged, bringing to a close a journey that had combined

dramatic natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and a wide range of onboard activities. The voyage had offered opportunities to explore small island communities, historic towns, and remote coastal environments while learning about the wildlife, geology, history, and maritime traditions that shape the North Atlantic region. Along the way, guests experienced everything from volcanic landscapes and seabird colonies to local music performances, village visits, and scenic hikes.



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