



MS Roald Amundsen

2025.04.04 - 2025.04.21



Valparaíso

After long travels from all over the world, we finally arrived at what would be our home for the next 18 days. Valparaíso, with its many

hills full of colourful houses, welcomed us, and we embarked on MS Roald Amundsen.



Coquimbo & La Serena

While some of us stayed in Coquimbo, venturing off into the wetlands with the ship's ornithologist to view birds, most of us went on a guided tour to explore the adjacent La Serena, a beautiful city by the beach. We got off at the lighthouse and later had a short tour through

the Archaeological Museum before we explored the downtown area with its churches, the main square, and the souvenir market La Recova.





Legend

— HX Expedition

At Sea 06.04.2025

A day to decelerate and enjoy the vastness of the ocean. The expedition team offered lots of different activities and lectures, while some of us decided to relax in the sauna, jacuzzi and the pool, or

rather sit down comfortably in the Explorer Bar and watch the world (or the ocean) go by.



Iquique, Humberstone & Santa Laura

The majority of us set off on a journey into the hot and dry Atacama Desert. There, we visited the former Humberstone and Santa Laura

saltpetre mines — a journey back in time to the 18th and 19th centuries, close enough to touch and yet pure ghost towns.



Arica

The many beaches can quickly disguise the fact that we are still right on the edge of the Atacama Desert. We drove up to the city's iconic viewpoint, El Morro, mingled with the crowds at the local market, and

finally took a walk along the coast. As a final highlight of this warmly welcoming city, a band played right on our pier - good vibes guaranteed.



At Sea 09.04.2025

A sunny day at sea. The sun will probably stay with us for the rest of the journey. It's wonderful to linger in the pleasant temperatures on

the deckchairs outside on deck and in the pool.



Paracas & Islas Ballestas

A fantastic day that began with a boat trip to the Islas Ballestas. This is a retreat for sea lions, Humboldt penguins and various bird species. We were able to see pelicans, Inca terns, Nazca boobies and other

feathered friends up close. Afterwards, those who wanted to could linger in Paracas, a small town with lots of beaches, buy souvenirs or drink a pisco sour or two.





Máncora

At Sea

Piura

Chiclayo

Cajamarca

Jaén

Trujillo

At Sea

Chimbote

Callao / Lima

Paracas

Huancayo

Ica

Peru

Cerro de Pasco

Pucallpa

Cruzeiro do Sul

Iquitos

Machala

Cuenca

Cuzco

Legend



HX Expedition

100 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Lima

A contrast to the other places on this trip: Lima, one of the largest cities in South America with a population of 11 million, caused plenty of traffic jams on the roads. We didn't let this discourage us and explored Lima's historic city centre with our tour guide. Beautiful

colonial buildings and balconies attracted our attention. In the stylish Miraflores neighbourhood, we were then able to walk through the pretty Parque del Amor and take in the view of the Pacific Ocean and the city's cliffs.



At Sea 12.04.2025

A beautiful, sunny, warm day at sea. The outside decks are highly frequented for enjoying the sun and the pool. Holiday vibes are

spreading on the ship. Still, many of us eagerly participate in the scientific programme offered by the Expedition Team.



At Sea 13.04.2025

Another day on the ocean. We feel that it is getting more humid as we get closer to the equator. The crew organised an afternoon pool

party with some salsa moves. After dinner, many of us joined (at least for listening in to) the karaoke session in the Explorer Bar.



Máncora

After a lengthy clearance by the local authorities, we were able to continue our journey northwards and reached our destination at midday. In the swell, the Zodiacs were lowered into the water to take us to the pier. The pier had a lot to offer: frigatebirds hovered in the air, pelicans frolicked on the water, and sea turtles swam around

eagerly to snatch the fish leftovers from the local fishermen. Wildlife watching up close. But the two resorts with their beautiful pool facilities also invited us to linger. After a refreshing swim in the Pacific, we happily returned to the ship.



At Sea 15.04.2025

During the day, we felt the humid, warm air of the proximity to the equator. In the early afternoon, we actually crossed the equator,

continuing our way north. Lots of science and education programmes kept us busy throughout the day.



Flying fish

At Sea 16.04.2025

After having crossed the equator yesterday, today the infamous equator crossing ceremony followed. While we, as guests, got away

with some ice water on our necks, the crew had to take a dose of undefined "food" and was also drenched with it.



Isla Cebaco

What a warm welcome — the whole village was up for greeting us and showing us their village and their culture. Local costumes and dances entertained us, we were trying different local foods and fruits

and were meandering through their village. It was refreshing to take a bath in the Pacific Ocean before going back to the ship with the expedition zodiacs.





Golfito

Our first stop in Costa Rica. As the rainy season was about to start, the air was very warm and humid. Walking around town with a guide turned out to be not only an interesting cultural and town tour but also

an enlightening nature walk, during which most of us were lucky enough to see many different, mostly colourful birds and beautiful flowers amidst the abundant greenery.



Quepos

An early morning for many of us: the tender boats brought us ashore, and while some of us began excursions like a mangrove boat trip or a hike in Manuel Antonio National Park, many of us went on a guided walk through town. Along the warm rocks by the waterfront, we saw

many iguanas sunbathing. No matter where we looked, we could see and hear all kinds of birds, and if we were lucky, even toucans or parrots.



Curu Wildlife Refuge

Another sunny, warm day awaited us at this paradise-like wildlife refuge. A long, sandy beach with warm Pacific Ocean water invited us for a swim. But the forest was also alluring. A knowledgeable nature guide took us on a walk through the lush vegetation. With

some luck, we discovered a variety of bird species, as well as many capuchin monkeys and other tropical animals. A successful last day of our trip.





Puntarenas, Costa Rica - Apr 21, 2025

Puntarenas

It's time to leave the ship and say goodbye. Countless memories have been made over the past few weeks - new faces met, and moments to cherish forever.





logbook.travelmap.net/20250404-amsou2507