



MS FRAM

2025.03.16 - 2025.04.06



Punta Arenas

Our group gathered in Punta Arenas, the gateway to Antarctica, where we boarded the MS Fram—our floating home for the upcoming three-week expedition. Excitement filled the air as we prepared for an adventure that would take us through Patagonia and Antarctica. After

settling into our cabins and attending the mandatory safety drill, we set sail southward to navigate the Fuegian fjords before reaching the open sea, bound for the Antarctic Peninsula.

Chilean Fjords

Our day at sea was filled with exciting activities. We set sail through the Beagle Channel, enjoying breathtaking views of Glacier Alley. As we cruised past Ushuaia and Puerto Williams, we observed wildlife from the bow. Later, we attended an informative session in the Lecture Hall, where the Expedition Team introduced us to the ship and the journey ahead. They shared fascinating details about Fram's science

program, and we had the chance to meet the scientists in the Science Centre. In the afternoon, we joined a lecture on photography composition. The day ended with a welcome drink hosted by the Captain in the Explorer Lounge, where the Officers, Crew, and Expedition Team were introduced.



Drake Passage

We continued our thrilling journey towards Antarctica, and in the meantime, enjoyed a series of fascinating onboard activities! We attended a presentation on the exploration expeditions in Antarctica, learned about the eBird Citizen Science Project, and received all the exciting details about kayaking and hiking in this pristine wilderness.

We also had a captivating talk on whales and dolphins, and spent some creative time at the art and knitting corners. And, of course, we attended the mandatory IAATO safety meeting, gearing up for tomorrow's landing.





Yankee Harbour

At last, we arrived in Antarctica! After a very interesting presentation on the seals of the South, we proceeded with the mandatory vacuuming of our clothing. Along the way, we spotted a few whale blows in the distance, building even more anticipation. And then, the moment we'd all been waiting for—we finally set our eyes on

Antarctica! We landed at Yankee Harbour, right in front of a massive glacier, and some of us were lucky enough to see a female elephant seal, fur seals, a crabeater seal, and, of course, many adorable Gentoo penguins. A great start to our Antarctic adventure!



Orne Harbour - Mar 20, 2025

277.3 km

Petermann Island - Mar 20, 2025

111.6 km

Orne Harbour & Petermann Island

We woke up in an absolutely breathtaking location, and soon we were out on the water heading towards Orne Harbour, home to a vital Gentoo penguin colony. Some of us, aboard the photography Zodiac, were fortunate enough to witness a leopard seal hunting penguins—such raw, untamed nature! Back on board, we had a packed day of

interesting activities, including a wildlife photography workshop, presentations on All About Penguins and The Frozen World, as well as a fascinating talk on What's in the Water at the Science Centre. It was another day full of discovery.





The Gullet

Although we couldn't land at Detaille Island as planned, the day turned out to be incredible. As we sailed south, we all gathered on the outer deck to watch a pod of orcas and several humpback whales. We then began crossing the Gullet, surrounded by stunning mountains and glaciers, with whales and seals everywhere. Unfortunately, we couldn't complete the crossing due to ice blocking

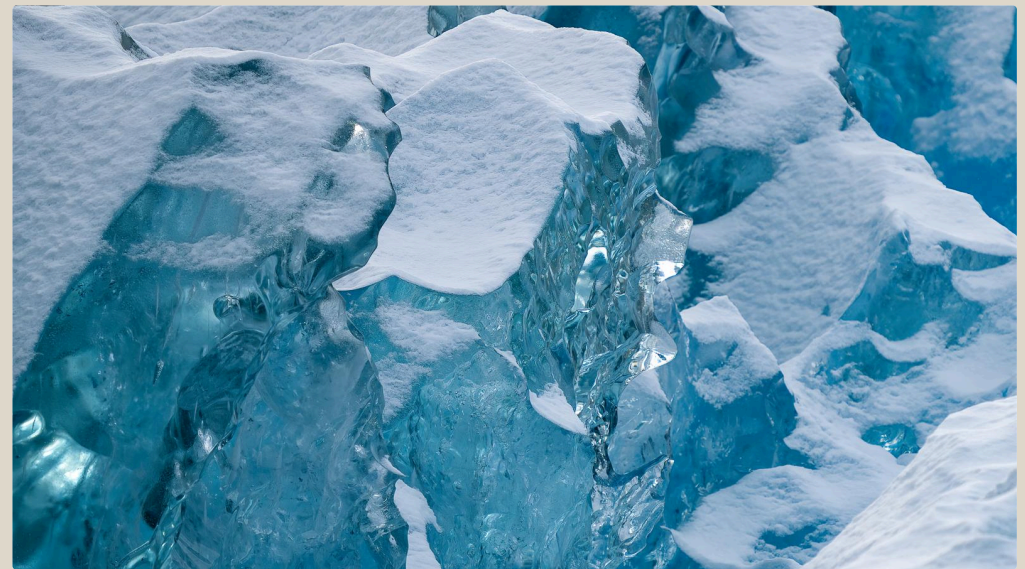
the narrows, but we were treated to an amazing Zodiac cruise among floating ice, whales, and seals. The kayak group had a similar experience, paddling through this breathtaking area. The afternoon ended with a thrilling landing on an ice floe—an unforgettable experience!



Fish Islands

The day began with a presentation on the eBird Citizen Science Project, followed by the "Race to the South Pole" activity. Next, some of us participated in the traditional Antarctic Circle Crossing Ceremony, which includes a very cold-water baptism. Unfortunately, we couldn't land at Prospect Point as planned due to excessive ice at

the landing site. However, we had an incredible time on a Zodiac cruise among the icebergs and islands, home to a variety of bird species, including Adélie penguins, Antarctic shags, and Antarctic terns. The experience was fantastic, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.



Yalour & Pleneau

The day began with an incredible Zodiac cruise around the Yalour Islands, where we spotted seals, cormorants, and penguins, all framed by the majestic snowy mountains in the background. Once back on the ship, we had some time to relax and enjoy lunch before gearing up for more adventures. Some of us ventured out on kayaks, while others joined the Science Boat or Photo Adventure cruise.

Regardless of the activity, the entire group landed at Pleneau Island, home to a Gentoo penguin colony along with terns and shags. From there, we were treated to a stunning view of a vast iceberg field. After returning to the ship, we began our passage through the Lemaire Channel, and everyone gathered on the bow for a drone photo of us alongside the ship.





Brown Station & Wilhelmina Bay

Early in the morning, we landed on the Antarctic continent at the Argentine Brown Station, while some of us went out with the science boat. The weather was perfect at first, but as our visit progressed, Antarctica began to show its teeth, with strong winds blowing in our faces as we boarded the ship. Onboard, we attended a fascinating

presentation about volcanoes, followed by another session at the Science Center, where we got a closer look at the water samples collected during the trip. In the afternoon, we arrived at Wilhelmina Bay, which was teeming with whales. Whether from the zodiacs or the ship, we had an extraordinary afternoon.





Whalers Bay

While sailing north towards Deception Island, we attended a presentation about ice. Afterward, we entered the volcanic caldera through a narrow gap called Neptune's Bellow. From the deck, we saw the remnants of a whaling station and passed the Spanish and Argentine Antarctic stations. We then attended two presentations—

one on cetaceans and another on Shackleton. After lunch, the expedition team attempted a landing at Whalers Bay, but a gale forced us to cancel it. However, we admired the forces of nature from the calm of a dormant caldera. By day's end, we continued north toward the challenging Drake Passage.





Río Gallegos

Puerto Natales

Bernal Glacier

Chilean Fjords - Day 2

Punta Arenas

Porvenir

Rio Grande

Tierra del Fuego

Alberto de Agostini
National Park

Ushuaia

Puerto Williams

Chilean Fjords

Chilean Fjords

Legend
HX Expedition

50 km

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Drake Passage - Northbound

The Drake Passage showed us its teeth, and the journey back was a bit bumpy. Nevertheless, we had an amazing time onboard, with activities like the Scavenger Hunt that took us all around the ship! We

also attended fantastic presentations on topics such as orcas, the Antarctic climate, the Antarctic food web, and three fascinating tiny-talks.

Chilean Fjords - Beagle Channel

Today we arrived at the Beagle Channel, named after HMS Beagle, the expedition ship that first explored it from the European side. Onboard, there were plenty of activities taking place. A scavenger hunt had many of us running around the ship, and we also enjoyed a photo session with the ship's photographers, wildlife watching, and

engaging lectures—on topics such as ocean waves, Antarctica after the Heroic Age, and the role of women in Antarctic exploration. As we rehearsed sea shanties, we sailed past the Chilean town of Puerto Williams and the Argentine city of Ushuaia.

Chilean Fjords - Day 2

Today was a navigation day, but since we're sailing through the Chilean fjords, there's always something to see from the deck — dolphins, seabirds, and snow-capped mountains. As usual, the day was full of onboard activities, including a presentation on the birds of

Patagonia, a knot-tying session, a hands-on workshop about feathers in the Science Centre, and the daily Plans for Tomorrow briefing. We're all eager to land in Puerto Natales and finally experience the heart of Patagonia.

Puerto Natales, Chile - Mar 29, 2025

263.1 km

Chilean Fjords & Puerto Natales

Today, we sailed through the Chilean fjords and navigated the daunting White Narrows. We arrived in Puerto Natales, and in the afternoon, we explored the town, doing some shopping and enjoying stunning views of the Last Hope Sound along the coastal walk. We

also spotted some fascinating birds, including the black-necked swan. Puerto Natales is undoubtedly a charming town, full of photo opportunities at every turn.



Puerto Natales

Today was a full 'land' day. The group embarked on different excursions in various directions. Many of us ventured to the stunning Torres del Paine National Park, either for a hike or a sightseeing tour. We were all able to see the iconic Cuernos del Paine, along with guanacos and other fascinating Patagonian wildlife. Some visited the

Mylodon Cave, which is rich in incredible history, while others took a tour around Puerto Natales. By the end of the day, many of us took a stroll through the town, either shopping or enjoying a coffee or ice cream. A truly wonderful day!



Bernal Glacier

What was supposed to be a day of navigation was unexpectedly changed by an announcement from the Expeditions Team. Instead, we would be landing near a Patagonian glacier. And so it was— we landed at Glacier Bernal in Kawescar National Park. The landing was smooth, and we then walked through a young forest for about fifteen minutes, catching glimpses of the vibrant blue glacier ahead of us.

Eventually, we arrived at an open, rocky area right in front of a majestic glacier descending from the mountains. It was absolutely awe-inspiring and entirely unexpected. As light rain began to pick up, we boarded once more to continue our northward navigation, as originally planned.





Puerto Eden

During the morning, we were captivated by fascinating presentations on cetacean migration and the secrets of seafarers. We then continued our journey along the Chilean fjords, eventually reaching the small town of Puerto Eden, home to a modest Kawesqar community. Local guides took us through the town's narrow walkways, sharing fascinating facts and stories about this remote place.

Afterward, we resumed our northward voyage, and once again, the Captain amazed us by steering the ship into a narrow fjord that led us toward a stunning mountain range, at the end of which lay a massive glacier. We spent over half an hour there, gazing in awe at the breathtaking scene before continuing our northbound route.



Chilean Fjords - Toward Castro

A sea day in the Chilean Fjords is no ordinary sea day. The channels are narrow, the vegetation is lush, and we're always on the lookout for dolphins, whales, sea lions, and a variety of bird species. On top of

that, we enjoyed a visit to the bridge, a knot-tying workshop, and presentations on the "Plastic Problem" and "Ocean Giants." Another wonderful day!

Castro

We approached Castro, sailing through a beautiful channel with views of charming small villages along the way. Upon arrival in Castro, we had a variety of activities to choose from. Some embarked on a trekking tour through Chiloe National Park, home to numerous endemic species, while others visited villages on Quinchao Island,

sampling traditional dishes and drinks from Chiloe. The rest opted for a walking tour around the town of Castro. The weather was perfect, and everyone had the opportunity to admire and visit the magnificent wooden church of Castro, crafted from local wood.





At Sea - Day 1

As the end of this fabulous trip approaches, we already find ourselves missing our new friends. We attended a presentation on 'Whales in the 21st Century' and 'The History of South America,' followed by a

Disembarkation Talk and a Q&A session with the officers. After dinner, we had a great time participating in the Expedition Team Quiz, where we competed for a bottle of champagne.



At Sea - Day 2

Today we were still at sea, but what a day it was. We spotted many blue whales throughout the day and had the opportunity to reflect on our voyage. The science team gave a recap of the research

conducted, and the entire expedition team shared their favourite moments with us during a presentation. The day ended with an amazing slideshow created by the onboard photographers.

Valparaiso

Today is the day—we've made it to Valparaiso and will now turn our heads homeward. Some of us may continue our explorations elsewhere, but we say goodbye to our beloved MS Fram and her

crew, knowing we are always welcome aboard in the future. What a trip this has been.



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