



MS Roald Amundsen

2025.02.13 - 2025.03.01

Legend

— HX Expedition



## And Here We Go!

Today, we flew from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, where we took a bus from the airport to the MS Roald Amundsen, our new floating home for the next 16 days. The ship looks absolutely gorgeous! That gigantic six-story screen definitely made an impressive first impression. The crew is so nice - everyone greeted us with a smile. Little did we know

how many of these new faces would become such wonderful hosts, and some even good friends we hope to see again. The Science Centre is impressive, the cabins are very cosy, and we could feel the warmth from the very beginning. And here we go!





## First Day on the Drake

Today we had so much going on in the lecture hall and the science centre. Many lectures about the life on board, the science and education program, and so on. It was a truly interesting introduction to how this is not going to be a typical cruise, which is exactly what we came here for. Our first day on the infamous Drake Passage, the

gateway to our grand adventure in the Great White Antarctic, had begun. Somehow everyone started to talk about boots and patches... soon we would find out they would be our best companions for the adventure to come.





## A "Not-So-Shake" of a Drake

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 calmer seas than the infamous 10-meter waves many had feared, we eased into the journey, attending our first

lectures and discovering just how enriching the ship's educational and science programs would be. With anticipation building, we looked forward to the adventures that lay ahead!



## The Mouth of a Volcano

Our first close encounter with Antarctica was unlike anything we had expected. The entrance to Neptune's Bellows was already quite the spectacle. Pendulum Cove felt incredibly unique, its black and white

atmosphere, the weather, our first glimpse into the history of Antarctica, and the steam rising from the shoreline all reminded us that we were standing quite literally at the mouth of an active volcano!





## The Most Glorious Channel

Today, we had another early morning, and the excitement in the air was palpable. By 7 a.m., the outer decks were packed, with everyone eagerly watching for the chance to cross the famous Lemaire Channel. A massive iceberg loomed ahead, and we saw a much smaller ship navigate the narrow passage between the iceberg and the mountain. We all wondered - would our vessel be able to make it through? Unexpectedly, we began our approach. The path grew smaller and

smaller until we could almost reach out and touch the iceberg with our fingertips. All we could do was stand in awe at the spectacle surrounding us - the towering iceberg, the sheer cliffs draped in ice, and the pristine reflection on the water. It was, without a doubt, the most glorious channel we had ever seen. Props to the Staff Captain at the helm - his bold navigation made for an unforgettable moment!



## Our Right of Passage

Today was wild. We started by officially crossing the Antarctic Circle, and the more-than-memorable ceremony (we truly appreciated King Neptune, but how was he not cold?). After lunch, we had our first zodiac cruising operation, where one of the four super-groups was able to go out. It was so interesting! Our first contact with Antarctic

sea ice, the occasional seal on it, the polar fog approaching, the snow starting to fall, the long time outside, and the cold storm creeping in. It was definitely rough for those who went out, but many take it as a more-than-worthy rite of passage in order to truly appreciate the White Continent, because the weather improved remarkably from then.





## Like a Time Machine

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 had 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 mesmerising 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.



## Fluffy Penguins!

Today could have been a sea day, but the expedition team made their best efforts to the very last, and they managed to get us all out on a cruising adventure. We had not seen many penguins so far, but this was the day when our penguin craving started to be satisfied. We were able to see many Adelie penguins in their moulting period,

which was truly cute (they are so fluffy!). We finished the day with a breathtaking, romantic concert, where Victor, Helberto, Rosita, Ricky, Nicky, Lois, and Luciano gave many of us some amazing chills with their voices, that piano, and that saxophone. Such a memorable show!





## That Neon-Green!

Our way to the landing site was so majestic as we cruised between all the icebergs. Once at the landing site, we were able to enter an old British scientific station, which was the ultimate time machine we had down south. Many of us saw an Antarctic fur seal sleeping near the landing site, and the copper in the rock made for some absolutely

fascinating neon-green shapes on the ground that were truly unique. The best part of the landing was the absolutely stunning view of the icebergs on the other side. Some of our most adventurous guests ventured on a glorious alternative hike that everyone just loved. Another day to cherish!



## The Gullet Embrace

The famous Gullet... a passage on which the timings for our future expedition day depended. We started early; most guests were out at 7am, and some even before that. The water was filled with ice floes, and the mountains all around us were shining like diamonds. And

there it was... the morning sun rising on the horizon, its rays stroking every single corner of the magnificent experience that embraced us as we sailed through. It was not only a successful crossing, but a highlight we will cherish for the rest of our lives.





## Damoy Jewels

Today's landing and activities were remarkable. The landing site and the weather were excellent. We had a lovely colony of Gentoo penguins, the geography was very dramatic, the snowshoeing excursion was a massive success, coming back right at the golden

hour, and many guests even did the legendary polar plunge. We finished the day by leaving the campers to experience one night under the Antarctic skies... just like the explorers of old.



## So Many Whales!

We had seen the occasional whale here and there during our voyage, but never like today. We did a wonderful landing at Danco, and simultaneously, we had the most unique zodiac cruise of our lives. Whales were everywhere, left and right, up and down. We could see

their blows, their dorsal fins, and even several flukes! It was impossible not to pinch ourselves, convinced it was the most celestial dream, and yet there we were. The words 'magical' and 'awe-inspiring' do not do justice to the emotions we all experienced that day.







## Glorious Walls

Our morning was basically our last Antarctic day before heading north. We were so delighted by an incredible zodiac cruise on Spert Island, where the geology and the icebergs were the scene-stealers. Never had we seen so many Antarctic fur seals together in a single

spot. Then we turned around the island to a very wavy environment, and that is when we started to see the glorious basaltic arch, the gigantic icebergs, and the unbelievably vertical walls of rock, which were entirely blocked by ice. What a stunning view!





## Set of Living Memories

Today was full of nostalgia. We had our last educational and science-related events, our Captain's Farewell, the recap of the expedition team, and the tremendously emotional recap video made by Ted. The

Drake was not terrible, and it was time to start packing... not only our luggage, but also our unbelievable set of new living memories that will stay in our hearts forever.





Ushuaia, Argentina - Feb 28, 2025

## Farewell

Today was our very last day on board. So many moments, it will be difficult to choose our favourite one. We sailed through the Beagle Channel, passed by the Chilean city of Puerto Williams, the

Lighthouse at the End of the World, and then we reached Ushuaia, our final destination before heading home.







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