



MS Roald Amundsen

2024.11.07 - 2024.11.21



And here we go...

The first day of our adventure started by boarding the MS Roald Amundsen in the city of Ushuaia, whose mountains alone set a high standard for polar exploration. The ship is absolutely beautiful and modern; the big screen by the entrance, the warm welcome of its crew

members, our cabins, and the unparalleled science center... HX definitely knows how to make a great impression. We finished the day with a safety drill, dinner, and a departure into the Beagle Channel.



Drake Passage

The infamous Drake... everyone had heard so much about this passage, particularly about the 10-meter waves that sailors faced around here. Luckily for us, Poseidon was very gentle with us and it was not nearly as bad as we had expected. The expedition team gave us their first presentations, such as *Life on Board*, *Introduction to the*

Science Center and the *Educational Program*, among others. Some of us tried the Spa for the first time, and even tried the sauna and the outer jacuzzis. We realized this would be an incredible journey onboard.



Entering the Polar Realm

On this day, the temperature dropped dramatically and before we realized it, we were navigating through an ocean of 'pancake ice', which extended into the distant fog that covered the horizon. It was such a unique experience. The comfort onboard became secondary;

everyone was in awe of the spectacle outside: feeling the cold on our faces, feeling these bits of ice touching the ship as it made its way... It was like we were entering another dimension, another world; we realized we were crossing the frontier into the polar realm.





Peterman Island

Legend
HX Expedition

3 km

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What a start!

This was our first day experiencing the Great White Antarctic. The location was Petermann Island, which on its own was amazing with all the Adelie penguins, but the view in front of the island was incredible! The mountainous landscape buried in ice were half covered by clouds, which left a lot to the imagination. Additionally, the expedition

team gave us every single activity we could have had: landing, cruising, snow-shoeing, kayaking and camping! It was overwhelmingly enriching. We did not expect so much for the first day and it was absolutely fantastic.



The Hut at the End of the Road

Damoy Point was super special. Some guests went cruising, some went snow-shoeing, and others went landing. The geography was breathtaking! Those Seven Sisters definitely stood out, especially since the weather allowed us to see them during the entire landing. We also had the chance to see several Gentoo penguins. In addition, we had a

good walk to the British hut in the end, which is now a historical site, and served as a refuge hut for scientists who had to fly to another island when the weather was too harsh. Inside the hut, it was like travelling in a time machine to a couple of decades ago... it was a remarkably genuine experience.





Anvers Island

Palaver Point

Damoy Point

Yecho Base

Legend

— HX Expedition

10 km

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Genuine Exploration Day

Today we were supposed to go to Orne Harbour, our continental landing... but Poseidon was not merciful with the weather or the ice conditions. However, our plan B definitely delivered! The landing was entirely new to everybody including the expedition team, which made it even more exciting! The entrance had massive icebergs that we had

to sail around to get to the landing site. We landed at the feet of a gigantic mountain whose peak was hidden under the icy fog and clouds. Additionally, there was a lovely colony of chinstrap penguins waiting for us, which was the icing on the cake for a magnificent day.





Legend

— HX Expedition

Volcanos and Whalers

This was by far the most unique landing so far. For starters, Neptune's Bellows was such a fascinating navigation with the dramatic cliff coming very close to our vessel, only to enter the caldera and land on Whalers Bay. The place looked like a deserted, apocalyptic world, in a

truly captivating way. There we had a walk to the ruins of an old whaling station and the scientific stations that were manned until the volcano erupted some decades ago. And the walk to Neptune's Window... oh boy. That place was windy!



We did what???

Well... just when we thought we would finally have our continental landing, Poseidon once again decided otherwise. The weather and the ice forced our expedition team to look for alternatives, and what we got was far beyond anyone's expectations. In this foggy day, there were some small ice flows floating around. And by the time we were

told to get to the boats for a cruising, members of the expedition team were waiting for us on two small ice flows to land on. Who in the world gets to do something like that? Then, the fog vanished and we were able to see the gigantic tabular icebergs that were floating around the ship. What a mind-bending experience!



Day 1 for Contemplation

And so our Antarctic experience comes to an end. It was several days of adventure in the polar region, and now it is time to cool down our minds and our passions, and let it all soak in. So many jaw-dropping moments, so many magical memories that will stay in our minds and

hearts forever. The expedition team finished giving us Antarctic lectures in order to start laying the ground for the last leg of our voyage: The Falkland Islands.



Day 2 of Contemplation

The expedition team kept us busy with more art corners, more lectures about birds, flora and fauna in the Falklands, and also about the Falklands War. We were ready to fully embrace whatever these islands had for us. Luckily the weather treated us gently, as the Drake was very

tender to us. One could feel the excitement in the air, and the birds on deck were flying around us, almost as if they were escorting us to their home.



It feels so British!

We arrived at Stanley early in the morning. Most, if not all of us, took excursions. Some went for the community walk, others went for the nature trek, others to do a city tour; everyone was delighted. We also had the chance to go shopping, eat some local food, buy some

locally-made gin, among others. And regardless of what anyone may have done, it is impossible to deny the Britishness of this place. The flag, the buildings, the accents, the landscape... even the weather!





OVERWHELMING...

Right when we thought we had seen enough fauna... Saunders Island knocks it out of the park. First of all, we landed at an incredible white-sand beach with turquoise waters, and we were received not only by a fashionable escort of dolphins, but also by the kingly presence of the most beautiful King penguins! Furthermore, at the same beach there

were Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins, gulls, some sheep in the distance, and an astounding colony of Rockhopper penguins and Black-browed albatrosses... where in the world do you see such a combo? Truly overwhelming.



Two Islands in One Day

Today we had the fortune to visit two islands on the East Falklands. Carcass Island with its endemic Cobb's Wren and West Point with the stunning Devil's Nose. We had a spectacular hike this day and

finished it with tea and cookies in probably the most beautiful garden of all the Falklands.



Time to pack...

It is impossible to find the words to describe the plethora of emotions that arose on this day after such an unbelievable voyage. The pancake ice, the gigantic icebergs and glaciers, the adorable penguins, the stoic mindset of the early explorers of the Antarctic, the Falkland Islands in all their splendour... all of that is in our memories and our

hearts, just like the warmth of all the crew members on board, who made this one of the greatest and most unique experiences of our lives. Now it is time to pack our things and prepare to go home and tell all our friends and family about the Roald Amundsen, the voyage, and the crew that made this dream come true.





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