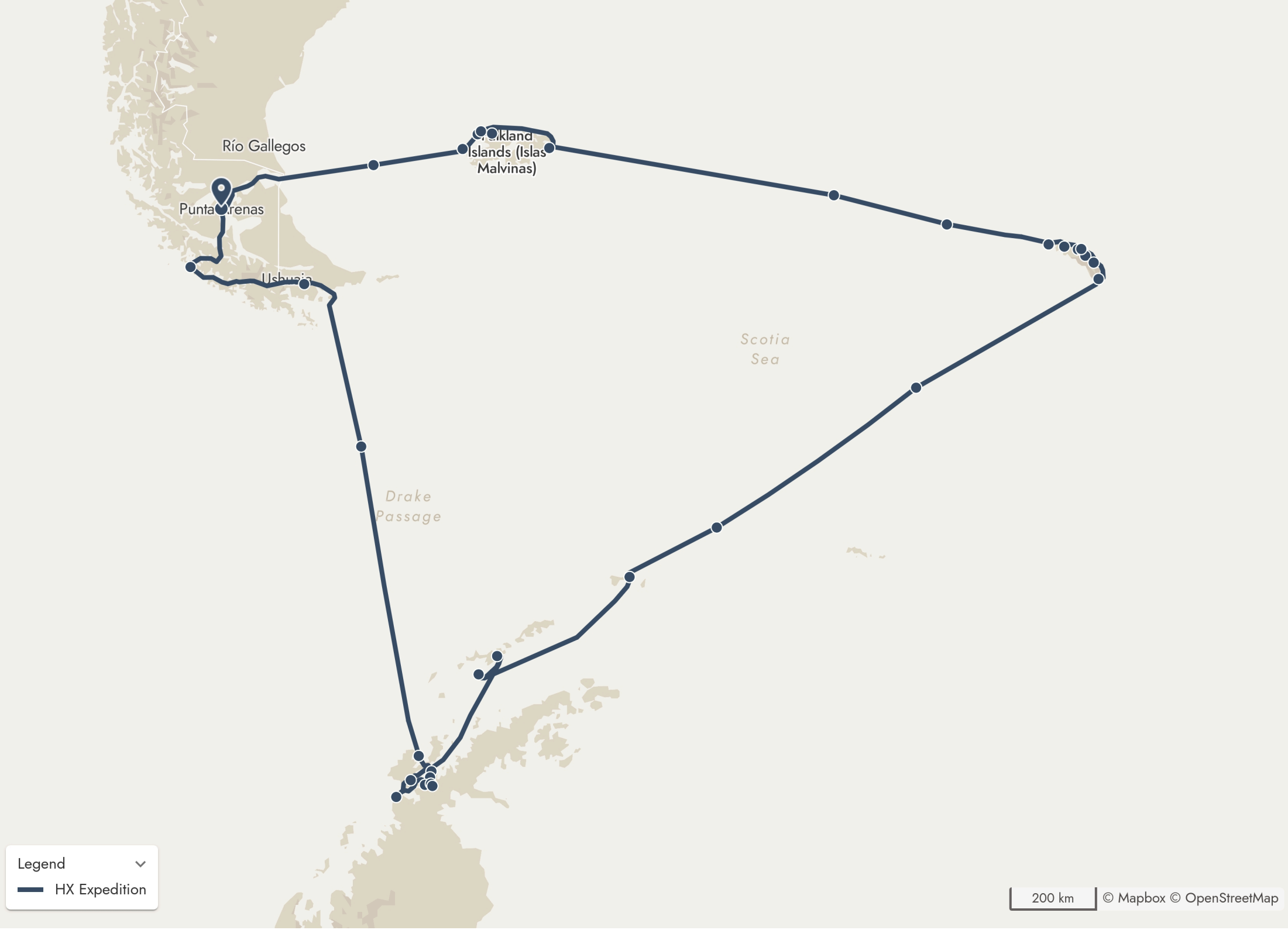




MS Fram

2024.12.01 - 2024.12.22





Punta Arenas

We all arrived in Punta Arenas, the gateway to Antarctica! We embarked on the ship MS Fram, which would be our home for the next three weeks. All of us are looking forward to visiting the Falkland

Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica. We settled on the ship, enjoyed a lovely first dinner onboard, and after the safety drill we set sail towards our first destination, the Falkland Islands.

At Sea - Toward Falkland Islands

Our first day onboard started with Wildlife Watch out on deck while we were sailing towards our first destination, the Falkland Islands. We joined a few mandatory briefings to be prepared for our destinations. During the afternoon, we met our scientists in the Science Center and attended a lecture about the history of the Falkland Islands. Later in the

day, we met the captain and the bridge officers during the Captain's Welcome. Afterwards, the entire Expedition Team introduced themselves. Before we went to bed, we learned about our plans for the upcoming day.

New Island & West Point Island

In the early morning, we arrived at the Falkland Islands and started the day after breakfast with a landing at New Island. We landed on a beach next to a picturesque wooden shipwreck called the Protector. After a short walk, we arrived at a cliff with a breathtaking view over a colony of Rockhopper penguins and Black-Browed Albatrosses. We stood within the tussock grass and enjoyed the scenery. After a short

break onboard, we landed in the afternoon at West Point, where we started a longer hike towards another colony of Black-Browed Albatrosses. We walked within a tussock grass labyrinth on the path, and the albatrosses flew close over our heads. An experience certainly nobody will ever forget. Some of us even joined a Land Rover ride towards the colony, and that was an adventure on its own.





Saunders & Carcass Island

In the morning, we landed at a place called Saunders Island, which is just a paradise on its own! We walked over a beach, passing Magellanic Penguins standing on grassy slopes with Falkland sheep and cows in the background. We followed a path towards a steep cliff and observed a colony of Back-Browed Albatrosses. In the afternoon,

we landed at Carcass Island, where many of us spotted the rare bird called Cobb's Wren. Some of us went on a longer hike towards a beach, and others didn't make it all the way because they got stuck at the so-called Cookie House, where locals provided lots of cake, cookies, and coffee.





Stanley

MS Fram went alongside the pier in Stanley, and we all had the opportunity to explore the only town on the Falkland Islands on our own. Some of us went on an excursion, such as the "Highlights of Stanley" and visiting Mensun Bound, who was involved in finding Shackleton's ship, the Endurance. We all went for a stroll in this

picturesque place, and we were very lucky to again have a sunny day. After we left Stanley and it's gorgeous smell of the yellow gorse flower, we joined the Wildlife Watch with Jenna while sailing away. We learned about the Falkland Islands plants, and the day ended with a storytelling about Mrs Chippy, the cat of the Endurance.



At Sea

We woke up on a calm ocean on our way to our next destination, South Georgia! We got prepared for this new place via IAATO briefings, held by our Expedition Leader. In the afternoon, many of us joined the art corner, and we learned about the NASA GLOBE Cloud

Observer. We also used the calm day to meet the photographer to get individual advice on photography. It was a day of relaxation and processing the impressions of the last previous days.



Shag Rocks

On our second sea day on the way to South Georgia, we got offered lots of onboard programs, such as Wildlife Watch and an introduction to the South Georgia Big Seaweed Search and Seaweed Citizen Science Project. We also heard the story of Shackleton's incredible voyage on the Endurance. We all also prepared and cleaned our

outdoor gear for the next destination, so that we wouldn't introduce any kind of grass or seeds to South Georgia. We all enjoyed time on deck, watching different kind of birds flying around the ship. During the afternoon, we passed the famous Shag Rocks and observed lots of whales around the ship.





Elsehul

Salisbury Plain

Prince Olav
Harbour

Fortuna Bay

Hercules Bay

Husvik

Stromness Bay

Grytviken

South Georgia

St. Andrews Bay

Drygalski Fjord

South Georgia
and South
Sandwich
Islands

Legend



— HX Expedition

20 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Elsehul & Salisbury Plain

South Georgia welcomed us with sunny and calm weather, and our first activity was a small boat cruising at a place called Elsehul - a wonderful wind-protected bay with lots of wildlife! We spotted Macaroni penguins, fur seals, elephant seals, and lots of birds. Up in the cliffs, we could see different types of breeding albatrosses. After

lunch, we learned about the whales along our voyage and in the afternoon we did a zodiac cruising at Salisbury Plain. We drove along the beach, which was packed with thousands of king penguins and lots of fur seals in between. We all enjoyed watching the king penguins swimming around our boats. What a lovely day!





Fortuna Bay & Strømness

The day started with a morning landing at Fortuna Bay, which was our very first landing in South Georgia. A place with an incredible amount of wildlife! King penguins, fur seals, and elephant seals - just everywhere! Some of us went on the legendary Shackleton Hike from Fortuna Bay to Strømness. While the hikers were on their way by foot,

the others went to Strømness with MS Fram. In the afternoon, we landed at the abandoned Strømness whaling station, the place where Shackleton arrived after crossing South Georgia. After leaving Strømness, we passed by another abandoned whaling station called Leith Harbour. What a special day full of history and storytelling.





Grytviken

We spent the morning in Grytviken, where we visited the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton and explored the remains of the first whaling station of South Georgia which was active from 1904 to the 1960s. Some of us went on a hike, and others joined the guided walk in Grytviken. During the afternoon, we did a small boat cruising in Hercules Bay in

pure sunshine and very calm conditions. It was breathtakingly beautiful to see all the wildlife in this little bay. Fur seals, elephant seals, Gentoo penguins and the star of the morning - the Macaroni Penguin, which was very easy to see close to the waterline.





St. Andrews Bay & Drygalski Fjord

On our last day in South Georgia, we landed in the morning at a place called St Andrews. This place had it all - thousands of King Penguins close to a sandy beach, lots of big male elephant seals, and a landscape like out of a photographer's magazine. We couldn't be closer to paradise and we all enjoyed every moment before we started sailing towards the white continent. Before we heading towards

Antarctica, we sailed into Drygalski Fjord in South Georgia, which left us speechless once again! Plenty of gigantic icebergs, a lovely rainbow, glaciers on both sides of the ship, and lots of wildlife around us, such as humpback whales, albatrosses, and even snow petrels. Some of us stayed outside for a long time. We are excited to arrive at the WHITE CONTINENT!





At Sea & A23a

Today was our first sea day towards the white continent. We enjoyed the Wildlife Watch with the expedition team, and we learned from Jenna about the seals of the South. Some also joined the art corner and the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer. We also attended mandatory

briefings to get ready for Antarctica. During the afternoon, we passed the world's biggest iceberg, which is called A23a, with MS Fram. It has an area of 3,700 square km and broke off in the 1980s. What a special sighting on our way South.





Half Moon Island

Telefon Bay

James Ross Island

Dallman Bay

Anvers Island

Orne Harbour

Danco Island

Neumeyer Channel

Leith Cove

Neko Harbour

Andvord Bay

Fire Channel

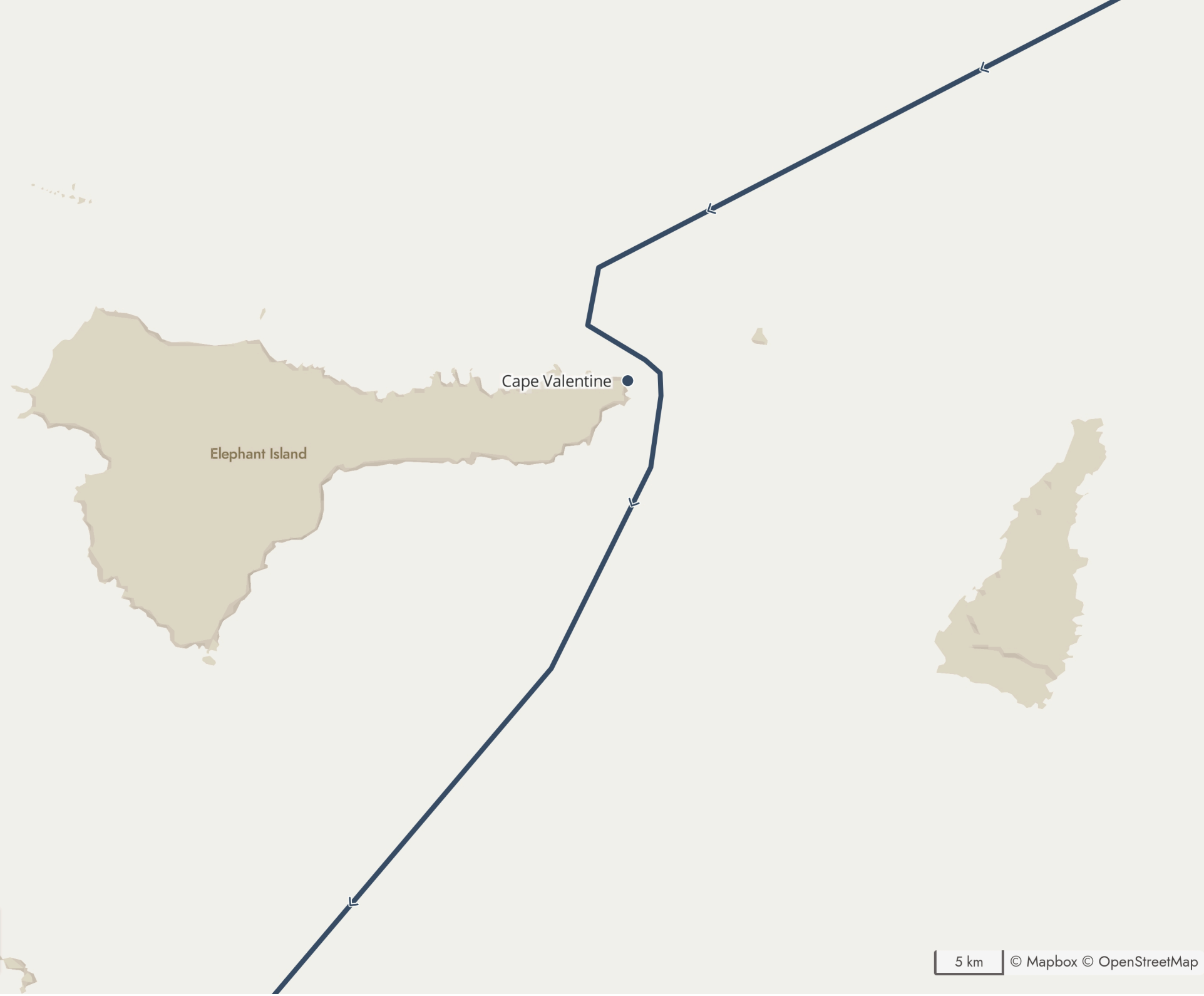
Legend
HX Expedition

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Legend

— HX Expedition



At Sea - Toward Antarctica

We all slept in a bit due to a time change in our favour. A day full of onboard programs was ahead of us. We learned about smartphone photography, geology, Penguin Watch Citizen Science Research and

Impact, and the Antarctic Pioneers - the voyage of the Belgica. Some of us also joined the art corner, the knit and natter, and visited the officers on the bridge. A calm sea day.

Cape Valentine

In the morning, we did a ship cruise at Elephant Island, where Shackleton's boat journey started towards South Georgia. What a morning to wake up in Shackleton's footprints. Just after we left Elephant Island, the ship was surrounded by many humpback whales and lots and lots of penguins in the water. We stayed for a while, and

almost everybody was outside! We listened to lectures about the Mawson Expedition and about the Race to the South Pole between Roald Amundsen and Robert F. Scott. We also attended the Wildlife Watch, the knitting corner, and heard from Laura about "Where Fire Meets Ice".



Telefon Bay & Half Moon Island

During the morning, we landed at Deception Island, and our landing site was called Telefon Bay. For many of us, it was a very special landing inside a caldera of a volcano and the landscape looked like we had landed on a different planet. Some of us joined the kayaking,

attended the polar plunge, or joined the Science boat. During the afternoon, we landed at Half Moon Island, where we spotted breeding Chinstrap penguins. We left the South Shetland Islands and continued sailing towards the peninsula.







Orne Harbour & Andvord Bay

As soon as we arrived at the peninsula, we were greeted with sunshine and blue sky. Many of us spent the whole day outside at the landing sites and on deck. Our first landing was at Orne Harbour, and we climbed up the hill and had a breathtaking view over the area. We even spotted humpback whales in the same bay and in front of our

tender pit. The afternoon was as sunny as the morning when we visited Danco Island. We also went kayaking and joined the science boats. During the evening, the campers went out to Leith Cove to spend the night in Antarctica.

Orne Harbour, Danco Island & Leith Cove

Today we started another sunny day, and we landed at Neko Harbour. We walked up the hill and spotted breeding Gentoo Penguin colonies. Again, we could also join the kayaking, science boat and photo adventure groups. For lunch, we got treated with a BBQ on Deck 7. During the afternoon, we did a small boat cruising in Andvord

Bay, where we spotted lots of icebergs and seals lying on them. We spotted Crabeater & Weddell seals, but also lots of Wilson Storm Petrels and Antarctic Terns. We also learned from Taz about "The Challenges of Being a 21st Century Whale".







Dallman Bay

Anvers Island

Orne Harbour

Danco Island

Neumeyer Channel

Yecho Base

Leith Cove

Neko Harbour

Andvord Bay

Lemaire Channel

Legend



— HX Expedition

10 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap





Andvord Bay - Dec 17, 2024

5 km

Lemaire Channel - Dec 18, 2024

86.8 km

Lemaire Channel & Drake Passage

During the early morning, MS Fram attempted to sail through the Lemaire Channel but due to too much ice this wasn't possible. Instead we sailed through the Neumeyer Channel, and many of us stayed out on deck to enjoy the scenic sailing. We learned from Laura about the

Tectonic History of Antarctica and joined an art corner. During the afternoon, we started heading North and entered the Drake Passage towards Puerto Williams.

Neumeyer Channel - Dec 18, 2024

48.1 km

Dallman Bay - Dec 18, 2024

147.8 km

Drake Passage - Dec 19, 2024

594.2 km

Drake Passage

We woke up today to quite a rough Drake Passage and some of us were fighting with sea sickness. This can sometimes be part of an expedition in Antarctica. In the morning, we heard from Tom (Penguin

Watch) about "The Origin of Faeces" and some of us also joined the art corner with Lise. During the afternoon, we joined a Tiny Talk Roulette by different expedition team members.



Puerto Williams

In the morning, we entered the Chilean/Argentinian fjords and enjoyed the motion of the sea calming down. We learned from Sandra about the "Frozen Voices - Women of Antarctica", joined the Wildlife Watch and had a closer look at Ice in the Science Center. During the afternoon, we arrived at Puerto Williams and we went ashore for the

last time with the small boats. We all had a stroll in Puerto Williams and later the artist Jiazi came onboard and gave us a lecture about life at the end of the world. The day ended with a lovely band night by the crew of MS Fram.

Chilean Fjords

This morning started with a very scenic ship cruise through the Chilean fjords and a passing of the so-called Glacier Alley. Six glaciers, which are named after different countries. Manuel gave us a lecture about "The Beagle Channel Crisis", while some of us finished our artwork in the art corner. We also joined the Voyage Recap, where

the entire expedition team showed us their favourite moments of the voyage. In the afternoon, we joined the Captain's Farewell and watched the slideshow made by Yuri, our photographer. Sadly, this voyage came to an end as we continued sailing towards Punta Arenas, where we will disembark.





Punta Arenas, Chile - Dec 22, 2024

226.6 km



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