



MS Roald Amundsen

2024.12.15 - 2024.12.29



Ushuaia

Welcome to Ushuaia — the city at the end of the world! After long journeys and crossing thousands of kilometers, our adventure is about to begin in the southernmost town in the world.

In the early afternoon, we embark on the spectacular MS Roald

Amundsen. This incredible ship will be our home for the next two weeks. After a smooth check-in and the mandatory safety drill, it's time to sail away toward our dream destination while enjoying the stunning views of the Beagle Channel.



Drake Passage Day 1

Our first day on Drake Passage. Slowly we are trying to adjust to to continuous movement of the ship. Our day was filled with briefings and introductory meetings. We learned about landing procedures,

importance of safety and biosecurity. In the evening – Captain's welcome party and introduction of our Expedition Team.





Drake Passage Day 2

Another day on the Drake Passage. Another day of preparations for our time in Antarctica. All the guests on board were equipped with rubber boots and group patches. The day was filled with lectures, workshops, and growing excitement ahead of our arrival on the 7th continent.

In the afternoon, the waves grew larger, and the wind began to pick up speed. The forecast predicted that we were heading into a storm, so our Captain decided to change course and steer toward the more sheltered waters of the South Shetlands.



Yankee Harbour

Our first landing! In the early morning, we landed at Yankee Harbour in the South Shetland Islands. A long, rocky beach led us straight to the penguin colonies. We were lucky to observe our first Gentoo

Penguins. A few chinstrap and Adélie penguins were also visiting their Gentoo cousins. What a view, and what a smell!





Halfmoon Island

The day was not over yet. In the afternoon, we sailed across McFarlane Strait and anchored in front of Halfmoon Island. Although conditions were becoming increasingly challenging, our Expedition Team managed to land us all on this halfmoon-shaped island and gave us

the opportunity to visit a chinstrap penguin colony. Three separate viewpoints were organized: one in front of the colony, a second with a view toward Livingston Island and a Weddell seal, and a third with a view of the Argentinian research station, Camara Base.





Curtiss Bay

Our second day in Antarctica. The weather has improved. A sunny day in Curtiss Bay gave us a chance to do our first zodiac cruising. Our guides were driving us around the bay filled with ice, icebergs, and whales. We had an incredible opportunity to observe whales sleeping

on the surface, all while being surrounded by a seemingly endless sea of ice.

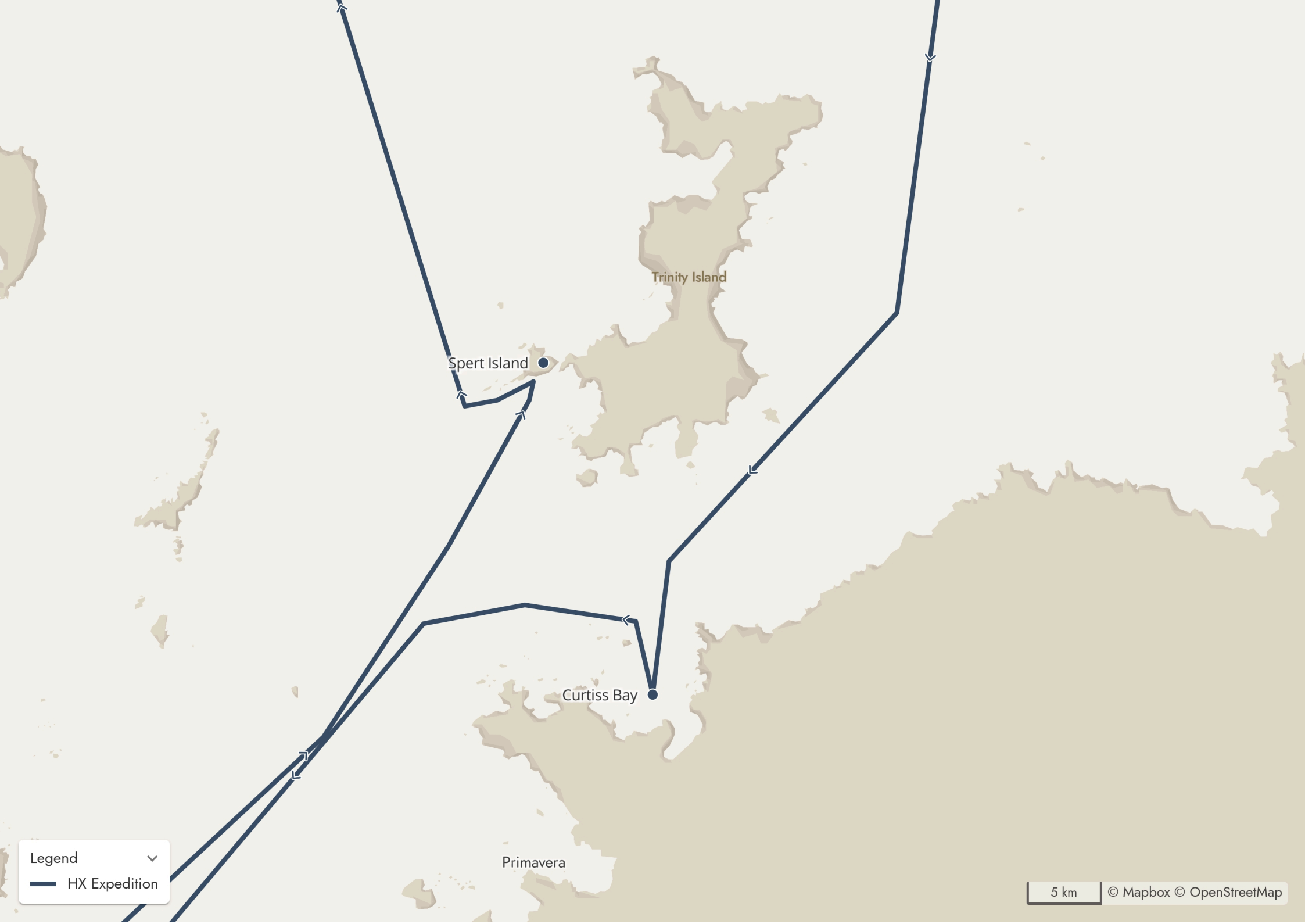


Orne Islands

Morning cruising around Orne Islands! Another beautiful and sunny day. We took our zodiacs out and went to explore the tiny surroundings of the Orne Islands. These small islands are literally

covered with penguins colonies. Great scenery, numerous icebergs, the company of penguins, and a great time on the water were just the beginning of this incredible day.





Spert Island

Trinity Island

Curtiss Bay

Primavera

Legend

HX Expedition

Danco Island

After zodiac cruising at Orne Island, we cruised towards Danco Island, which was our destination for this afternoon. By 1 pm, we were ready to start our operation. The Expedition Team had prepared a route all the way to the hilltop. We were able to walk to the penguin colony and the viewpoint. It was a wonderful day with a great hike up

the hill. With the strong sun and the hike, we all got hot - so hot that many of us chose to go for a swim on the beach. That's right - polar plunge time! With the water temperature just a little above 0 degrees Celsius and the company of penguins, it was time for our Antarctic dip.



Letih Cove camping

In late evening, the adventure was not over yet. The lucky campers headed to a tiny island covered with a snow cap to spend the night there. After setting up all the tents, it was time to listen to the Antarctic

silence. Night, although without darkness, arrived and gave everyone the chance to listen to hear the sound of glacier calving, which continued throughout the whole night.



Brown Station - Continental Landing!

Antarctica! Our first continental landing! On that day, we all made it to our first continental landing. We set foot on the 7th continent in the surroundings of the Argentinian Brown Station. Although the station is listed as active in the summer only, no personnel were spotted.

Instead of researchers, the station was occupied by our favourite little friends - Gentoo Penguins, who had created their colony between the station's buildings.

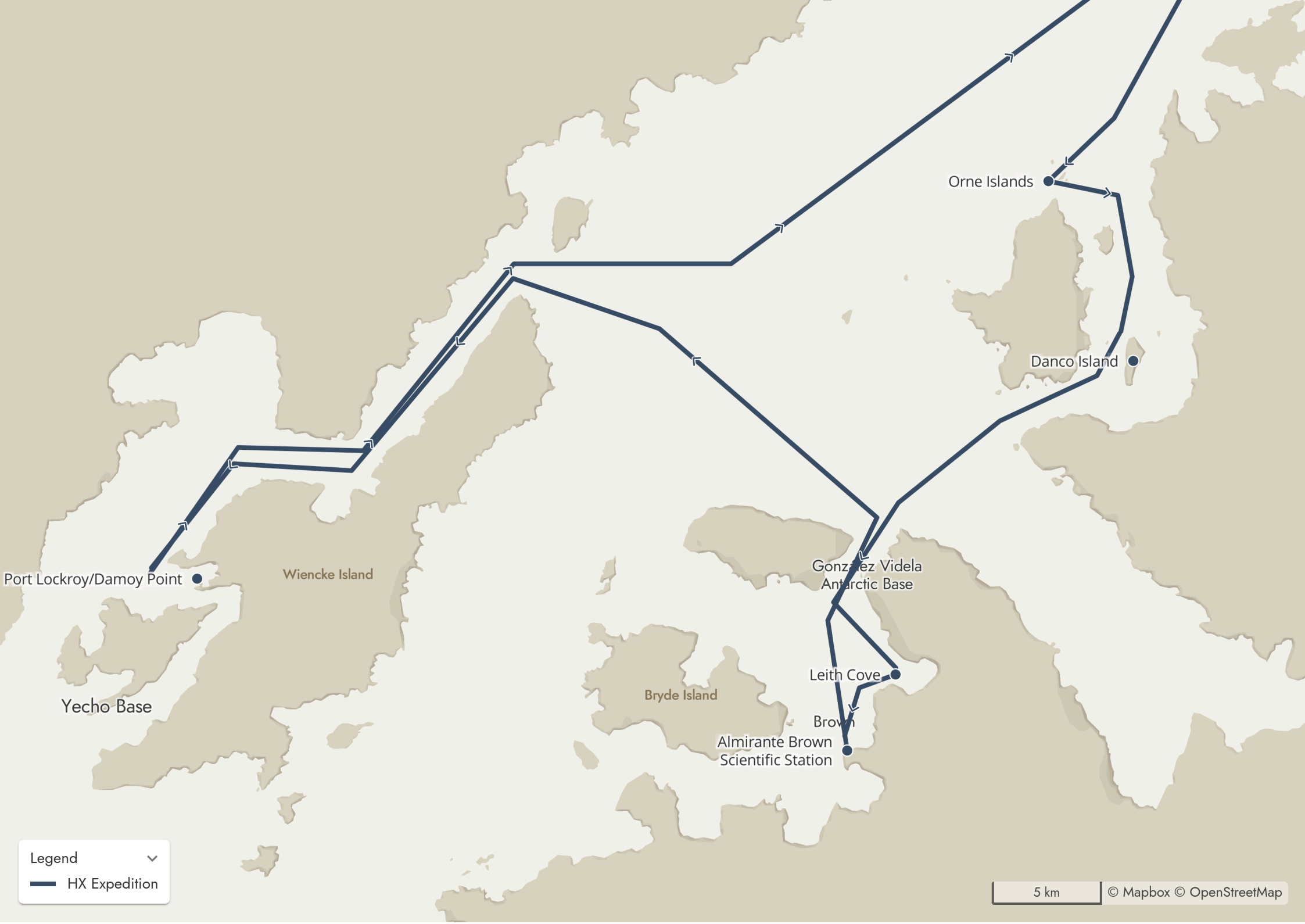


Port Lockroy cruising

Port Lockroy, originally credited as British Station A, is a British research station which was our point of interest for this afternoon. While the personnel of the station visited us onboard the MS Roald Amundsen, giving us a chance to send a postcard from southernmost south post office in the world, we stayed busy exploring the area with

our zodiacs. Zodiac cruising around Port Lockroy gave us a unique chance to see the base up close and to observe all the wildlife surrounding the station. Penguin colonies are present everywhere, including between the station's buildings. This is also why Port Lockroy is famous for its studies on the Gentoo penguin population.





Legend
HX Expedition

5 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Spert Island cruising

What a day! Our last day in Antarctica had to be special, and so it was. We did zodiac cruising at Spert Island. This amazing place was filled with channels, arches, and tunnels. Incredible masteries of geology. The rock formations are just spectacular, especially when filled with icebergs, which sometimes blocked the way and forced us to look for a detour.

The cruising was also a show of how skilled our guides and drivers were at choosing the safest route through all the narrow passages.





At Sea

As we left Antarctica, our next destination was the Falkland Islands. A quite day at sea, with gentle waves, gave us the chance to rest after a

whole week of intensive adventures on the 7th continent.



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve. One very special day, and celebrated onboard in a very unique way. During our art corner, we prepared Christmas ornaments, which were later used by all of us to decorate the Christmas tree which was placed in the central part of the Explorer Lounge. Our Captain awarded the creators of the prettiest decorations.

Since the early morning, we could hear Christmas carols being played

and sung around the ship. The culmination took place in the evening when all crew and guests gathered together for the Christmas concert.

We finished the day in the company of Santa Claus, who did not forget about all guests onboard of the MS Roald Amundsen. Santa Claus brought us not only a great spirit, but also little souvenirs. Ho ho ho.

Port Stanley

On Christmas Day, we arrived in Port Stanley – the capital of the Falkland Islands. Another sunny day. At 11:30am, a Christmas programme had started. Together with our Captain, crew, and the local minister, we were able to concelebrate Christmas Day by singing Christmas carols in Port Stanley's Cathedral.

Many activities took place that day. We all were scheduled for different excursions. Walking around or along Port Stanley was a great opportunity to learn more about the history of this place, as well as the local way of life, since all of our guides were members of the

community.



West Point

On our second day in the Falklands, we visited West Point Island. After landing in a well-sheltered bay (which was crucial on that day since the wind picked up at night) we were welcomed by a lovely couple who managed the whole island. We were offered great hospitality, which included homemade cookies and cakes.

Strengthened by the bakeries, we hiked across the island to reach Devil's Nose - a cliff which is a nesting site for hundreds of black-browed albatrosses. These giant birds live on these spectacular cliffs in peaceful coexistence with rockhopper penguins, which made this place even more impressive.





Saunders Island

On our last day in the Falkland Islands, we landed on Saunders Island. This spectacular beach is a nesting place for countless penguins and birds. We got a chance to walk between colonies of Gentoo penguins and get closer to the one-of-a-kind Kings. The King penguins that we saw that day were much larger than all the other penguins we had seen up until then. The fluffy baby King penguins made every single one of us smile.

After the visit to the beach, a hike to a very special view point was possible. The trail, marked carefully to avoid burrows - homes for the Magellanic penguins, led us to a colony of rockhoppers penguins and the nesting site of black-browed albatrosses. The spectacular view, surrounded by thousands of unique animals and great weather, made this landing very memorable.



Heading back

On the way to Ushuaia from the Falkland Islands, we spent a day at sea. A calm, warm day filled with sharing memories from this incredible voyage. We got some time to rest before coming back to Tierra del Fuego.

In the afternoon, the coast of South America started to become visible. In the evening, Captain's Farewell. Saying goodbye to all our new friends is never easy, but it is always part of the journey.







At Sea 28.12.24 - Dec 28, 2024

Ushuaia, Argentina - Dec 29, 2024



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