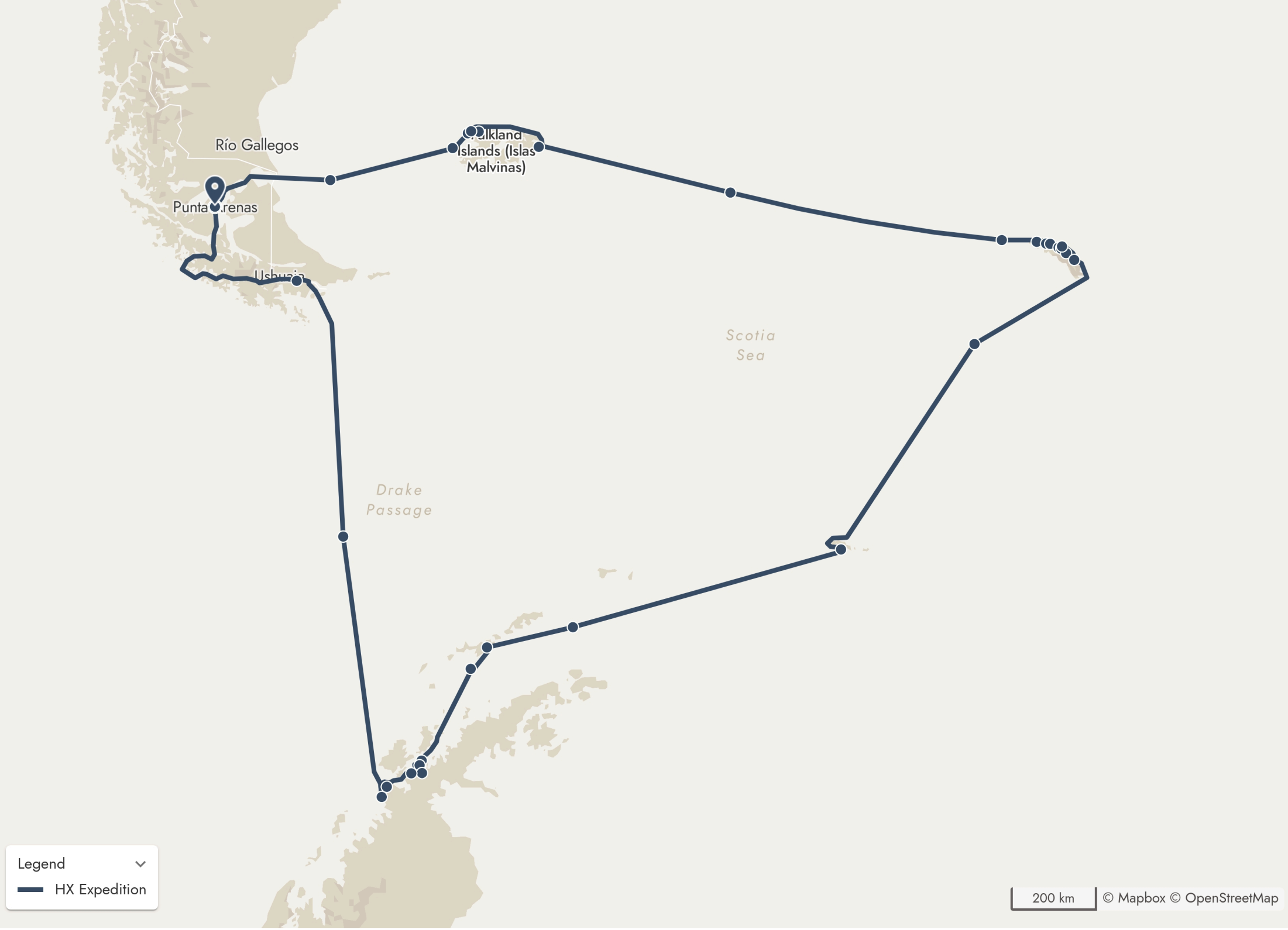




MS FRAM - In depth Antarctica, South Georgia & Falklands Expedition

2025.01.12 - 2025.02.02

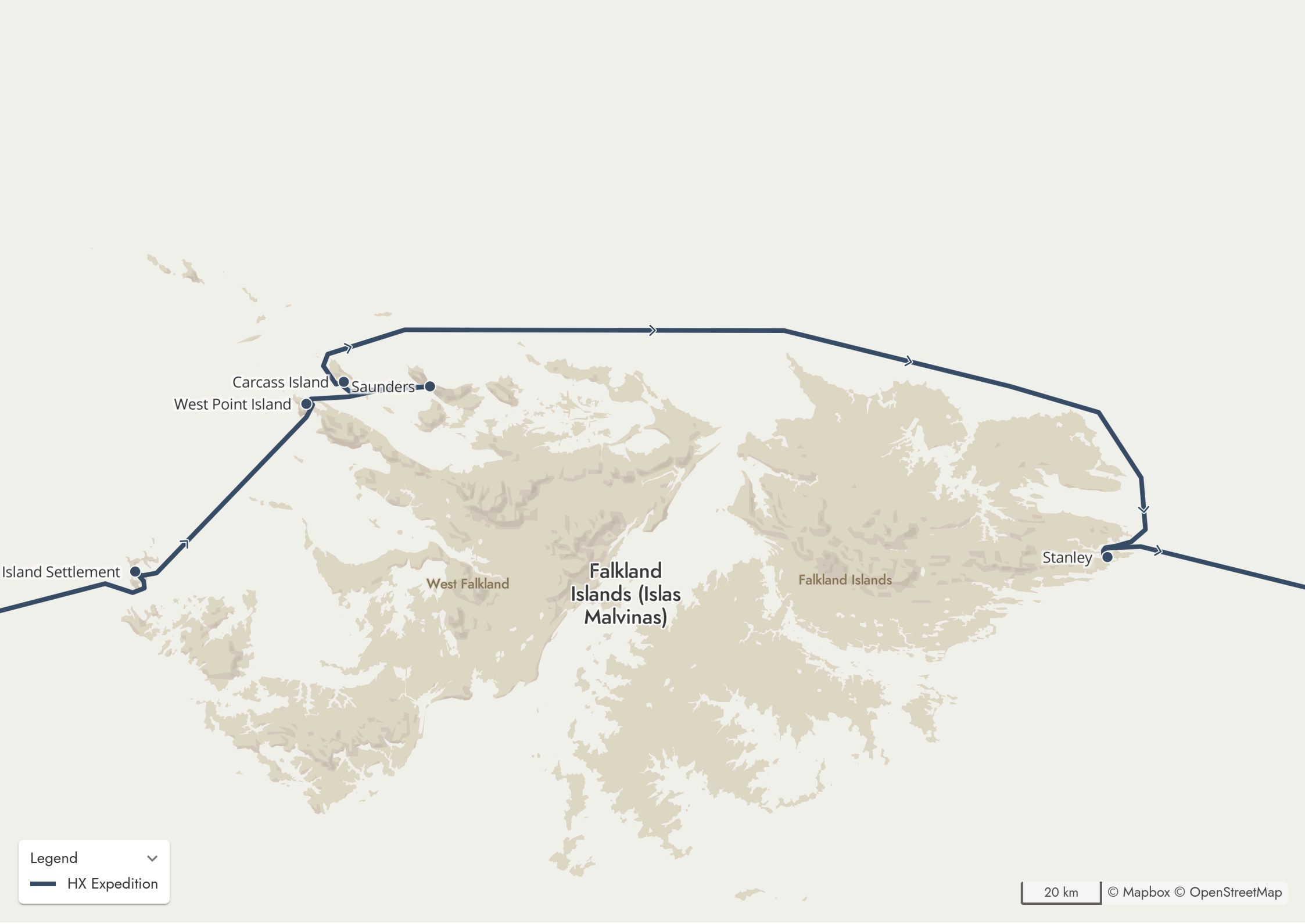


Embarkation Day - Punta Arenas

Our group gathered in Punta Arenas, our Gateway to Antarctica, where we boarded the MS Fram, our floating home for the upcoming three-week adventure. The excitement was palpable as we anticipated our journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and ultimately,

Antarctica. It had been a long journey for all of us, and after settling into our cabins, we savored a delightful inaugural dinner aboard the ship. Following the mandatory Safety Drill, we finally set sail around midnight, charting a course for our first stop: the Falkland Islands.





At Sea

Our second day aboard the MS Fram promises an engaging schedule as we sail towards our first port of call. The day begins with an early Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5. Just after breakfast, a Ship & Voyage Introduction by the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager was held, providing essential information about our journey. Later, we learned about Fram's science program and citizen science projects. Afterwards, we were invited to the Science Centre to meet the scientists and discover how to participate in onboard research activities. The afternoon started with a lecture on Expedition Photography, offering valuable tips on composition and general

photography techniques. Later, we joined a NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session on deck 7, contributing to climate research by learning to identify clouds. The highlight of the day was the Captain's Welcome at 17:30 in the Explorer Lounge. The Captain introduced his officers, crew, and the Expedition Team, allowing us to meet those who will guide us throughout our journey. The evening concludes with a crucial Boat Safety Briefing at 20:45 in the Lecture Hall, preparing us for upcoming excursions. This packed day set the tone for our exciting journey ahead, blending education, exploration, and preparation as we sail towards adventure.

New Island Settlement

Our third day of the expedition brought us to the Falkland Islands, where we experienced two remarkable landings that showcased the archipelago's incredible wildlife. Our morning began with a landing at New Island. As we approached the shore, we were greeted by the sight of the picturesque wooden shipwreck called Protector III, a 1940s minesweeper-turned-sealer that was abandoned here in 1969. This wreck often serves as a roosting site for black-crowned night

herons. After a short walk, we arrived at a breathtaking cliff that offered a panoramic view of a bustling seabird colony. The air was filled with the cacophony of squawking and braying as we observed the Rockhopper penguins, small, charismatic birds known for their distinctive yellow crests, nesting among the rocks. We also saw black-browed albatrosses, majestic birds with impressive 7-foot wingspans, tending to their chicks on tall mud-pot nests.



West Point Island

In the afternoon, we made our second landing at West Point Island. This small island, just five miles long and two miles wide, is home to one of the Falklands' largest albatross colonies. We embarked on a longer hike through a labyrinth of tussac grass towards the albatross colony. The path led us to an area known as Devil's Nose, where we encountered another impressive gathering of black-browed albatrosses. As we walked, these graceful birds soared incredibly close over our heads, providing an unforgettable experience. For those who preferred not to hike, a Land Rover shuttle service was available, offering its own unique adventure as it navigated the island's

rugged terrain. The colony at West Point Island offered another opportunity to observe the fascinating behavior of black-browed albatrosses up close. We watched as they performed courtship rituals, tended to their chicks, and demonstrated their somewhat clumsy landings - a stark contrast to their grace in the air. This day in the Falkland Islands provided us with extraordinary wildlife encounters, allowing us to witness the rich biodiversity of this remote archipelago and create lasting memories of our interactions with its remarkable avian inhabitants.



Saunders

The 4th day of our expedition provided an incredible wildlife and scenic experience. On Saunders Island, we walked along the white sandy beach at "The Neck," one of the most iconic vistas in the Falklands. We were amazed by the diverse wildlife, including

Rockhopper penguins with their distinctive yellow eyebrow plumes and red eyes, hopping from rock to rock. The highlight was undoubtedly the King penguins, one of the most accessible in the Falklands.



Carcass Island

Our afternoon on Carcass Island was equally eventful. This predator-free haven allowed us to observe thriving native bird populations, including the rare Cobb's Wren. We felt incredibly fortunate to spot this small, brown bird with its long, slightly curved bill, as it's endemic to the Falkland Islands and considered a vulnerable species. We enjoyed a delightful visit to the "Cookie House," the main settlement on Carcass Island, where we indulged in a traditional Falklands "smoko." The McGill family's warm hospitality and delicious home-baked treats were a perfect complement to our wildlife adventures.

Some of us completed a longer hike on Carcass Island, enjoying beautiful walking trails and spotting additional wildlife like Gentoo and Magellanic penguins, striated caracaras, and Falkland steamer ducks. Our day perfectly encapsulated the natural beauty and unique wildlife experiences that the Falkland Islands offer. From stunning landscapes and rare bird sightings to warm local hospitality, it was a truly unforgettable adventure that showcased the best of these remarkable islands.



Stanley

During the 5th day of our expedition we were excited to explore Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We docked at 06:45, and we were able to disembark once clearance was given. As we sailed through The Narrows into Stanley Harbour around 06:30, some of us were on deck with cameras ready to capture the stunning views. We had a variety of excursions planned for the day. Some of us embarked on the Falklands Nature Trek. Others joined the Stanley Community Walk, meeting our guide at the Jetty Visitor Center in town. For those interested in a more comprehensive overview, the Stanley Highlights bus tour was available, concluding at the Historic Dockyard Museum. A few lucky ones from our group met explorer Mensun Bound at his

home. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to explore Stanley at our leisure. A shuttle bus service ran between MS Fram and the Jetty Visitor Center from 08:45 to 18:30. Back on board, we had some interesting activities lined up. At 18:00, we could visit the Science Center on deck 4 to examine a water sample from the Falkland Islands. We had a Wildlife Watch session at the bow on deck 5 at 19:00. To end the evening on a high note, we were invited to join a singing session in the Explorer Lounge at 21:00. With all aboard by 18:30, we set sail for our next adventure, taking with us wonderful memories of Stanley and the Falkland Islands.





On the Way to South Georgia

We're sailing the high seas on an incredible expedition, embracing the spirit of exploration. Our day is filled with exciting activities and enriching experiences that cater to every curiosity. The day unfolds with a flurry of educational and engaging events. We start with a Wildlife Watch on the bow, keeping our eyes peeled for the majestic creatures of the Southern Ocean. Our minds are nourished by fascinating lectures. We delve into the world of "Whales of the Southern Ocean" and later, we're transported back in time with "Shackleton's Finest Hour," learning about one of the greatest explorers in history. For the scientifically inclined among us, we participate in citizen science projects like the EBird project and the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer. We're not just passengers; we're contributors to real scientific research. Our creative sides aren't

neglected either. We express ourselves at the Art Corner and join the Knitting Corner in the Explorer Lounge, sharing stories and skills with fellow travelers. As the day progresses, we prepare for our upcoming adventures in South Georgia and Antarctica. We attend an informative presentation about the activities awaiting us, from hiking to kayaking in these pristine environments. As night falls, we gather for an update on tomorrow's plans, our minds buzzing with anticipation. We end the day with a captivating lecture on whale research in the remote South, drifting off to sleep with visions of the wonders that await us in the days to come. This journey isn't just a vacation; it's an odyssey of discovery, learning, and connection - with nature, with science, and with each other.

Right Whale Bay & Prins Olav Harbour

On January 19th, 2025, guests aboard MS Fram experienced an eventful day exploring South Georgia's rugged beauty. The day began with an early morning landing at Right Whale Bay, where visitors gained their first impression of the remote island's diverse wildlife, encountering fur seals and king penguins for the first time.

Unfortunately, the planned afternoon visit to Salisbury Plain was cancelled due to the presence of numerous dead animals on the beach, highlighting the harsh effects of the HPAI in this remote region. The day's itinerary was filled with enriching activities and lectures. Laura presented a fascinating talk on "Savage South Georgia," exploring the island's isolation, rugged terrain, and hostile climate. George delivered an informative lecture on the "Birds of South Georgia," providing insights into the area's diverse avian life. In the Science Center, Caroline hosted a session titled "How do rocks

form?" offering a deeper understanding of the island's geological features. The expedition team also provided information about plans for the following day, ensuring guests were well-prepared for upcoming adventures. The day concluded with exciting zodiac cruising at Prins Olav Harbour, where the haunting presence of the abandoned whaling station set the perfect stage for guests' first experience on the small boats that would accompany them throughout the rest of the voyage. This evening activity allowed passengers to explore the coastline from a different perspective, spotting wildlife and admiring the dramatic landscapes. Overall, the day offered a rich blend of adventure, education, and responsible tourism, showcasing the raw beauty and challenges of exploring one of the world's most remote and captivating destinations.



Salisbury Plain, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 19, 2025

Prins Olav Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 19, 2025

Fortuna Whistle Cove, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 20, 2025

Fortuna Bay & Stromness

We had an incredible day exploring South Georgia on January 20th, 2025. Our adventure began early in the morning as we prepared for our landing at Fortuna Whistle Cove. The Expedition Team called us by boat groups, starting at around 9:00 AM, allowing us to explore this beautiful location in stages. For those of us who participated in the Shackleton Hike from Fortuna Bay to Stromness Viewpoint, this challenging trek was a testament to the endurance of the early explorers and offered breathtaking views of the rugged South Georgian landscape. Participants in the trek were called before the regular boat groups, being given extra time to explore Fortuna Whistle Cove before embarking on their journey. At 3:30 PM, we attended an informative presentation on phone photography by Yuri, picking up valuable tips to capture our memories. For those interested in wildlife,

there was a Wildlife Watch session on the bow of deck 5, allowing us to spot and learn about the diverse fauna of the region. In the evening, we gathered in the Lecture Hall for an update on our plans for the following day, ensuring we were well-prepared for upcoming adventures. This was followed by an engaging lecture by Guest Scientist Angus on "Polar Whale Watch: eyes on the ocean, baleen whales and krill in the Southern Ocean," which deepened our understanding of the marine ecosystem. Our day concluded with a scenic ship cruise into Stromness Bay, where we marvelled at the view of the three old whaling stations: Leith Harbour, Stromness, and Husvik, a poignant reminder of the area's history. This day in South Georgia was filled with natural wonders, historical insights, and shared experiences that we'll cherish for years to come.



Stromness Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 20, 2025

Leith Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 20, 2025

Husvik, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 20, 2025

Grytviken, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 21, 2025

Grytviken & Hercules Bay

Our day in South Georgia on January 21th, 2025, was filled with adventure and discovery. We began early, with the Maiviken Viewpoint Hike groups departing in the morning. The hike offered breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, allowing us to immerse ourselves in the rugged beauty of South Georgia. At Grytviken, we had the opportunity to explore the historic whaling station. The Captain and Benjamin organized a short ceremony to pay respect to the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, maybe the most important British polar explorer. We then browsed the well-equipped souvenir shop in the museum building and visited the post office. Many of us participated in guided walks focusing on the whaling history of Grytviken, gaining insights into the area's industrial past. In

the afternoon, we engaged in various onboard activities. Some of us joined the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session on Deck 7. We also attended an informative lecture on the Seals of South Georgia, deepening our understanding of the local wildlife. The highlight of the afternoon was the zodiac cruising at Hercules Bay. We marvelled at the coastal scenery and observed the diverse marine life from our small boats. The experience brought us closer to the raw nature of South Georgia and we had the chance to spot the Macaroni penguin colony on the cliff. As the day wound down, we gathered for an informative session about the plans for the following day, excited for what new adventures awaited us in this remarkable part of the world.



Hercules Bay, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 21, 2025

St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 22, 2025

St Andrews Bay

On January 22th, 2025, we embarked on an unforgettable adventure at St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia. Some of us participated in the Science Boat excursions, while others joined the Photo Adventure Landing, each offering unique perspectives of the stunning surroundings. Throughout the morning, we took turns exploring St. Andrews Bay, marvelling at the raw beauty of South Georgia's landscape. We were grateful for the opportunity to set foot on this remote and pristine location. The King Penguin colony and elephant seals were the wildlife we found, both in huge numbers. In the afternoon, we returned to the ship for an enlightening lecture on Carl Anton Larsen and the history of whaling in South Georgia. Our thirst for knowledge continued with a visit to the Science Center, where we

learned about the marine life in the surrounding waters. For those of us interested in meteorology, we participated in the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer activity, contributing to important climate research. The weather conditions, with gusts of up to 45 knots, did not allow us to enter the Drygalski Fjord, so we started our navigation towards the White Continent. The day concluded with a lively Liar's Club show in the Lecture Hall, where we got acquainted with new words like "degombling" and "snares," sharing some time and laughs with the Expedition Team and fellow travellers. This day in South Georgia left us with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the Antarctic region.



On our Way to Antarctica

We embarked on our day at sea on January 23th, 2025. Our day was filled with a perfect blend of relaxation, education, and excitement. As we sailed through the open waters, we participated in various onboard activities and got an amazing sight of the A23a iceberg, the biggest iceberg ever recorded (sized just as twice as the Greater London). Many of us joined the Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5, keeping our eyes peeled for marine life in the vast ocean. We then attended fascinating lectures in the Lecture Hall on deck 4. The Expedition Team captivated us with a recap of South Georgia, titled "A Wildlife Heaven on Earth." Later, we learned about the intriguing world of icebergs in a presentation called "Icebergs - When Ice Sets Sail."

In the afternoon, we took part in mandatory biosecurity procedures. We diligently cleaned our boots at the boot cleaning station on Deck 2 and vacuumed our equipment in the Science Center on Deck 4. These measures were crucial to protect the delicate ecosystems we were about to visit.

As evening approached, we gathered in the Explorer Lounge on deck 7 for a special meet-and-greet with guests from the British Antarctic Survey. Their insights and experiences added another layer of excitement to our expedition.

As we retired for the night, we eagerly anticipated the upcoming days of our expedition, promising more discoveries and unforgettable moments in the pristine wilderness of the Antarctic region.





Drake
Passage

Signy Research Station

At sea

Half Moon Island

Whalers Bay

Orne Harbour

Danco Island

Kerr Point Camping Site

Neko Harbour

Yemaire Channel

Yalour Islands

Legend



— HX Expedition

50 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Signy Research Station, Antarctica

On January 24th, 2025, we experienced an eventful day aboard our expedition cruise. As we adjusted to the new time zone (UTC -3), we appreciated the extra hour of sleep from the previous night's time change. The day was filled with engaging activities and learning opportunities. We participated in the Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5, taking in the breathtaking views of our surroundings. Some of us contributed to the eBird Citizen Science project, helping to document the diverse avian life we encountered. For those of us who had signed up for kayaking in Antarctica, we attended a mandatory briefing in the Lecture Hall. Lara introduced us to the basics of paddling in Antarctic waters and made us laugh with her amazing humor. Our educational journey continued with a fascinating lecture on the History of Antarctica, providing us with a deeper

understanding of the continent we were about to explore. The highlight of our day was the visit to Signy Station. We were divided into new, smaller groups to ensure a smooth and organized experience. Starting from 13:30, we took turns visiting the station, marvelling at the scientific work being conducted in this remote Antarctic location. We were lucky enough to have the station's staff guiding us around the premises and nearby areas. On the way out of the South Orkney Islands, we had a fantastic sail-away moment along an amazing iceberg parade. As the day wound down, we reflected on our experiences and looked forward to the adventures that awaited us in the rest of our journey in Antarctica. The first day in the White Continent perfectly balanced education, exploration, and relaxation, leaving us eager for what the rest of our journey would bring.



Heading Towards the South Shetlands

We began our day at sea on January 25th, 2025, with a flurry of activities and opportunities to learn and explore. Those eager to spot wildlife gathered at the bow on deck 5 for a Wildlife Watch session, braving the wind and weather. At 9:15 AM, we attended an enlightening lecture on "Penguins of the Peninsula" in the Lecture Hall, which was also streamed to our cabins as usual, allowing those who preferred to watch it from the comfort of their rooms. Following this, we had the chance to delve deeper into the properties of ice at the Science Center, where Laura hosted an informative session. One of the highlights of our day was the bridge visit. We were divided into groups and given the opportunity to explore the ship's command center. Creative spirits among us enjoyed the Art Corner in the

Reception Lounge, while others participated in the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer activity on deck 7, contributing to climate research by identifying clouds. As evening approached, we gathered for a mandatory camping briefing for those planning to camp in Antarctica. The day's educational program concluded with a fascinating lecture on "The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration". Our evening was filled with entertainment, starting with an informative presentation about the next day's plans, followed by the lively Fram "Pub" Quiz in the Lecture Hall. This day at sea proved to be a perfect blend of education, relaxation, and preparation for the adventures that lay ahead in our Antarctic expedition.





Half Moon Island

On January 26th, 2025, we embarked on an extraordinary Antarctic expedition, exploring Half Moon Island and Whalers Bay on Deception Island. Our morning began with a carefully organized landing at Half Moon Island between 07:00 and 11:00. As we set foot on the crescent-shaped island, we were immediately struck by its stunning Antarctic landscape. The island's 171 hectares revealed a

tapestry of raised cobbled beaches, small hills, and igneous rock outcrops, with over half of its surface covered by glaciers. We marvelled at the thriving colony of Chinstrap Penguins. From our vantage point, we gazed in awe at Livingston Island's glacier front, creating an unforgettable first impression of the South Shetland Islands.



Whalers Bay, Deception Island

In the afternoon, we landed at Whalers Bay on Deception Island, an active volcano with a distinctive horseshoe shape. As we entered through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow 230-meter wide entrance, we were transported into a world of geological wonders and rich history. We explored the remains of the early 20th-century whaling station and the British Base B, now protected as a historic site. Many of us walked along the beach to climb up the cliff to reach the scenic Neptune's Window, with a stunning view of the Bransfield Strait! Some of us joined the Science Boat groups, while others embarked on a thrilling kayaking adventure. The more adventurous among us took a Polar

Plunge, diving into the island's somewhat geothermally warmed waters - a unique experience for the bravest hearts. Our intellectual curiosity was further satisfied by fascinating onboard lectures. Giulia's presentation on Seals of Antarctica and Caroline's intriguing talk on volcanic eruptions at the Science Center deepened our understanding of the region's wildlife and geological phenomena. As evening approached, we gathered for a presentation outlining the plans for the following day, our minds still reeling from the day's incredible experiences in this pristine Antarctic wilderness.



Orne Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

On January 27th, 2025, we embarked on an unforgettable Antarctic adventure that began with a morning landing at Orne Harbour. As we stepped onto the shore, we realized we had made a continental landing on the Antarctic Peninsula itself. The excitement was palpable as we began our ascent up a steep, snow-covered slope. The climb was challenging, but the reward was immeasurable. At the summit, we

were greeted by a nice Chinstrap Penguin colony and breathtaking panoramic views of the dramatic Antarctic landscape. Glaciers stretched as far as the eye could see, their icy surfaces glinting in the morning light, while jagged mountain peaks pierced the sky, creating a scene of unparalleled beauty.



Danco Island, Antarctic Peninsula

In the afternoon, our expedition continued to Danco Island¹. Here, we encountered several Gentoo penguin colonies, their comical waddling and distinctive calls adding life to the stark beauty of the island. The landscape was dotted with massive icebergs, their azure hues contrasting sharply against the white snow and dark waters. These frozen giants, sculpted by wind and water, created an ever-changing gallery of natural art that left us in awe. The roaring of avalanches added to the extreme beauty and danger of the place, leaving us appalled. Throughout the day, some of our group participated in kayak adventures, guided by experienced activity leaders¹. Gliding

silently through the icy waters, they gained a unique perspective of the Antarctic coastline and its wildlife. As evening approached, a select few of us prepared for an extraordinary experience - camping under the Antarctic sky at Kerr Point. This Amundsen Night, as it was called, promised to be an unforgettable communion with the raw beauty of the Antarctic wilderness¹. From the continental landing and penguin encounters to the kayaking excursions and camping adventure, this day encapsulated the essence of Antarctic exploration. It was a day filled with wonder, challenge, and the profound realization of our place in this vast, icy realm.



Kerr Point Camping Site, Antarctica - Jan 27, 2025

Neko Harbour, Antarctica - Jan 28, 2025

Neko Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

On January 28th, 2025, we embarked on an unforgettable Antarctic adventure. Our day began early as the campers among us were picked up from Kerr Point before moving forward for our landing at Neko Harbour. As we approached Neko Harbour, we were greeted by a breathtaking sight. A spectacular glacier dominated the landscape,

its surface adorned with an array of blue hues that left us in awe. The landing site bustled with activity, primarily from the resident Gentoo penguin colony. We observed with delight that some of these charming birds had already welcomed their first chicks, a true testament to the cycle of life in this harsh yet beautiful environment.



Paradise Bay, Antarctic Peninsula

Our exploration continued into the afternoon as we embarked on an exhilarating zodiac cruise in the stunning waters of Paradise Bay. The bay, known for its serene beauty, lived up to its name with mirror-like waters reflecting the surrounding glaciers and mountains. Some fortunate members of our group were treated to sightings of humpback whales others spotted Weddell and/or Crabeaters Seals, adding an extra layer of excitement to our adventure. As evening

approached, we gathered in the Lecture Hall on deck 4 to learn about the plans for the following day. Our Antarctic journey continued to amaze us with each passing moment, from the wildlife encounters to the stunning landscapes. As we retired for the night, we eagerly anticipated what new wonders the next day would bring in this frozen paradise.



Last Day in Antarctica: Yalour Islands

Our last day in Antarctica was an unforgettable adventure as we explored the Yalour Islands at 65°S. We embarked on an exhilarating zodiac cruise, weaving our way through a maze of small islands surrounded by imposing icebergs. The anticipation was palpable as many of us had been eagerly hoping to spot Adelie Penguins, and to our delight, we were not disappointed. We observed numerous colonies of these charismatic birds, their distinctive tuxedo-like plumage a stark contrast against the icy landscape.

As we navigated the frigid waters, our excitement grew with each wildlife sighting. Some fortunate members of our group caught glimpses of a formidable Leopard Seal, known for its powerful predatory nature in these waters. Others spotted Crabeater Seals lounging on ice floes, seemingly unperturbed by our presence. The highlight for many was the majestic sight of Humpback Whales, their

massive forms gracefully gliding through the Antarctic waters.

After our thrilling zodiac adventure, we bid farewell to the Yalour Islands as the Fram set sail. The afternoon brought a different kind of excitement as we prepared for our journey across the infamous Drake Passage. We gathered for an enlightening lecture by Maeva, aptly titled "Drake Shake or Drake Lake." This presentation provided us with valuable insights into the unique characteristics of this notorious body of water, preparing us for what lay ahead in our voyage.

As we reflected on our final day in Antarctica, we felt a mix of emotions - exhilaration from our close encounters with wildlife, awe at the breathtaking landscapes we had witnessed, and a touch of nostalgia as we left this pristine wilderness behind. The Yalour Islands had given us one last, spectacular show of Antarctic beauty and biodiversity, leaving us with memories to cherish for a lifetime.



Crossing the Drake Passage

As we sailed through the Drake Passage on January 30th, 2025, our day at sea was filled with enriching activities and moments of relaxation. We began our morning with a Wildlife Watch session on the bow of deck 5. Some of us participated in the eBird Citizen Science project, contributing to important research while enjoying the ocean views.

The day's educational program was particularly engaging. We attended a fascinating lecture on the Antarctic Ice Sheet, which provided us with valuable insights into the region we had just visited. Later, we learned about the acrobats of the ocean - humpback whales - in another captivating presentation by Richard.

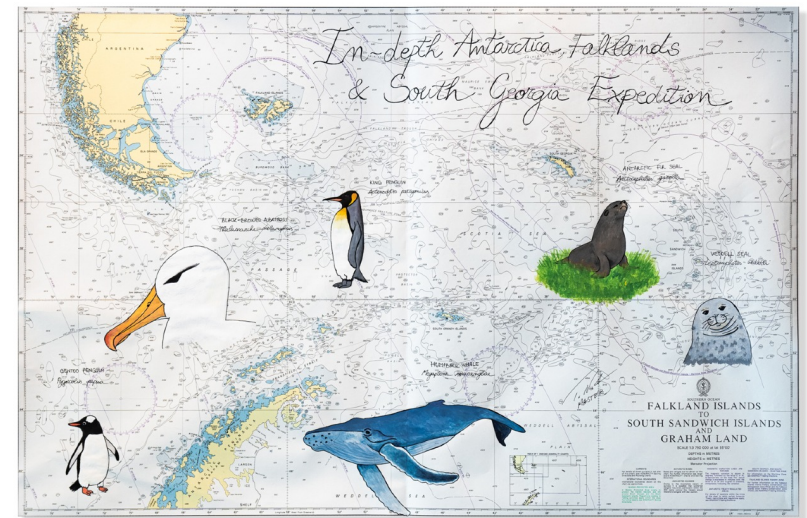
For those of us interested in hands-on activities, the Science Centre offered intriguing sessions. We discovered how to build a whale and explored the fascinating world of feathers. The knitting enthusiasts among us gathered in the Explorer Lounge for a cozy Knitting Corner, sharing techniques and stories.

In the evening, we attended a lecture on Roald Amundsen, "The

Chief," which deepened our appreciation for the rich history of Antarctic exploration. The highlight of the night was the HX Foundation Charity Auction, where we came together to support the HX project to protect the environment and wildlife in the places the company's ships call.

The day was to be concluded with the lively Seasick Band Night in the Explorer Lounge, but the infamous Drake Passage had a storm with 8-meter-high waves in store for us. The band's performance was cut short, providing quite an experience to end our journey before reaching Chile.

As we reflected on our incredible Antarctic adventure, the rough seas of the Drake Passage served as a fitting finale, reminding us of the raw power and unpredictability of nature. Despite the challenging conditions, we felt a sense of accomplishment and awe, having witnessed the wonders of the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic continent.



Puerto Williams

Here's a revised version with minor grammatical and syntactical improvements (changes explained below): After the bumpy night when we had swells up to 8 meters, we began our day aboard the ship with an early morning Wildlife Watch on the bow of Deck 5, where we braved the wind and weather to observe the local fauna. Following this, we gathered in the Lecture Hall for an informative session about our plans for the upcoming days, hosted by Tomski, the Expedition Leader.

Our thirst for knowledge continued as we made our way to the Science Center on Deck 4, where Laura guided us through an engaging cloud identification session, enhancing our understanding of the skies above. The morning's educational journey didn't end there; we returned to the Lecture Hall for a fascinating presentation on Tierra del Fuego, immersing ourselves in the rich history and culture of this remote region.

As midday approached, we participated in a Science Recap in the Lecture Hall, where the Expedition Team helped us review and

consolidate what we'd learned in recent days. After lunch, we were treated to a unique and personal lecture titled "1 Dollar, 9 Months, and 12 Years," where Ujjwal shared his childhood story, providing insight into a different world.

The afternoon brought another Wildlife Watch on the bow, followed by a chance to contribute to climate research. We joined Laura on Deck 7 for a NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session, learning to identify clouds and collect data for scientific studies.

Later, in the Science Center, Maëva challenged us to exercise our critical thinking with various activities. As evening approached, we enjoyed light-hearted fun with the "Lost at Sea" game in the Explorer Lounge, testing our problem-solving skills.

The day concluded with a short but enriching visit to Puerto Williams, where the return to civilisations allowed us to sense the remoteness of Antarctica even more and reflect on our journey. After nightfall, many of us gathered in the Explorer Lounge for "George's Excellent Voyage Quiz," a perfect capstone to our day of discovery.



Sailing through the Chilean Fjords

We embarked on an unforgettable journey through the Chilean Fjords aboard our expedition ship. Our day began early as we gathered on deck to witness the majestic Glacier Alley in the Beagle Channel, their icy facades glinting in the morning light. After a hearty breakfast in Restaurant Aune, we attended an informative disembarkation talk, preparing us for disembarking MS Fram tomorrow.

The morning continued with an engaging lecture on the history of the Strait of Magellan, deepening our understanding of this historically significant waterway. We then indulged our creative sides at the Art Corner, where many of us discovered hidden talents. In the afternoon, we relived our incredible journey through a captivating presentation,

"A Voyage Through Time," which stirred fond memories of our experiences.

As the day progressed, we participated in a wildlife watch from the bow, hoping to catch glimpses of the diverse marine life in these waters. Later, we learned about the conflicts involving Chilean sea lions in an enlightening session at the Science Center. The evening brought a touch of elegance as we joined the Captain for a farewell drink, raising our glasses to the remarkable expedition we had shared. Our day concluded with a nostalgic slideshow, showcasing the breathtaking moments we had captured throughout our voyage.







logbook.travelmap.net/20250112-frant2417