



MS Roald Amundsen

2025.01.12 - 2025.01.28

Legend

— HX Expedition



## First day!

And so it begins! After long hours of flights and transfers, excitement was in the air as everyone stepped aboard the stunning MS Roald Amundsen. The ship is just stunning! The crew received everyone with

the warmest welcome and tried to make everyone feel just at home. We cannot wait for the ship to depart and the adventure to begin. We go out on deck and bid farewell to Ushuaia.





## The Beauty of the Southernmost Corner

And so, we set sail! After a brief delay, we departed from Ushuaia and were treated to breathtaking views of the Beagle Channel and a glimpse of Patagonia's rugged beauty. As we headed south, the legendary Cape Horn appeared on the horizon—a stark reminder of

just how far we had traveled. And yet, this was only the beginning. Ahead lay the formidable Drake Passage, the gateway to our grand adventure in the Great White Antarctic.





## Drake Lake

Many had braced for the infamous Drake Shake, expecting a turbulent crossing—but to our surprise, the Drake Passage showed us a rare moment of mercy. With calm seas, we eased into the journey, attending our first lectures and discovering just how enriching the

ship's educational and science programmes would be. With anticipation building, we looked forward to the adventures that lay ahead!



## Half way through!

Today was packed with activities. The Expedition Team delivered fascinating lectures, giving us deeper insights into the journey ahead while allowing us to get to know them better. With each passing day, the ship felt a little more like home. Some chose to unwind in the Spa

and Wellness Center, while others ventured out on deck to embrace the crisp polar breeze and scan the horizon for wildlife. We're now halfway there—our adventure is truly taking shape!



## Our first cruising! Oh and that KING Neptune...

After a long crossing of the Drake Passage, anticipation was high as we finally approached the White Continent. Our first experience was a zodiac cruise—an unforgettable introduction that left everyone returning to the ship with wide smiles. Ice was everywhere, in countless shapes and sizes. Our first seal sightings added to the

excitement (with many more to come), and the Expedition Team brought the experience to life with their expertise. We crowned the day with the Antarctic Circle Crossing Ceremony, where King Neptune - along with the captain and the Expedition Leader - baptized us.





## Dramatic geography and penguins

Red Rock Ridge was a world of wonders packed into a single landing. The rugged mountain formations were truly striking, creating a dramatic backdrop for our first encounter with a penguin colony. Along the way, a few curious skuas made an appearance, but the real

highlight was the penguins—especially the tiny, fluffy chicks. Watching the parents feed them was an unforgettable sight, one that will stay with us forever, both in our memories and in our hearts.



## Polar Plunge!

The morning excursion was incredible, but what came next took the excitement to a whole new level! At Blind Bay, we paused beside a breathtaking polar landscape, just meters from floating sea ice. Then, the tender pit opened, offering a rare and exhilarating opportunity—a polar plunge below the Antarctic Circle. How often does one get the chance to do that?

It was an absolute thrill. One by one, guests took the leap into the freezing water, emerging with wide-eyed exhilaration. And despite the bone-chilling shock, every single one of them agreed—it felt amazing. A true adrenaline rush!





## A Landing WHERE???

Just when we thought the day couldn't possibly get any better, the expedition team surprised us with an experience that left us all in awe—they found an ice floe sturdy enough for a landing. Who would have thought that was even possible?

After an already full day of adventures, some of us hesitated,

wondering if we had the energy for one more experience. But stepping onto that vast, frozen expanse was unlike anything else. The sheer thrill of standing on a floating piece of the Antarctic wilderness made it an unforgettable moment—one we were all grateful not to have missed.





## A Tractor in the Snow

This landing was undoubtedly a fan favourite below the Antarctic Circle—an experience impossible to forget. Set in a truly amazing location, the dramatic landscape alone was breathtaking. Adding to its intrigue, we encountered two former scientific stations that operated before and after WWII, remnants of human presence in this remote

wilderness.

As we hiked up, we came across a small abandoned tank, an eerie yet mesmerizing sight against the stark, icy backdrop. But the true highlight was the towering glacier before us, its deep rumbles and occasional calving creating a spectacle we will remember forever.





## The Greatest Arch

This day was nothing short of magical. Once again, the weather was spectacular, setting the perfect stage for our cruise through Martha Strait. Everywhere we looked, glacial ice and sea ice created a mesmerizing landscape. Along the way, we spotted several seals

resting on the ice, and some guests even glimpsed whales in the distance. But the true highlight was an absolutely colossal glacial arch, far grander than any of us could have imagined.







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20 km

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## Mount Scott and Another Sunny Day

The landing was simply spectacular—smooth terrain, breathtaking views of the icebergs, and penguins as photogenic as ever. But for many, the most striking feature was Mount Scott. This remarkable

peak, with its dramatic, near-vertical glaciers cascading toward the sea, was a sight to behold. Adding to the experience, Petermann Island served as our gateway to the legendary Lemaire Channel.



## Otherworldly...

People often say that no words or pictures can truly do Antarctica justice, and the Lemaire Channel was the perfect example of why. Towering, ice-clad peaks rose dramatically toward the sky, their sheer scale both humbling and awe-inspiring.

The weather was perfect—completely still, with not a breath of wind. The water mirrored the landscape so perfectly that it felt like sailing through a dream. The entire experience was almost surreal. And the best part? Sharing this unforgettable moment with the incredible people around us.





## An Unexpected "Kiss"

Today was truly special! Until now, we hadn't encountered any other ships, but that changed when we had a unique rendezvous with our sister ship, MS Fridtjof Nansen. This wasn't just an ordinary meeting to exchange supplies or information—it was a spectacle in itself.

The two ships performed a kind of "kiss," coming nose to nose while

guests from both vessels stood on deck, waving and cheering at one another. The moment was filled with joy, laughter, and a remarkable sense of camaraderie. Being just a few meters apart, it felt like a beautiful, shared experience in the vastness of Antarctica—one we won't soon forget.



## More Penguins! And greenery???

Just when we thought we hadn't seen enough penguins, Cuerville Island proved that Antarctica delivers in the most spectacular way. The setting was breathtaking, with a thriving colony of Gentoo penguins perfectly positioned against a backdrop of dramatic Antarctic landscapes—making it impossible not to take incredible photos.

But the most unexpected and unique feature of this landing? The green moss. A rare sight in this frozen world, it added an entirely different dimension to the experience.



## Camping like the Explorers of Old

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Conditions? Perfect. Logistics? Sorted. Campers? Ready. Excitement buzzed through the air as the long-awaited Amundsen Night began—a chance for brave guests to honour the legendary explorers of the past by spending a night outside the ship, camping in tents under the

Antarctic sky. When the first boat arrived in the morning to bring them back, a triumphant chorus echoed across the ice: “All well! All well!” Shackleton would be proud...

## Last Penguins!

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Despite having seen penguins at several landings, this one was just as magical as ever. The mountains were breathtaking, especially as the sunlight danced across their peaks, casting a golden glow over the landscape. The landing itself led us on a zigzagging uphill path,

where we encountered a charming Gentoo colony—and, amusingly, a lone Adélie penguin who seemed determined to join the group. These were the last penguins of our voyage, a bittersweet farewell to these endearing creatures. No doubt, we will miss them!





## A day to relax

Unfortunately, today's plans in Charlotte Bay did not materialize due to limited visibility. After enjoying spectacular weather throughout the voyage, the fog chose today to roll in, cloaking the landscape and making it unsafe to venture out in the dim light.

Still, a brief pause wasn't unwelcome. After days packed with adventure, many took the opportunity to unwind, pampering themselves and recharging before the grand finale—our last destination, the legendary Deception Island.





## In the Mouth of the Volcano

Just when we thought we had seen every possible Antarctic landscape, Deception Island proved us wrong. The day was unusually warm, and Whalers Bay was nothing short of surreal.

Steam rose from the black volcanic sand, carrying the distinct scent of

sulfur, while the eerie remnants of the old whaling station gave the place an almost post-apocalyptic feel. Neptune's Window offered a stunning panoramic view of the bay, and Neptune's Bellows provided the perfect setting for our final excursion—an unforgettable farewell to this extraordinary journey.







## The Way Back

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Our breathtaking adventure is nearly at its end! The Drake Passage remained kind to us, and though the sky was overcast, the energy on board was anything but.

Today, we returned our boots and patches to the Expedition Team.

Lectures continued, offering a final dose of insight, while many of us reluctantly began packing. The day wrapped up on a high note with an exciting auction led by Niels—a fantastic way to end an unforgettable voyage!



Drake Passage - Jan 27, 2025

## Farewell

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The final day of our adventure—so many memories to reflect on and unforgettable moments to cherish. The Expedition Team delivered their last lectures and workshops, while guests packed their belongings and savoured one final evening on board.

The journey culminated with the Captain's Farewell, Kay's beautifully crafted recap video (which captured the essence of our voyage beautifully), and a mesmerizing Andean flute concert by Luciano. A perfect ending to an experience we will never forget.

Ushuaia, Argentina - Jan 28, 2025





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