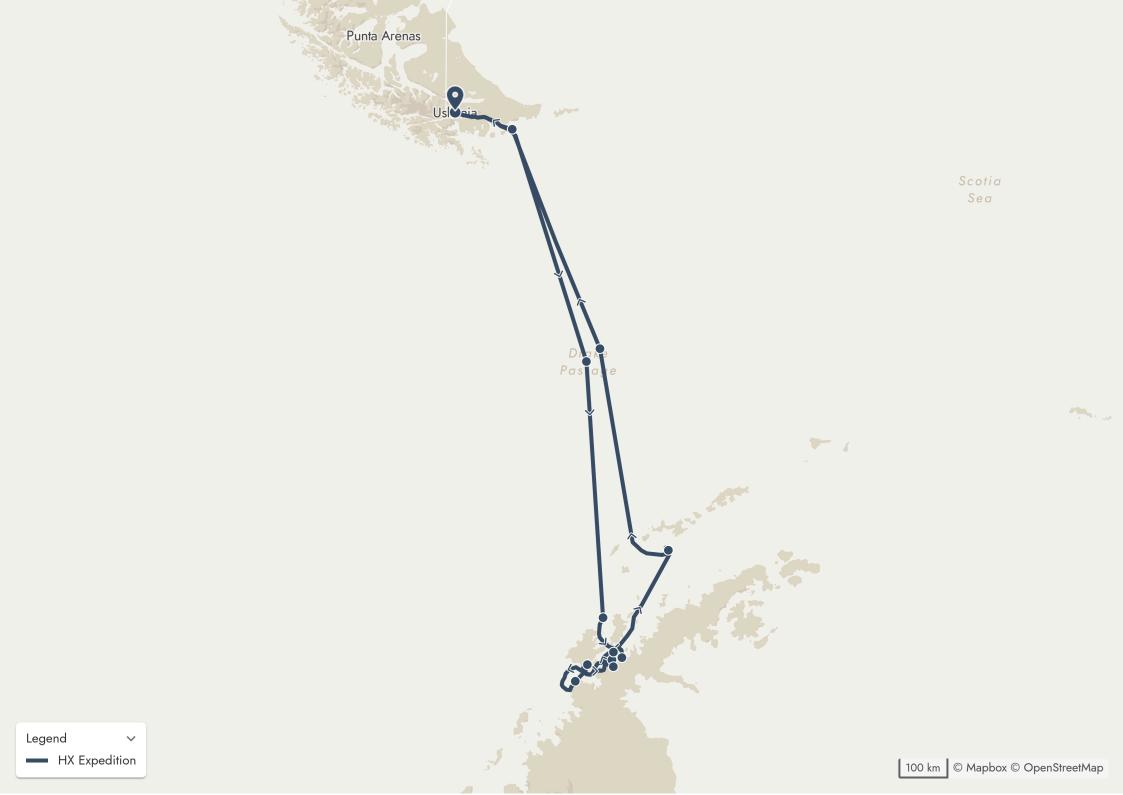


MS Fridtjof Nansen

2025.02.06 - 2025.02.16



Today, we boarded the MS Fridtjof Nansen at the port town of Ushuaia, excited about what is to come during our Antarctic

adventure!







Our first day at sea was spent familiarising ourselves with the ship. We attended lectures and briefings, preparing ourselves for what to

expect on our voyage south.





Our second day at sea was filled with lectures about everything from the geology of Antarctica to whale species of the area. We participated in binocular workshops and joined the crew on the forward deck for wildlife observations. This was also the day to pick up our boots and learn about the IAATO guidelines on how to best interact with the Antarctic wilderness.







Day 4 - morning

Today, we arrived at our first destination, the beautiful Wilhelmina Bay.

There was plenty of ice in the bay when we arrived in the morning,

and when the zodiac cruising started, it was even snowing - creating

the perfect Antarctic mood. The first of our kayak groups also made it out and enjoyed a morning navigating through the ice.





Day 4 - afternoon

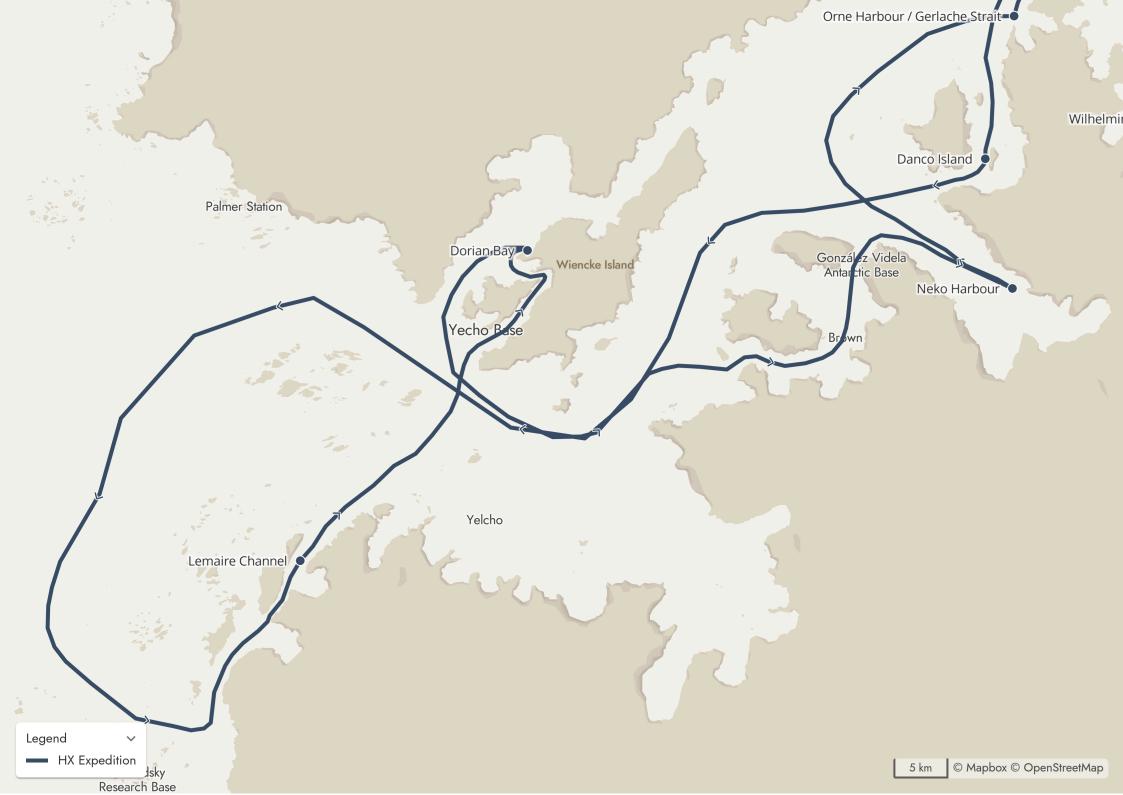
During lunch, we set sail for Danco Island, navigating through the Errera Channel with low clouds covering the mountaintops. Once on land, we had our first encounter with the charming Gentoo penguins -

chicks and adults - looking over the bay from their rookery on the hillside.









Day 5 - morning

This morning, we sailed through the stunning Lemaire Channel – the sun was even shining as we gathered on deck to take in the spectacular views. It was a tricky turn to get the ship past the first

iceberg sitting at the entrance, but we made it through and were rewarded with the sights of humpback whales having their breakfast in the sun!







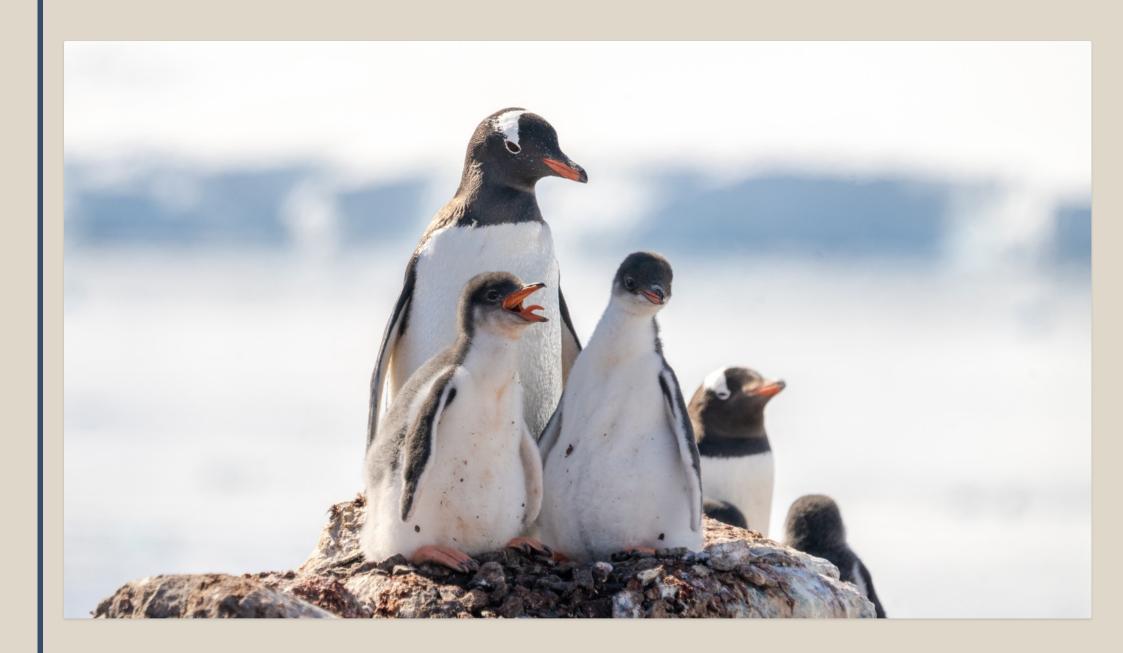
Day 5 - afternoon

After the spectacular morning sailings, we arrived at Dorian Bay on Wiencke Island. This was an afternoon packed full of activities, and groups of kayaking, snowshoeing, and science boats headed out into the sun. We landed by the Damoy Hut and wandered between Gentoo

penguin colonies along the hills. In the evening, we set up camp, and as the ship sailed away, the campers got to experience the silence of a night in Antarctica.







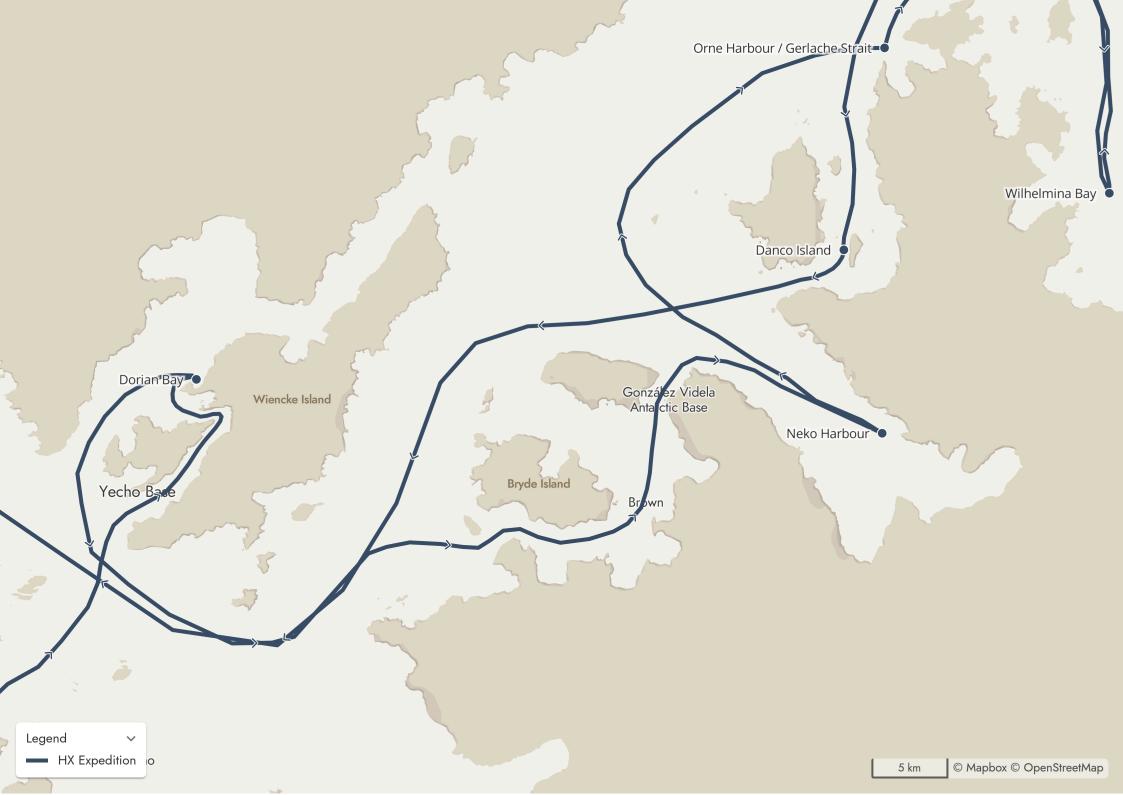
The majestic Neko Harbour — the beach was bustling with Gentoo penguins as we made our way ashore for our Antarctic continental landing! Walking up to the lookout over the harbour gave us the

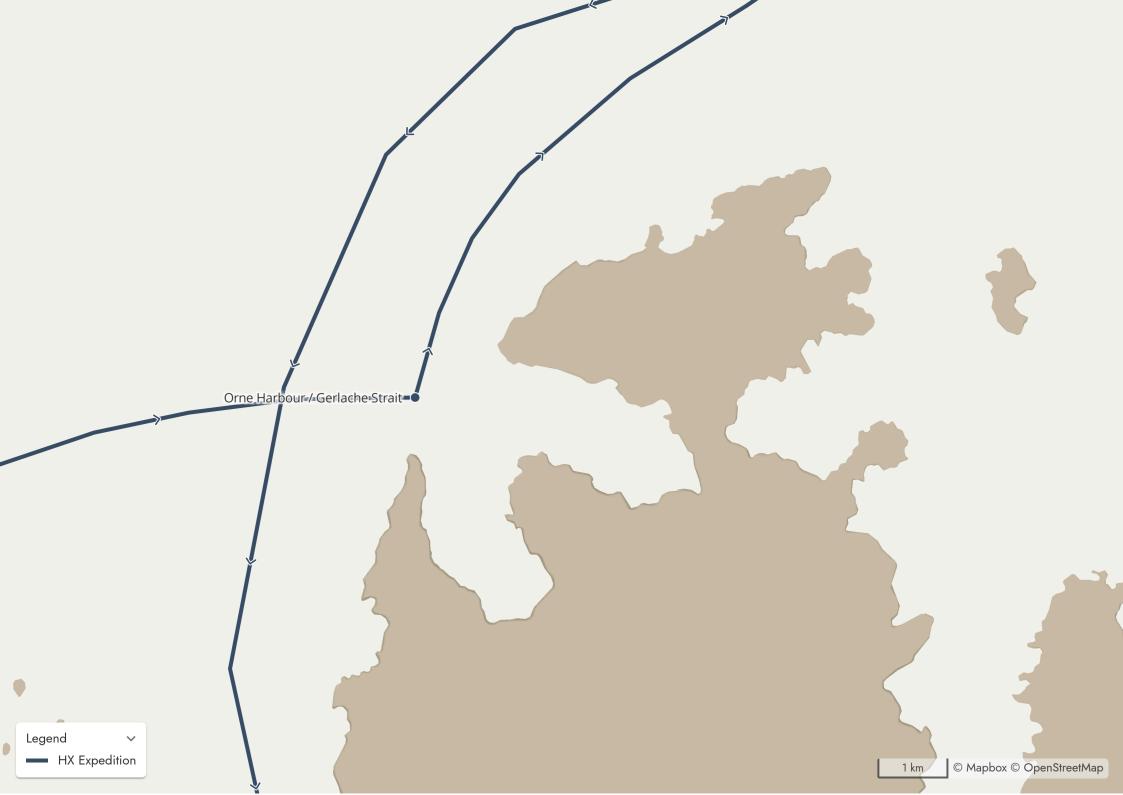
perfect view towards the glacier fronts as they calved and rumbled like thunder, creating waves that made it all the way to the beach.











The bay of Orne Harbour greeted us with shining sun and a lot of ice. It was just a bit too much ice for us to make it to the landing site, but that didn't stop us from enjoying the beautiful area in our Zodiacs. It

turned out to be the perfect place to find whales and seals, and we also watched chinstrap penguins jumping and climbing the rocks to their rookeries.







The last stop of our amazing voyage to Antarctica was at Whaler's Bay on Deception Island — a volcanic island that is part of the South Shetland Islands. This fascinating place is only accessible via a narrow entrance named Neptune's Bellows and was once home to one of the

most productive whaling stations in Antarctica. Fur seals dotted the beach amidst the ruins of fat silos and houses, keeping a watchful eye on us as we walked along the shore.







The first sea day on our return voyage was relatively calm, or a 'Drake Lake' as we would call it. Lectures and workshops filled our day, and in the afternoon, we enjoyed a Q&A with the officers in the Explorer

Lounge. As the proper sailors we now are, we were taught how to make knots, and we had the opportunity to revisit some of the amazing wildlife we had seen over the past week.





Our last day of the voyage was spent preparing ourselves for disembarkation. We said goodbye to the crew who had helped make

our voyage so memorable, and the Captain gathered us all in the Explorer Lounge for a final farewell Skål!













