



MS Fram

2024.12.22 - 2025.01.12



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. We were all 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 toward our first destination, the Falkland Islands.

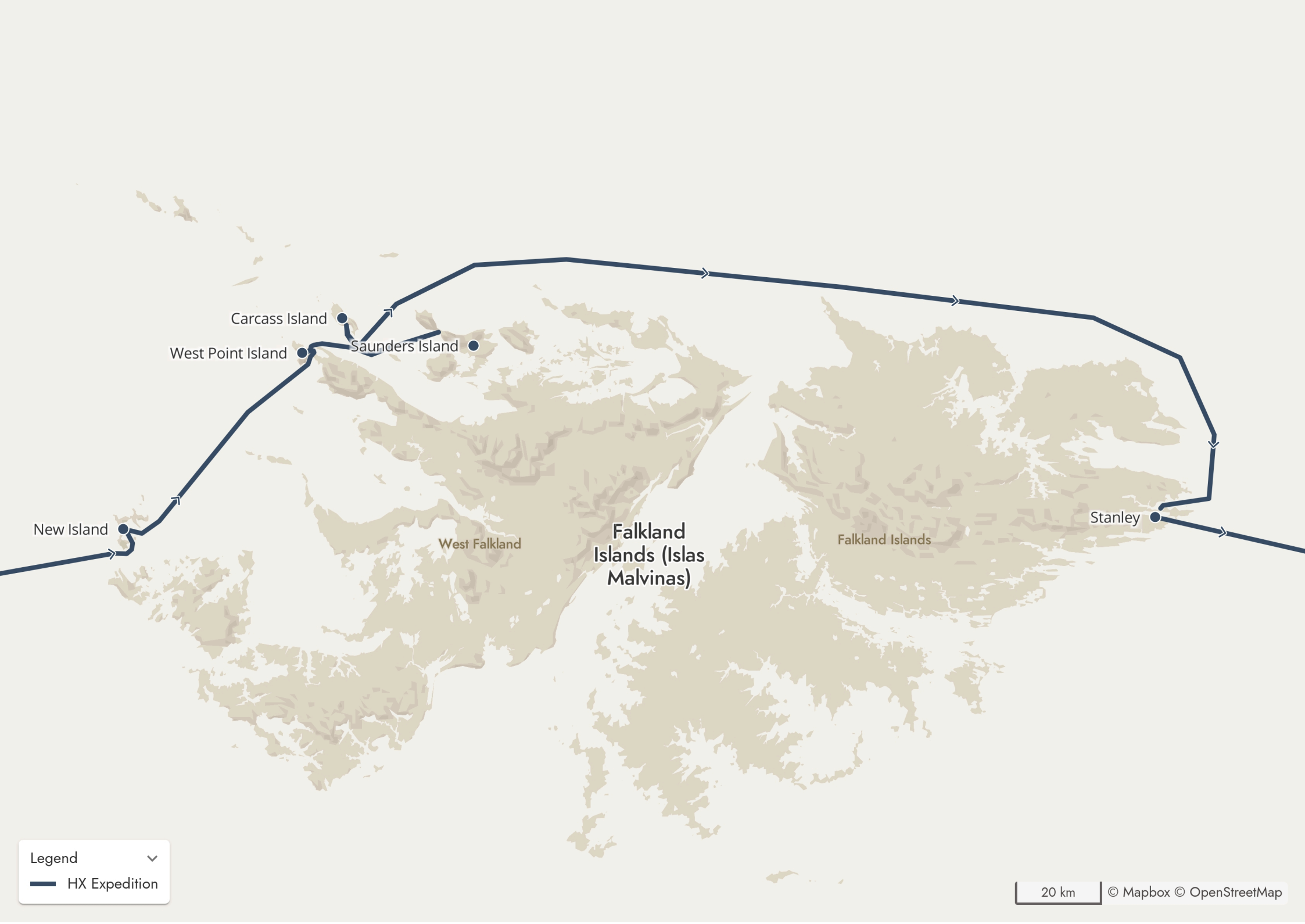


At Sea

Our first day onboard started with Wildlife Watch on deck while we were sailing toward our first destination, the Falkland Islands. We joined a few mandatory briefings to prepare for our destinations. In the afternoon, we met our scientists in the Science Centre 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.





Carcass Island
West Point Island
Saunders Island

New Island

West Falkland

Falkland
Islands (Islas
Malvinas)

Falkland Islands

Stanley

Legend

HX Expedition

New Island & West Point

On the morning of Christmas Day, 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, Black-browed Albatrosses, and their chicks. 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 toward another colony of Black-browed Albatrosses. We walked through a tussock grass labyrinth on the path, and the albatrosses flew close over our heads. An experience that certainly nobody will ever forget. Some of us even joined a Land Rover ride toward the colony, which was an adventure on its own.





Saunders & Carcass Island

In the morning, we landed at a place called Saunders Island, which is like a paradise on its own! We saw Rockhopper penguins and Black-browed Albatrosses with their chicks on a cliff, and we walked on a white sandy beach with dolphins riding the waves. The scenery was so beautiful, it looked too perfect to be true—like it was put together in Photoshop.

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, while 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. Christmas in Paradise!





Stanley & At Sea

Today, the weather changed our plans, and due to a storm, the authorities in Port Stanley did not allow us to come alongside. This is expedition life, and it can happen sometimes. The Expedition Team quickly prepared an alternative onboard program for us, including

Wildlife Watch, the Knitting Corner, History & Art Walks, and a session on the history of Falkland plants - just a few of the options. We left the Stanley area and started heading for South Georgia, our next destination on this voyage.



At Sea - Toward South Georgia

We woke up at sea on our way to our next destination, South Georgia! We prepared for this new place through 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 and get individual advice on photography. It was a day of relaxation and processing the impressions of the previous days on the Falkland Islands.



Shag Rocks

On our second sea day on the way to South Georgia, we were offered lots of onboard programmes, such as Wildlife Watch, a Science Centre session about penguins, and a workshop on how to use iNaturalist. We also heard the story of Shackleton's Incredible Voyage on the Endurance. We all prepared and cleaned our outdoor gear for

the next destination to ensure we wouldn't introduce any kind of grass or seeds to South Georgia. We enjoyed our time out on deck, watching different kinds of birds flying around the ship. In the afternoon, we passed the famous Shag Rocks and observed lots of whales around the ship.







Cape Rosa & Peggotty Bluff

South Georgia greeted us with strong winds, and we arrived in the morning at King Haakon Bay. We did a ship's cruise at Cape Rosa, which was a highlight of the trip, especially for the Shackleton fans among us. To see the place where he had arrived in South Georgia was very special.

In the afternoon, we landed at Peggotty Bluff, another step in Shackleton's footsteps. From here, he started the hike to the whaling station in Stromness. We saw King penguins, fur seals, and lots of elephant seals, which crossed our path regularly—almost like an elephant seal highway. We also learned about the "Seals of the South" and attended the Wildlife Watch out on deck.



Fortuna Bay & Hercules Bay

The day started with a morning landing at Fortuna Bay, a place with an incredible amount of wildlife! King penguins, fur seals, and elephant seals were everywhere! Fortuna Bay greeted us with sunshine, which was just perfect timing. We learned about the history of Grytviken and the whaling industry in the Southern Ocean.

In the afternoon, we went on a small boat cruise in Hercules Bay with plenty of sunshine! What a day! We saw lots of Macaroni penguins close to the boat, as well as elephant seals, fur seals, King penguins, and Gentoo penguins. We cruised along a beach with a big waterfall. Another day in paradise!





Stromness, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Dec 30, 2024

11.9 km

Leith Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Dec 30, 2024

3.3 km



Grytviken & Sandebugten

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

In the afternoon, we tried to land at Sandebugten, but there were too many dead animals, so the landing had to be cancelled due to bird flu. In addition, there was a lot of swell. We celebrated together in the evening, ringing in the NEW YEAR 2025, and listened to the music of the Crew Band, called the Seasickness Band.



Sandebugten, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Dec 31, 2024

9.8 km

Nordenskjold Glacier - Dec 31, 2024

6.7 km



St. Andrews Bay & Drygalski Fjord

On our last day in South Georgia, we landed in the morning, and with sunshine again, 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 straight out of a photographer's magazine. We couldn't have been closer to paradise, and we all enjoyed every moment before we started sailing toward the White Continent.

Before heading to Antarctica, we sailed into Drygalski Fjord in South Georgia, which left us speechless once again! Plenty of gigantic icebergs, 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!





A23a

While we were on our way south to Antarctica, we were offered lots of onboard programmes, such as Wildlife Watch, the Art & Knitting Corner, and a lecture about "Icebergs – When Ice Sets Sail." We enjoyed this calm day and used the time to process all the wonderful

impressions of the last few days. Many of us spent quite some time on deck observing the birds flying around the ship. This was also the day we got ready for Antarctica, and we all attended the biosecurity sessions for our clothing and the rubber boats.

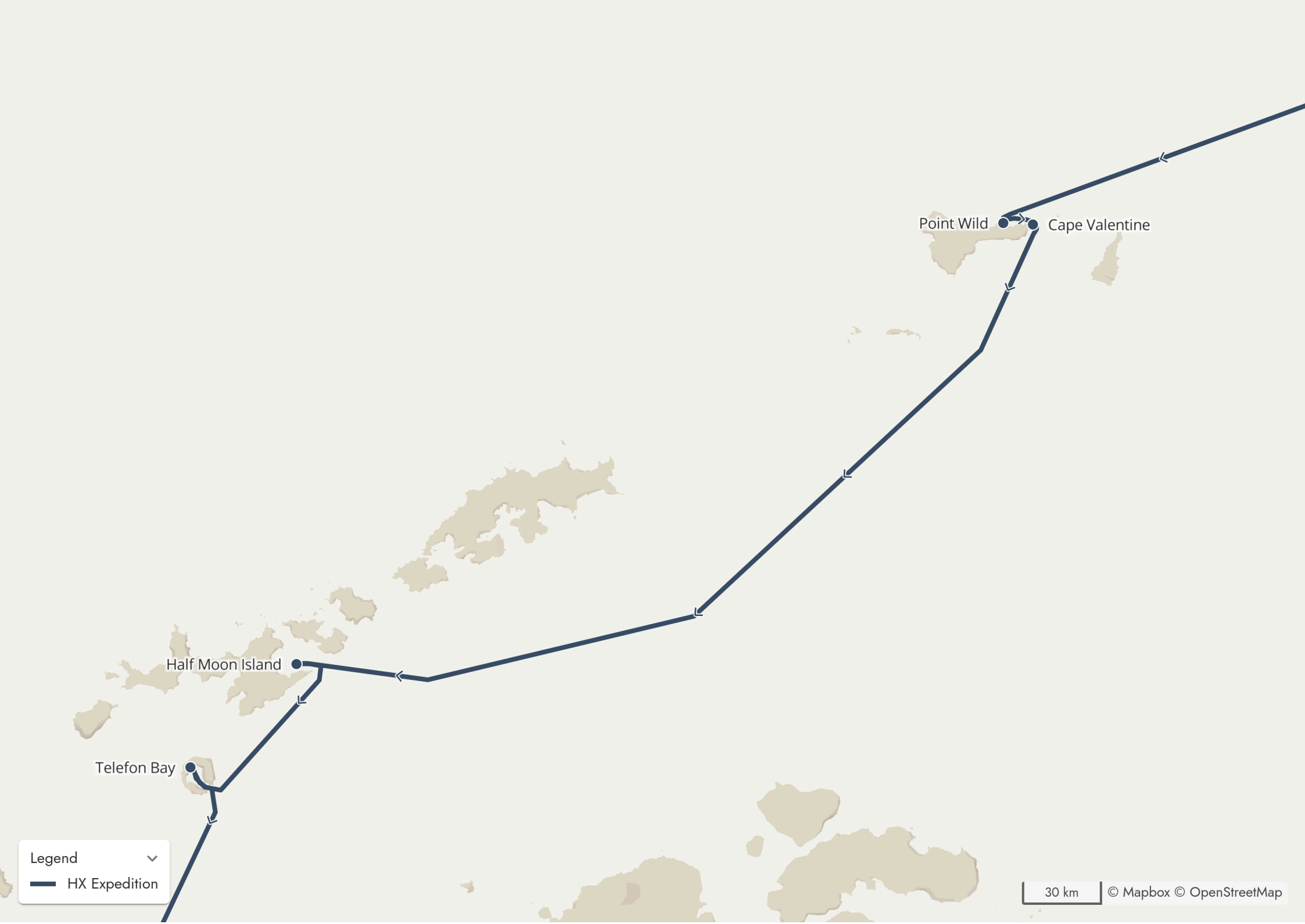


At Sea - Toward Antarctica

On our way south to Antarctica, the Expedition Team offered us lots of onboard programmes. We all had the opportunity to visit the bridge, join the Wildlife Watch, and learn about the Voyage of the Belgica - the first expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. The

Science Centre offered a Wildlife Review, we learned about the Earth and its poles, and multiple Expedition Team members offered the South Georgia Recap.





Half Moon Island

Point Wild

Cape Valentine

Telefon Bay

Legend

— HX Expedition

30 km

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Point Wild

We woke up to a rather rough sea today, which is all part of an expedition to Antarctica. We made the best of the day by preparing for our time on the White Continent. In the morning, we arrived at the South Shetland Islands and stopped at Elephant Island. The ship navigated into a bay, from where we could see the monument of Captain Pardo, who rescued the men of the Endurance on the ship *Yelcho*.

Those going camping had their briefing, and we also learned about Deception Island, "Where Fire Meets Ice." Due to the rough sea, the Wildlife Watch took place on deck 7 today. We learned from our guest scientist about glaciers and the hidden role of microbes, and some of us also joined the Whale Identification Workshop.



Cape Valentine - Jan 4, 2025

16.5 km

Half Moon Island - Jan 5, 2025

345.3 km

Half Moon & Deception Island

Today, we started the day with a landing at Half Moon Island, which belongs to the South Shetland Islands. We saw lots of Chinstrap Penguins, breeding Kelp Gulls, and Wilson's Storm Petrels. Back on board, we learned about the "Race for the South Pole" between Amundsen and Scott.

In the afternoon, we sailed through "Neptune's Bellows" into the caldera of Deception Island and landed at Telefon Bay. We hiked in a loop over a hill with spectacular views and big snowflakes falling down. What a unique experience it was to walk around inside a volcano!







Legend

— HX Expedition

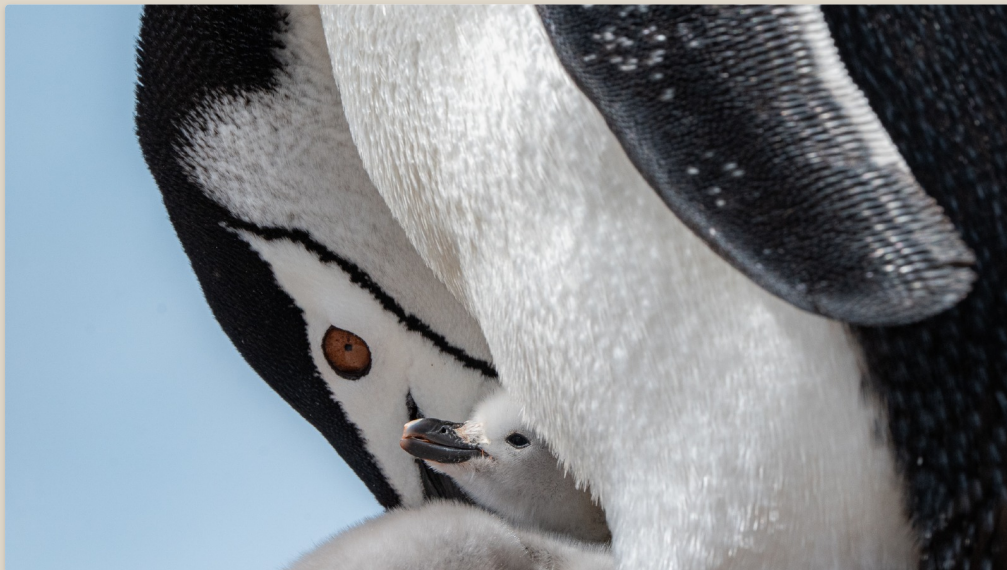
10 km

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Orne Harbor, Danco Island & Kerr Point

During our morning landing at Orne Harbour, we actually touched ground on the Antarctic Peninsula—a continental landing! We made our way up a steep snowy slope and enjoyed the view over the dramatic landscape of glaciers and mountains while hearing Chinstrap Penguins in the distance.

In the afternoon, we landed at Danco Island, where we saw several Gentoo penguin colonies and breathtaking views with lots of big icebergs. Some of us joined the kayak adventure with the activity guides during the day. In the evening, some of us participated in the camping night in Antarctica at Kerr Point.





Kerr Point - Jan 6, 2025

3.5 km

Neko Harbour - Jan 7, 2025

23.3 km

Neko Harbour & Andvord Bay

Early in the morning, the campers among us were picked up from Kerr Point, and after breakfast, we began a landing at Neko Harbour. A spectacular glacier with many different shades of blue could be seen from the landing site. There were lots of Gentoo penguins, some of which had their first chicks. Additionally, an Adélie and a chinstrap penguin were spotted at Neko Harbour.

During the afternoon, some went on another kayak adventure, while all others went on a zodiac cruise in Andvord Bay. Most of us saw humpback whales in this area, with the kayakers especially lucky to have a close encounter. We also learned today about the challenges of being a 21st-century whale.



Andvord Bay - Jan 7, 2025

4.3 km

Paradise Harbour - Jan 7, 2025

28.8 km



Yalour Islands & Lemaire Channel

On our last day in Antarctica, we did a zodiac cruise at the Yalour Islands at 65°S and spotted lots of Adélie Penguins, which had been a wish for many of us. Some of us also spotted a Weddell Seal. It was an adventure to be driven between all those little islands surrounded by big icebergs. After leaving this area, Fram sailed to the southern

entrance of the Lemaire Channel, and we managed to sail all the way through the channel as the first voyage of the season. On previous voyages, the channel had been blocked by ice. During the afternoon, we learned about the Women of Antarctica and the astonishing lives of elephant seals.





Drake Passage - Jan 8, 2025

155.9 km

Drake Passage - Jan 9, 2025

615.6 km

Drake Passage

We woke up to a relatively bumpy Drake Passage as we headed north toward the Beagle Channel, and the Expedition Team had prepared a day of onboard programs for us. We learned about the Antarctic Ice Sheet, joined the Happy Whale session in the Science Centre, and

some took a closer look at ice. We also attended the talk called "Behind the Scenes" on MS Fram. Others joined the art and knitting corner.



Puerto Williams & Nation Glaciers

As we came closer to the Chilean fjords, we heard from our guest scientist about life at the edge of the world (St Kilda), and we also learned about scurvy. During the afternoon, we stopped at Puerto Williams, where many of us joined the Wildlife Watch with Jenna. We also learned about echolocation and living and working around

Antarctica. Later in the evening, we sailed through the Beagle Channel and admired the beautiful Glacier Alley. We celebrated our wonderful voyage by listening to live music performed by the awesome MS Fram Crew Band.



Chilean Fjords

This morning started with a very scenic ship's cruise through the Chilean fjords. Manuel gave us a lecture about "The Beagle Channel Crisis," and some of us finished our artworks 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 attended the Captain's Farewell and watched the slideshow made by Yuri, our photographer. Sadly, this voyage has come to an end, and we continue sailing toward Punta Arenas, where we will disembark.





Punta Arenas - Disembarkation

Sadly, our voyage came to an end, and we all disembarked MS Fram, which had been our home for the past three weeks. We will return home with lots of wonderful and special memories, which will take

some time to process. The Team at MS Fram hopes to see us all again back onboard.





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