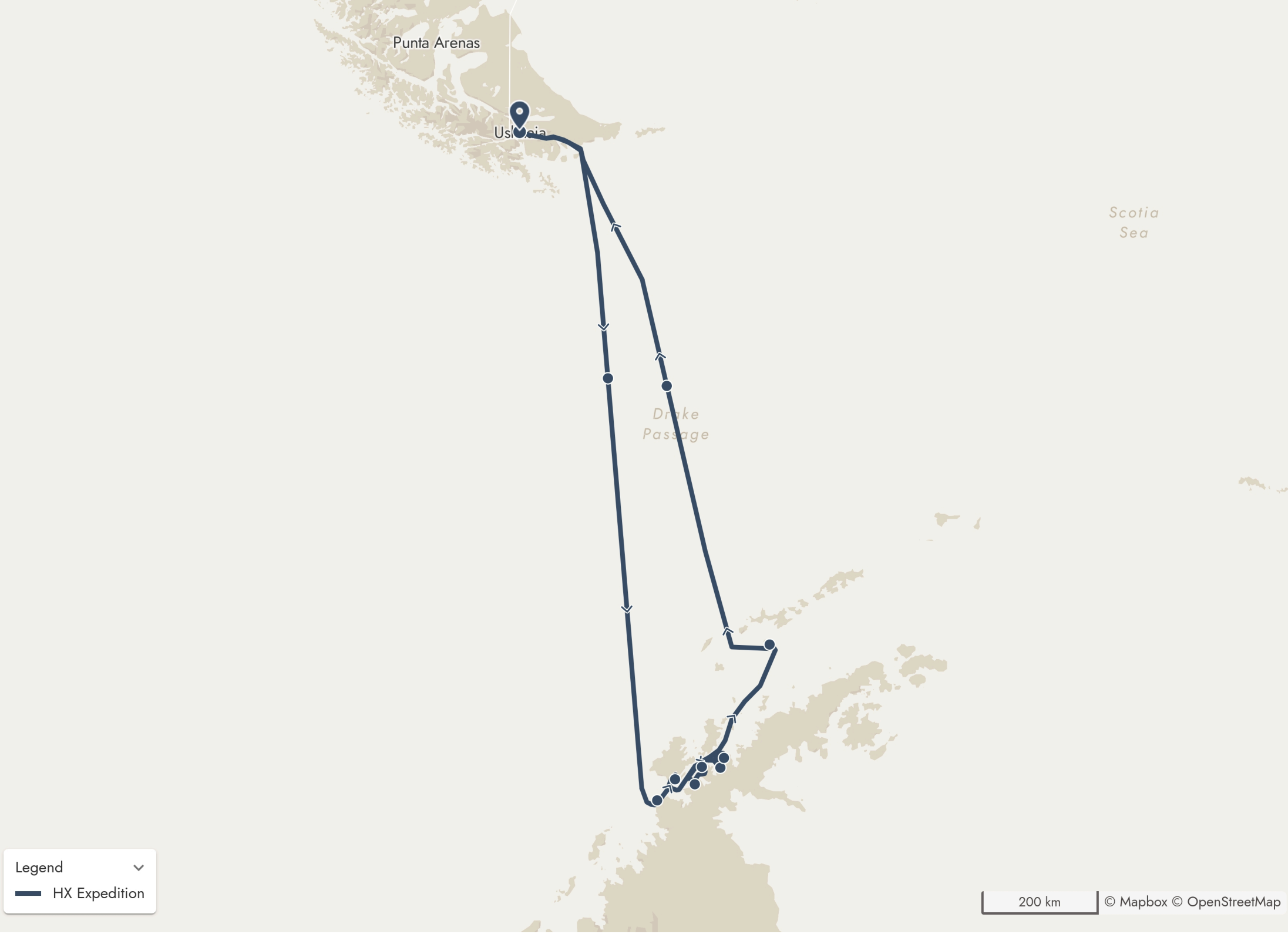




MS Fridtjof Nansen

2024.12.08 - 2024.12.18



## Day 1 - Embarkation in Ushuaia

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After long journeys from all points of the globe, we assembled in Buenos Aires for the final flight to Ushuaia and joining our home for the next 10 days. A sense of thrill and excitement rippled through the

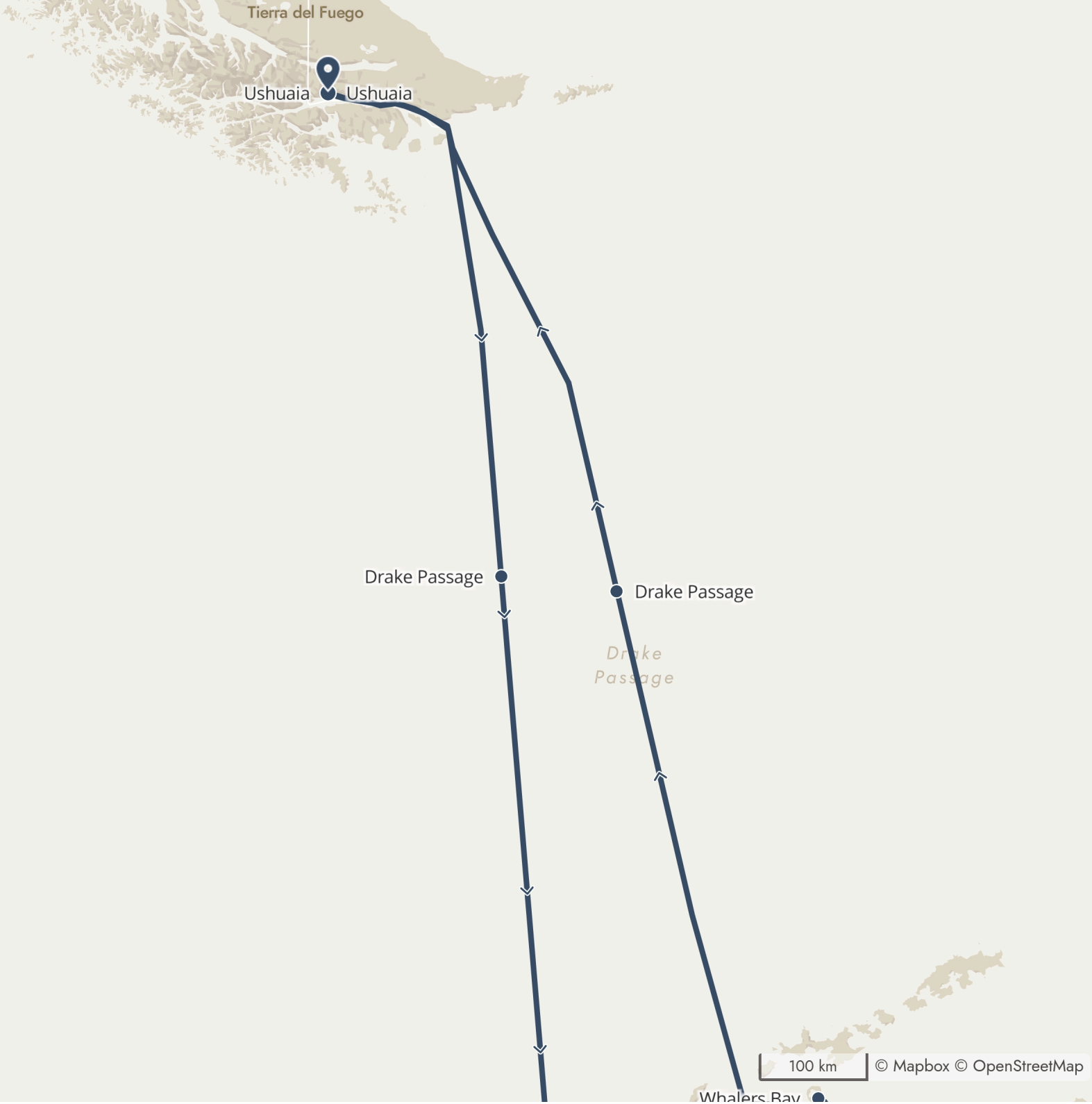
charter flight as we caught our first glimpses of the Beagle Channel and our ship, Fridtjof Nansen, tied to the pier awaiting our arrival.





Legend

HX Expedition





## Days 2 & 3 - Drake Passage

Day 2 - The day started with orientation to the vessel, all the amenities available and how to gain maximum benefits from our time onboard. Our knowledgeable expedition team began sharing their knowledge of the great white land with informative lectures and workshops so we were all in tip-top condition for our adventure. Tonight we were welcomed onboard by our Captain and got to meet the extensive expedition team, who we would all interact with closely.

Day 3 - A day of preparations for the adventure tomorrow. We were thoroughly briefed on what was expected of us on shore, how to don a life jacket - trickier than you think - acceptable behaviours and distances around wildlife, how to enter and exit a zodiac from shore and the ship. We were fitted out with the new stylish blue expedition jackets - ours to keep as a souvenir - and fitted for the muck boots we would wear ashore, suddenly it all feels real. During the afternoon, the first icebergs came into view.







Port Lockre  
Neumayer Ch

Yecho Ba

Yelcho

Pléneau Island

Legend

HX Expedition



## Day 4 - Pléneau Island

Wow! Today is the day! We have a packed day filled with both a landing ashore at Pléneau Island and zodiac cruising in the Penola Strait. Our expedition leader, Torstein, welcomed us ashore and gave us instructions on where we should visit and what time we had to come back. We walked through the snow and learned effective ways of doing so and were entertained by the antics of the resident Gentoo penguins – looking so smart in their crisp dinner jackets. Skuas and Snow petrels were on patrol around the colony looking for

opportunistic feeding. If we were not involved in the landing, we had the opportunity to be on the water in the Zodiacs exploring the Penola Strait, looking at majestic icebergs, and searching for whales and seals. Some were lucky to spot some Adelie penguins. Later in the evening, we did a majestic sail through the amazing Lemaire Channel, 230 m wide, surrounded by near vertical cliffs soaring 2,000 m straight up. This was a challenging passage for the captain, given the amount of ice that was blocking the channel.







Palmer Station

Port Lockroy and  
Neumayer Channel

Wiencke Island

Yecho Base

Almirante B.  
Scientific S.

Yelcho

Pléneau Island

Legend  
HX Expedition

5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap





Palmer Station

Port Lockroy and  
Neumayer Channel

Wiencke Island

Yecho Base

Almirante B  
Scientific St

Yelcho

Pléneau Island

Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 4 - Port Lockroy and Neumayer Channel

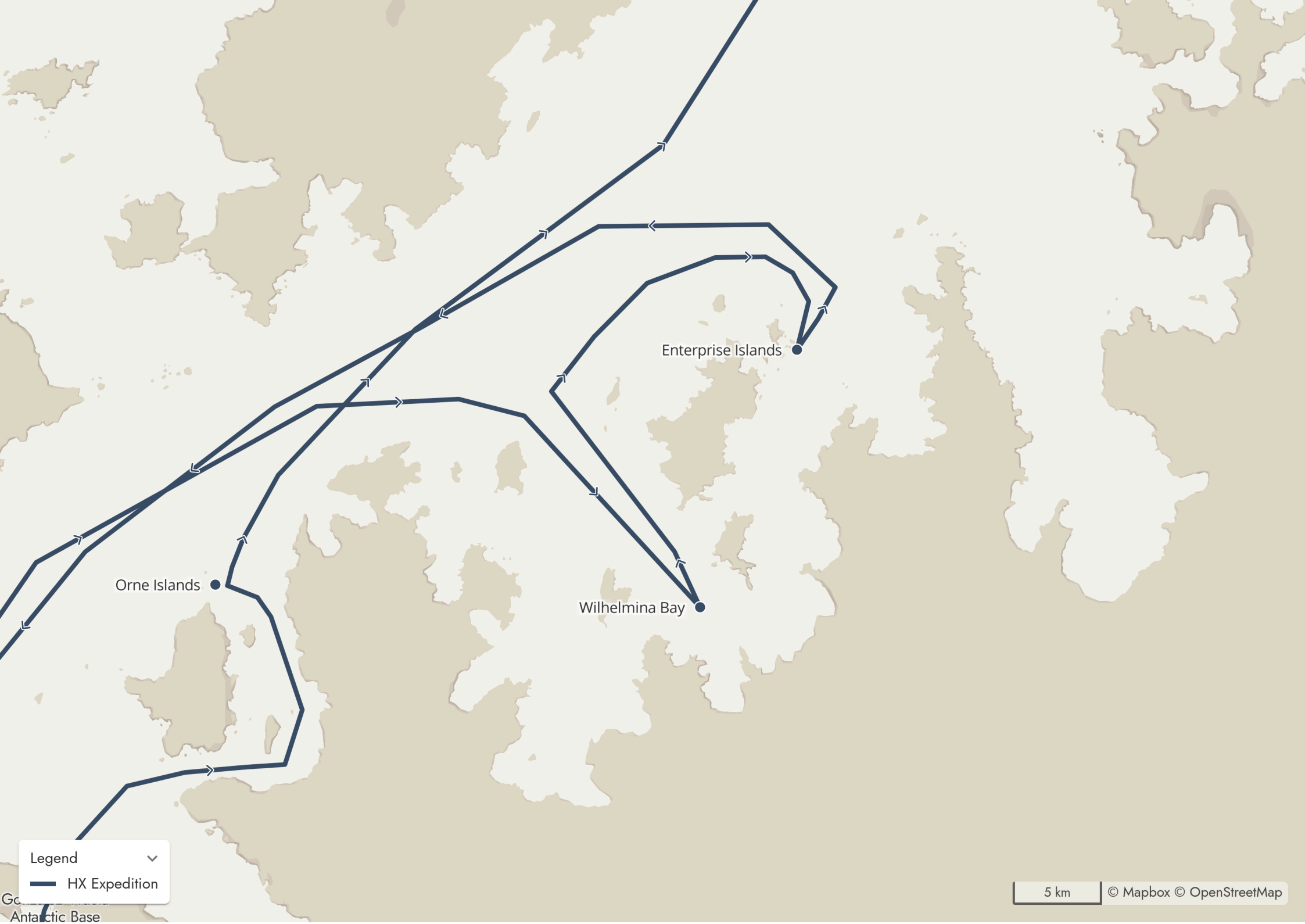
We then traversed Charlotte Bay to the scenic Neumayr Channel and did a sail by the famous British base, Port Lockroy, home of Operation

Tabarin and the Penguin Post Office, the southernmost active post office in the world.









Orne Islands

Enterprise Islands

Wilhelmina Bay

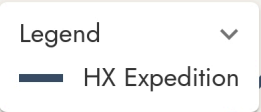
Legend



— HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 5 - Wilhelmina Bay

Wilhelmina Bay should also be named Whalemina Bay we started the morning in glass-like conditions with zodiac cruising. We had a sleeping or logging humpback whale 50m from the starboard bow. We cruised around the southern side of Nansen Island looking for

more humpback whales and we could hear their gentle exhalations or blows drifting across the water, one of the gentlest sounds one could hear. We cruised along the edge of the fast ice.





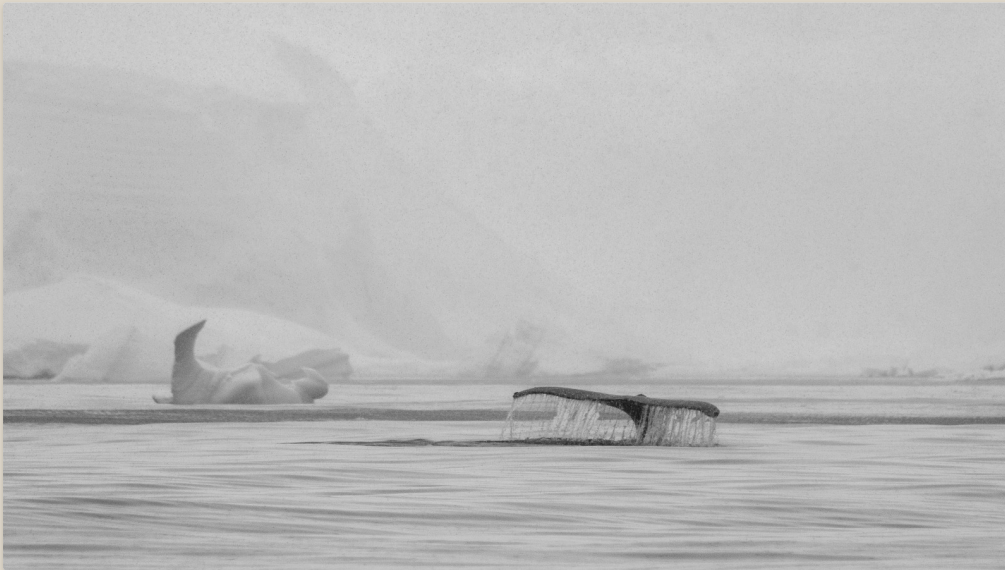


## Day 5 - Enterprise Islands

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In the afternoon, we relocated to Enterprise Island and continued cruising, looking for more whales and the shipwreck of the "Guvernøren" - the world's first fully electric whale factory ship, that

run aground in 1915 after the ship caught fire during the end-of-season crew party.











island

Bryde Island

Gonzalez Videla  
Antarctic Base

Almirante Brown  
Scientific Station

Brown

Legend



— HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 6 - Almirante Brown Scientific Station

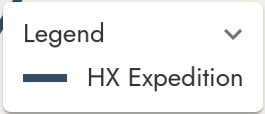
WE DID IT — we landed on the continent of Antarctica. For some of us, this was our 7th continent — an achievement worth celebrating. Base Brown is an Argentine station that is manned part of the year and conducts climatic research and research of toothfish in Paradise Harbour. The base is famous as it was burnt down by the doctor who was stationed there, initially for one year — and after three years, he decided it was enough. To ensure he could go home, he set fire to the

base. During the zodiac cruising around the majestic cliffs of Base Brown, we observed a cormorant colony, and in the ice in the bay, a lone crabeater seal. Some of our lucky travelling companions were able to go camping tonight at Leith Cove, and after a fine dinner in our Aune restaurant, they braved a night ashore in Antarctica at Leith Cove.









© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 7 - Orne Islands

We retrieved our brave campers early in the morning and then proceeded to sail north through the spectacular Errera Channel, as shot in the BBC program "Frozen Planet". We arrived at our proposed landing at Orne Harbour. Luckily, we had a backup plan in place as the landing site was blocked by ice. After attempts to clear the ice using the bow thrusters of the ship, and then attempts to navigate the

ice with zodiacs, it became apparent that we had to move to plan B. Luckily the team had several back up plans in place and we relocated to the nearby Orne Islands where we conducted zodiac cruises through small channels between the islands, observing penguins and seals hauled out.







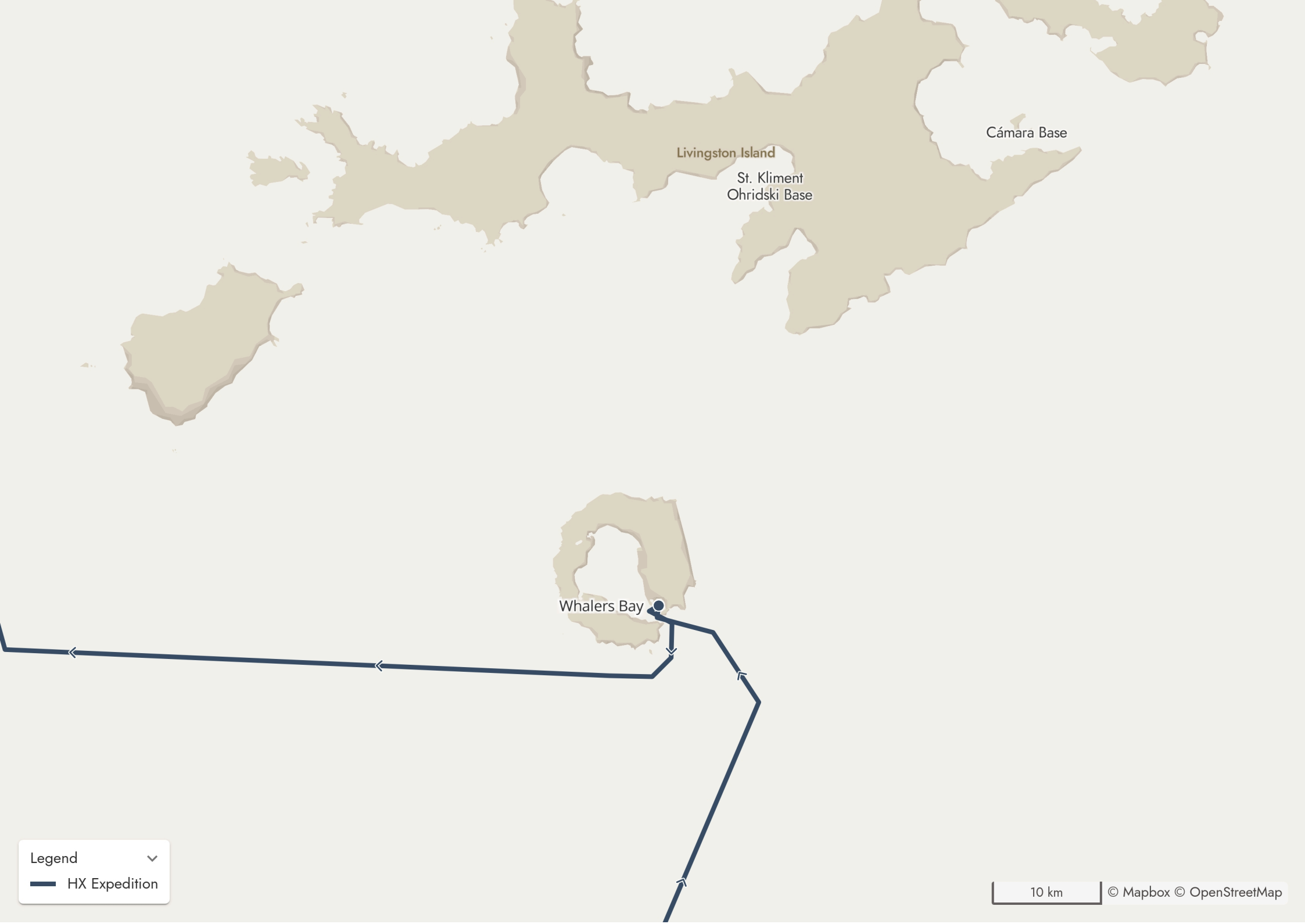


Legend

HX Expedition

2 km

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## Day 8 - Whalers Bay, Deception Island

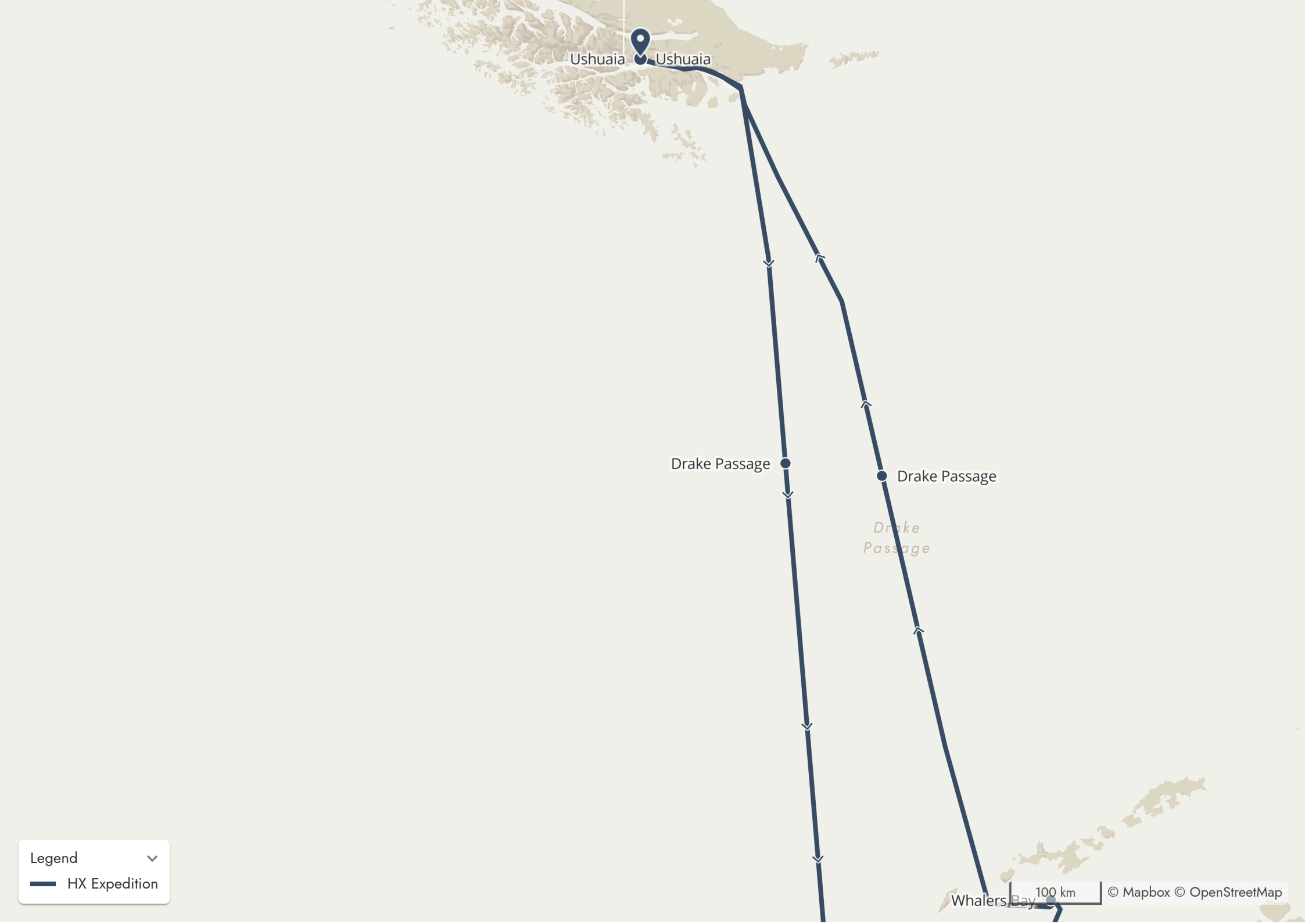
With much excitement and trepidation, we gathered on Deck 7 as we sailed into the active volcano that is Deception Island (through Neptune's Bellows) to do a landing at the abandoned whaling station at Whalers Bay. This was the site of the Hector Whaling Company's land based operations. The stark landscape is littered with the rusting remains of the equipment used in the industrial scale slaughter of whales. At the western end of the landing site is a hanger used to

house aircraft used in the development and scientific exploration of Antarctica during the 1950s. The runway, that was destroyed by the volcanic eruption between 1967 and 1970, was first established in 1927-28 to support the Australian aviation pioneer Sir Hubert Wilkins, who was the first to overfly Antarctica. Some brave souls decided to take advantage of the volcanically warmed waters to go for a Polar Plunge, as swimming in Antarctica is called.









Ushuaia

Ushuaia

Drake Passage

Drake Passage

*Drake  
Passage*

Whalers Bay

100 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Legend



HX Expedition

## Days 9 & 10 - Drake Passage

Day 9 - Despite the warnings of the previous evening, the Drake Passage was kind today. The day was spent in reflection and continued learning, with lectures and presentations by the never-tiring friendly and enthusiastic expedition team who have cared for us throughout this adventure. Sadly, we realised the adventures were coming to an end when we had to return and clean our boots — to protect and preserve Antarctica for future generations — a task we undertook with pleasure.

Day 10 - Our last day at sea. A day of continued learning. Sharing conversations, feelings and emotions with newfound friends and adventurers as we reflected upon the impact that this visit to Antarctica has had upon us. We slowly came to realise why the expedition team is so passionate about what they do, and the need they have to come back year after year to experience the wonders of Antarctica.

## Day 11 - Disembarkation in Ushuaia

The adventure comes to an end as we say goodbye to our ship and new found friends, making our way back from the Fin Del Mundo — the city at the end of the world and the beginning of everything. As

we fly north, our thoughts, hearts, and emotions are still in the south. I hear the white wastes calling across a restless sea; civilization is palling - the wander's disease.





[logbook.travelmap.net/20241208-fnant2411](https://logbook.travelmap.net/20241208-fnant2411)