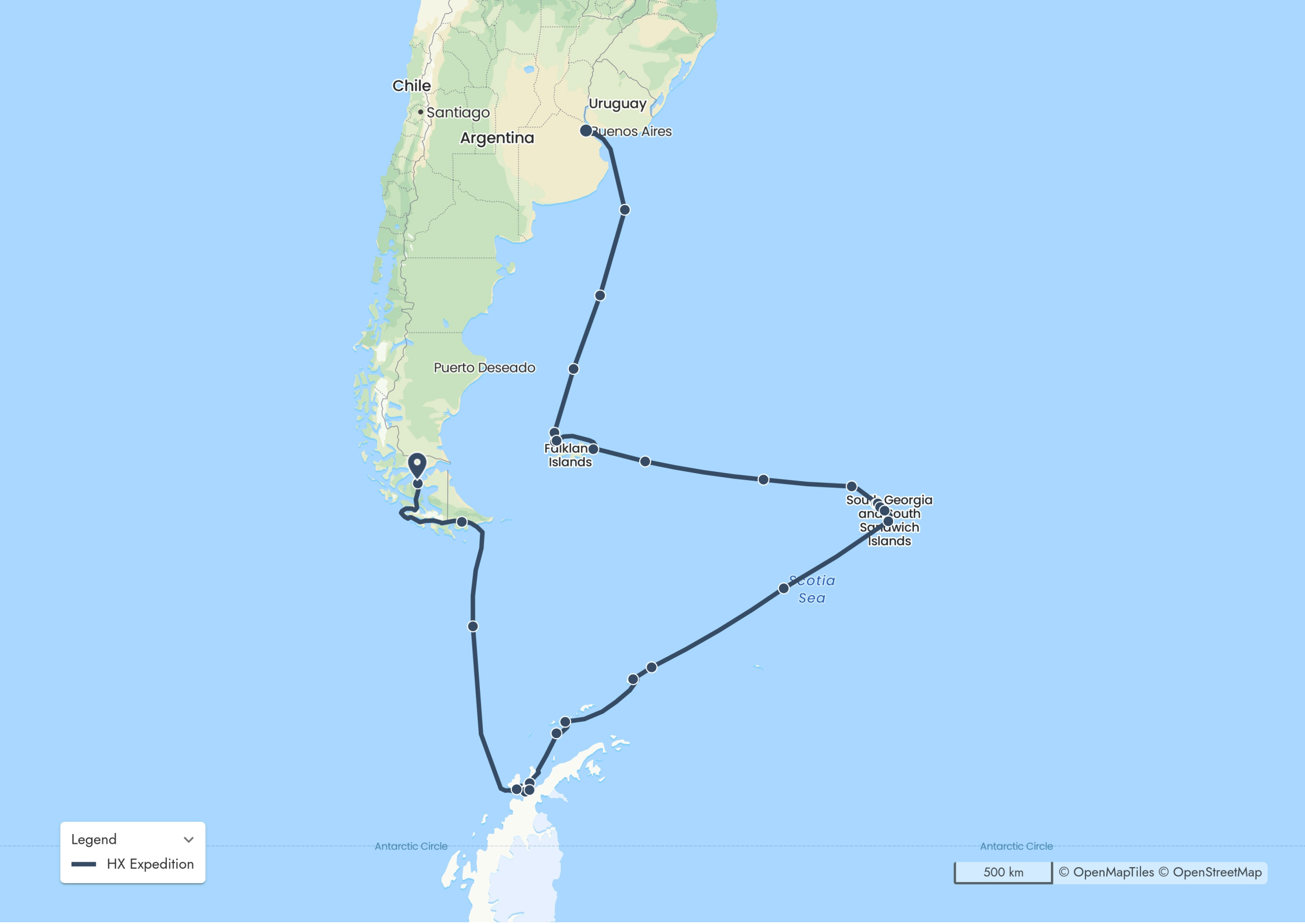




## FRANT2509 - Springtime Expedition to Antarctica

2025.10.24 - 2025.11.15



## Buenos Aires

Our group gathered in Buenos Aires, our Gateway to Antarctica, where we boarded the MS Fram, our floating home for the upcoming three-week adventure. The excitement was palpable as we anticipated our journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and ultimately,

Antarctica. It had been a long journey for all of us, and after settling into our cabins, we savored a delightful inaugural dinner aboard the ship. Following the mandatory Safety Drill, we finally set sail around 19:00, charting a course for our first stop: the Falkland Islands.





## At sea

---

Our second day aboard the MS Fram promises an engaging schedule as we sail towards our first port of call. The day begins with an early Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5 and a stretching session on deck 7. Just after breakfast, a Ship & Voyage Introduction by the Expedition Leader and Hotel Manager was held, providing essential information about our journey. Later, we learned about Fram's science program and citizen science projects. Afterwards, we were invited to the Science Center to meet the scientists and discover how to participate in onboard research activities. The afternoon starts with a lecture on Expedition Photography, offering valuable tips on

composition and general photography techniques. Later, we joined a NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session on deck 7, contributing to climate research by learning to identify clouds. We also have a first art session creating some clay figures. The highlight of the day is the Captain's Welcome at 17:30 in the Explorer Lounge. The Captain introduced his officers, crew, and the Expedition Team, allowing us to meet those who will guide us throughout our journey. This packed day sets the tone for our exciting journey ahead, blending education, exploration, and preparation as we sail towards adventure.







## Sailing along South America

---

Today we had a rough sea but we were very well entertained on board with exciting activities and enriching experiences that cater to every curiosity. The day unfolds with a flurry of educational and engaging events. We start with cardio exercises on the outside decks and with a Wildlife Watch on the bow, keeping our eyes peeled for the majestic creatures of the Southern Ocean. Our minds are nourished by fascinating lectures. We are introduced to fascinating talks like "Breaking the Surface: Whales and Dolphins in Those Waters" and "Clouds, Powerful Agents to Global" also "Environmental Stewardship in Antarctic Tourism". For the scientifically inclined among us, we participate in citizen science

projects like the iNaturalist project and the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer. We're not just passengers; we're contributors to real scientific research. Our creative sides aren't neglected either. We express ourselves at the Art Corner and join the Knitting Corner in the Explorer Lounge, sharing stories and skills with fellow travelers. As the day progresses, we prepare for our upcoming adventures in South Georgia and Antarctica. As night falls, we gather for an update on tomorrow's plans, our minds buzzing with anticipation. This journey isn't just a vacation; it's an odyssey of discovery, learning, and connection - with nature, with science, and with each other.





## Another day at sea

---

We're sailing the high seas on an incredible expedition, embracing the spirit of exploration. Our day is filled with exciting activities and enriching experiences that cater to every curiosity. The day unfolds with a flurry of educational and engaging events. We start with a Wildlife Watch on the bow, keeping our eyes peeled for the majestic creatures of the Southern Ocean. Our minds are nourished by fascinating lectures. We delve into the "Birds of the Falklands" and later, we're transported back in time with "The Falkland war" all in preparation to our next destination. For the scientifically inclined

among us, we participate in citizen science projects like the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer. In the science center we also have a session to learn more about feathers. Our creative sides aren't neglected either. We express ourselves at the Art Corner and join the Knitting Corner in the Explorer Lounge, sharing stories and skills with fellow travelers. This journey isn't just a vacation; it's an odyssey of discovery, learning, and connection - with nature, with science, and with each other.



## On our way to the Falklands

---

We have been advancing slower than planned due to the weather, we will not arrive to the Falklands today in the afternoon but tomorrow in the morning. But we have again an exciting and enriching program on board. We start the day with some exercises outside on deck 7 and with a Wildlife Watch on the bow. Our eager for knowledge is filled with some great lectures and workshops, there is something for everybody: Lecture like "Antarctic Fossils - the Incredible Journey of Surviving Remains of Organisms and their Behaviour", the Workshop: "Build your Own Sextant", the lecture "The

Wonder of Bird Migration" and a second time of the lecture ""Falkland war, Guerra de las Malvinas" this time in German for our German speaking comrades. We express ourselves again at Knitting Corner in the Explorer Lounge. And that's not all, in the science center we have some more exciting workshops like "Workshop: Birds in Flight" and "Oceans in Motion". We go to bed with the happiness of having enjoyed every minute of the day and the excitement of the day to come in the Falkland Islands, our first landing of the expedition







## Westpoint Island

---

After four days our expedition brought us to the Falkland Islands, where we experienced two remarkable landings that showcased the archipelago's incredible wildlife. Our morning began with a landing at West Point Island. This small island, just five miles long and two miles wide, is home to one of the Falklands' largest black browed albatross colonies. We embarked on a longer hike to a labyrinth of tussock grass towards the albatross colony. The path led us to an area known as Devil's Nose, where we encountered an impressive gathering of black-browed albatrosses. As we walked, these graceful birds soared incredibly close over our heads, providing an

unforgettable experience. For those who preferred not to hike, a Land Rover shuttle service was available, offering its own unique adventure as it navigated the island's rugged terrain. We watched as they performed courtship rituals and demonstrated their somewhat clumsy landings - a stark contrast to their grace in the air. The air was filled with the cacophony of squawking and braying as we also observed the Rockhopper penguins, small, charismatic birds known for their distinctive yellow crests, nesting among the rocks and in between the albatrosses nests.



## Carcass Island

---

Our afternoon on Carcass Island was equally eventful. This predator-free haven allowed us to observe thriving native bird populations, including the rare Cobb's Wren. We felt incredibly fortunate to spot this small, brown bird with its long, slightly curved bill, as it's endemic to the Falkland Islands and considered a vulnerable species. We enjoyed a delightful visit to the "Cookie House," the main settlement on Carcass Island, where we indulged in a traditional

Falklands "smoko." The McGill family's warm hospitality and delicious home-baked treats were a perfect complement to our wildlife adventures. Some of us completed a longer hike on Carcass Island, enjoying beautiful walking trails and spotting additional wildlife like gentoo and Magellanic penguins, striated caracaras, and Falkland steamer ducks.

## Stanley

---

Today we were excited to explore Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We docked at 06:45 of a very windy day, and we were able to disembark once clearance was given. As we sailed through The Narrows into Stanley Harbour around 06:30, some of us were on deck with cameras ready to capture the stunning views. We had a variety of excursions planned for the day. Some of us embarked on

the Falklands Nature Trek, others on the self guided walk in Gipsy cove. For those interested in a more comprehensive overview, the Stanley Highlights bus tour was available, concluding at the Historic Dockyard Museum. Throughout the day, we had the opportunity to explore Stanley at our leisure. A shuttle bus service ran between MS Fram and the Jetty Visitor Center and between MS Fram and Gipsy



Cove. Back on board, we had some interesting activities lined up. At 16:30 we had a wildlife watch, at 17:30 an open Science Center and at 20:15 a lecture about "Our Seafarer's Secret: Know your Ship and

the Crew". Our departure was postponed to the next morning due to the strong winds. The port authorities would allow no other way.



## Towards new horizons

---

We leave Stanley in the early morning. We are now on our first sea day on the way to the South Georgia Islands and we have a full program on board. The morning starts with a cardio session on deck 7 and a Wildlife Watch on deck 5. Very early we have a Tiny talk roulette with some very interesting additional information about the place we just visited, the Falkland Islands. At 10:30 we are all called to a mandatory South Georgia Briefing in which we get an explanation of the rules involving our next destination. During the day

there is a lot of activities to choose from: The art corner, the knitting corner, a Scavenger hunt, Pumping carving given that today is Halloween or NASA Cloud observer. We also have some lectures and workshops like "The Rock Cycle - How Do Rocks Form?" and "The Whale Memorial of Grytviken" explained by the artist who is on board with us and will put up the memorial in Grytviken.





## On our way to South Georgia

---

Today, we find ourselves at sea, embracing the now tranquility of the open waters as we continue our expedition. As we sail, we're reminded of our responsibility to the environment. We've been asked to close our window blinds during dusk and dawn to prevent bird strikes, a small but significant action we can take to protect the local wildlife. Our day is filled with engaging activities. We started with a Wildlife Watch participating in the eBird Citizen Science project.

These activities allow us to connect with the marine environment and contribute to scientific research. As we look forward to our upcoming visit to South Georgia, we're filled with anticipation for the unique landscapes and wildlife we'll encounter. Today's activities and briefings are preparing us for the adventures that lie ahead, reminding us of the privilege and responsibility we carry as visitors to these pristine environments.





## A23A

---

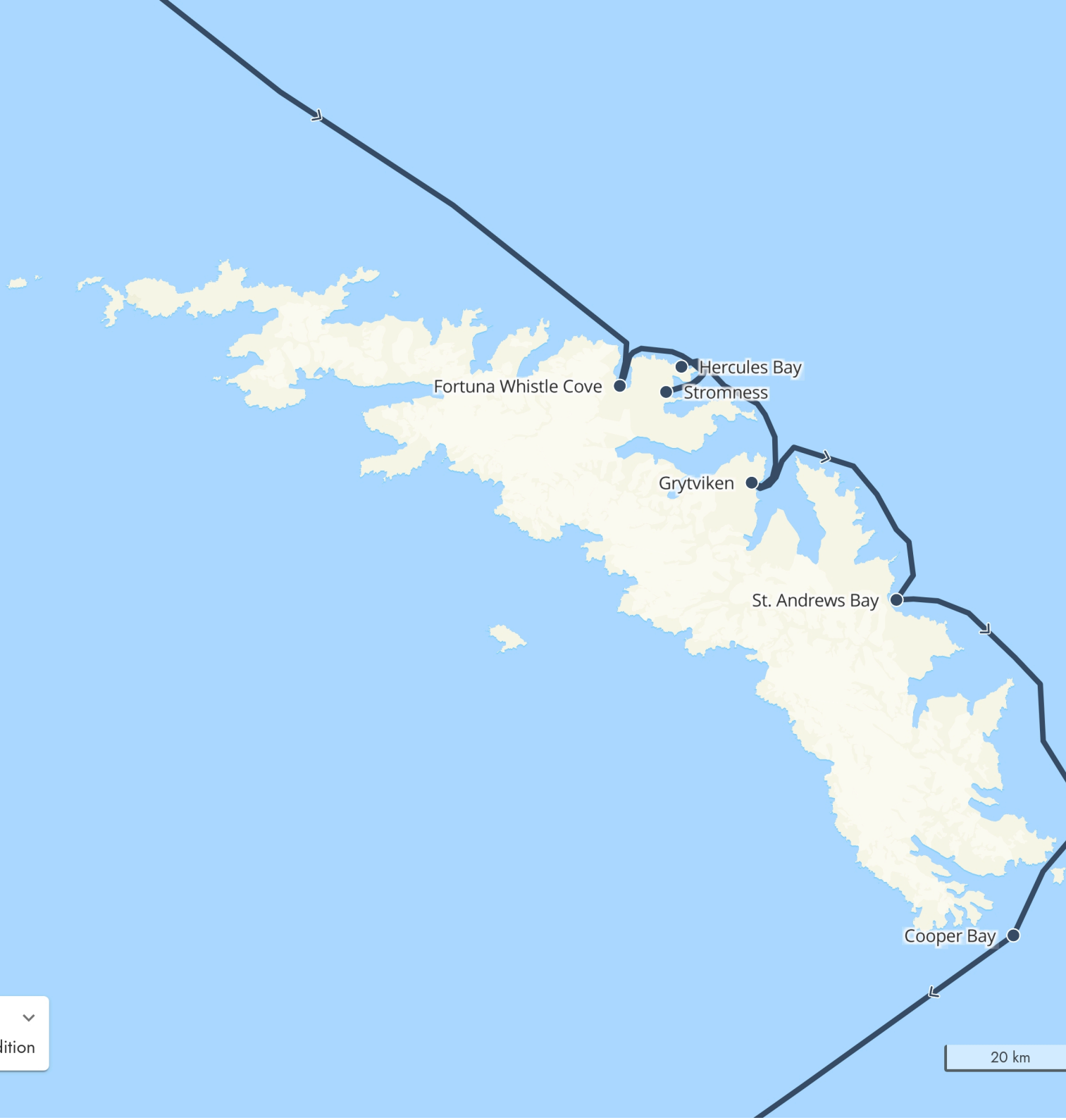
As we sailed through the open waters, we participated in various onboard activities and got an amazing sight of the A23a iceberg, the biggest iceberg ever recorded (sized just as the entire Greater

London). Many of us joined the Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5, keeping our eyes peeled for marine life in the vast ocean. We then attended fascinating lectures in the Lecture Hall on deck 4.



Legend

— HX Expedition



## Fortuna Whistle Cove

We had an incredible day exploring South Georgia. Our adventure began early in the morning as we prepared for our landing at Fortuna Whistle Cove. The Expedition Team called us by boat groups, starting

at around 8:00 AM, allowing us to explore this beautiful location. The king of this landing were the King Penguins and their fluffy chicks.





## Stromness

In the afternoon we landed in Stromness and had the chance to visit the place where Shackleton arrived after his first crossing of the South Georgia mountain range. There was a chance to see fur seals, elephant seal amongst other fauna. Some of us joined the hike to the

waterfall into the valleys. This waterfall was the one Shackleton descended before arriving in Stromness. This day in South Georgia was filled with natural wonders, historical insights, and shared experiences that we'll cherish for years to come.





## Hercules Bay

---

In the evening the expedition team put out the zodiacs in Hercules bay, we marveled at the coastal scenery and observed the diverse marine life from our small boats. The experience brought us closer to

the raw nature of South Georgia and we had the chance to spot the Macaroni penguins on the cliff.





## Grytviken

Today the sun stayed with us during all the landing. Our day in Grytviken was filled with adventure and discovery. We began early, with the Maiviken Hike groups departing in the morning. The hike offered breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape, allowing us to immerse ourselves in the rugged beauty of South Georgia. At Grytviken, we had the opportunity to explore the historic whaling station. The Captain organized a short ceremony to pay respect to the

grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, maybe the most important British polar explorer. We then browsed the well-equipped souvenir shop in the museum building and visited the post office. Many of us participated in guided walks focusing on the whaling history of Grytviken, gaining insights into the area's industrial past. In the evening we sailed along St. Andrews Bay, marveling at the raw beauty of South Georgia's landscape.





St. Andrews Bay, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Nov 4, 2025

Cooper Bay, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Nov 4, 2025



## Off to the South

---

We experienced an eventful day aboard our expedition cruise. The day was filled with engaging activities and learning opportunities. We participated in the Wildlife Watch on the bow of deck 5, taking in the breathtaking views of our surroundings. A scavenger hunt was taking us to every corner of the ship, enjoying the fun. Some of us contributed to the eBird Citizen Science project, helping to document the diverse avian life we encountered. For those of us who had signed up for kayaking in Antarctica, we attended a mandatory

briefing in the Lecture Hall. Candice introduced us to the basics of paddling in Antarctic waters and made us laugh with her amazing humor. Our educational journey continued with a fascinating lecture on the Discovery of Antarctica and a roulette of Tiny talks about South Georgia, providing us with a deeper understanding of the continent we were about to explore. In the evening we had a big laugh in the explorer Lounge with the "Polar Music quiz"



## Sailing towards the Peninsula

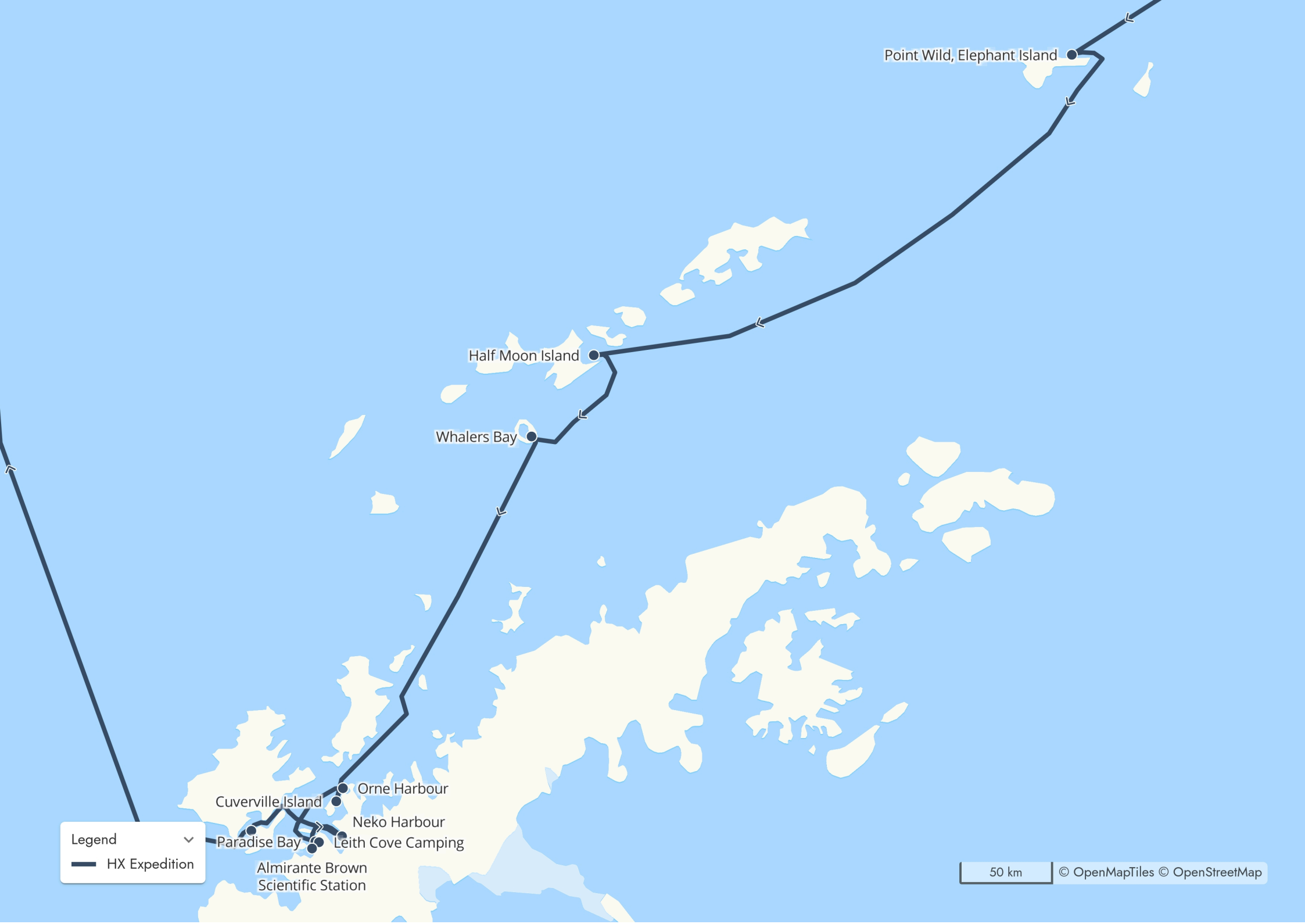
---

As we adjusted to the new time zone, we appreciated the extra hour of sleep from the previous night's time change. With a flurry of activities and opportunities to learn and explore. Those eager to spot wildlife gathered at the bow on deck 5 for a Wildlife Watch session, braving the wind and weather, we also had an early NASA Cloud Observation Session. During the day we had many opportunities to attend different lectures on "My stay in an Antarctica Research Station", "Antarctic Sea Ice - Protective Layer on Earth" or "The Heroic age of exploration", which were also streamed to our cabins as usual, allowing those who preferred to watch it from the comfort of

their rooms. One of the highlights of our day was the bridge visit. We were divided into groups and given the opportunity to explore the ship's command center. During the afternoon we got the chance of getting some insider information thanks to the Question and Answer Session with the Captain and the Officers in the explorer Lounge. In the late evening we gathered again in the explorer Lounge for a very entertaining Auction raising money for the HX Travel Foundation. This day at sea proved to be a perfect blend of education, relaxation, and preparation for the adventures that lay ahead in our Antarctic expedition.







Legend

— HX Expedition

## Point Wild, Elephant Island

During the night we had some rougher seas which delayed our arrival in Elephant Island. But around 9:00 the expedition team put out the zodiacs and we did a 30 min zodiac cruising in Point Wild, exactly the point where Frank Wild and 21 more of Shackleton's Endurance expedition stayed waiting to be rescued by Shackleton and 5 more colleagues in 1914. We saw a chinstrap penguin colony and the bust of Luis Pardo, the captain of Yelcho, the Chilean ship that rescued

Shackleton's men. On board we had a very interesting program with lectures like "What birds see" and "Formation of Deception Island", we also had a wildlife way, a knitting corner and a Art corner. In the Science Center we had a talk about "Bird biology: Bird reproduction and Eggs". As evening approached, we gathered for a mandatory camping briefing for those planning to camp in Antarctica





## Half Moon Island

Today we embarked on an extraordinary Antarctic expedition, exploring Half Moon Island and Whalers Bay on Deception Island. Our morning began with a carefully organized landing at Half Moon Island between 07:00 and 11:00. As we set foot on the crescent-shaped island, we were immediately struck by its stunning Antarctic landscape. The island's 171 hectares revealed a tapestry of raised cobbled beaches, small hills, and igneous rock outcrops, with over

half of its surface covered by glaciers. We marveled at the thriving colony of Chinstrap Penguins, and also some Gentoo Penguins. From our vantage point, we gazed in awe at Livingston Island's glacier front, creating an unforgettable first impression of the South Shetland Islands.



## Whalers Bay, Deception Island

In the afternoon, we landed at Whalers Bay on Deception Island, an active volcano with a distinctive horseshoe shape. As we entered through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow 230-meter wide entrance, we were transported into a world of geological wonders and rich history. We explored the remains of the early 20th-century whaling station and

the British Base B, now protected as a historic site. Many of us walked along the beach to climb up the cliff to reach the scenic Neptune's Window, with a stunning view of the Bransfield Strait! The more adventurous among us took a Polar Plunge, in the morning and in the afternoon landing, a unique experience for the bravest hearts.





## Cuerville Island

Today we started the morning with a fantastic landing on Cuerville Island. We were probably the first ship here in this season, we found no marks of previous landings on the snow. The landing site was surrounded by astonishing landscapes and we got close to a big

colony of gentoo penguins. Some of us saw a humpback whale from the zodiac while approaching the landing site. Many of us also saw a leopard seal hunting some penguins, an image we will never forget.





## Orne Harbour

---

In the afternoon we had to cancel our planned landing on Orne Harbor due to ice clogging the harbor, but instead the expedition

team prepared an exhilarating zodiac cruise in the stunning waters of Paradise Bay.



## Paradise Bay

---

The bay lived up to its name with the surrounding glaciers and mountains. Some fortunate members of our group were treated to sightings of spotted Weddell and/or Crabeaters Seals, adding an extra layer of excitement to our adventure. Our Antarctic journey continued to amaze us with each passing moment, from the wildlife

encounters to the stunning landscapes. As evening approached, a select few of us prepared for an extraordinary experience - camping under the Antarctic sky at Leith Cove . This Amundsen Night, as it was called, promised to be an unforgettable communion with the raw beauty of the Antarctic wilderness.









## Almirante Brown Scientific Station

Our day began early as the campers among us were picked up from Leith Cove, they came on board with big smiles and many adventures to tell. Immediately we moved forward for our landing at Brown Station, an Argentinian summer only research station still not manned,

they will come later in the season. There were many gentoo Penguins around the station and we also had a steep path going up the Hill, from where we had a fantastic view over the base and over Paradise Bay.



## Neko Harbour

As we approached Neko Harbour in the afternoon we were greeted by breathtaking sights. A spectacular glacier dominated the landscape, its surface adorned with an array of blue hues that left us in awe but we realized that the landing site was clocked with ice so that the expedition team decided to put the zodiacs in the water for

an incredible ice cruise instead. Once we were all back on board enjoying the new memories we forged today we attended the Plans for tomorrow as every evening, but very soon a dozen of Orcas were spotted so we all ran to the windows and on the outside decks to get a better view. This was a great ending for a great day



## Damoy Point

---

Today we woke up in excitement knowing that this was going to be our last landing in Antarctica. We arrived Damoy Point early in the morning on a real antarctica day. The day started with -3 degrees Celsius and snow. The expedition team prepared steps in the snow with allowed us to go ashore. It was a nice walk in fresh deep snow to the gentoo penguin colony and to the Damoy Hut. The Hut is an Historical Site, it was used in between 1973-1993 by the British Antarctic Survey as a summer air facility and a personnel transfer station. The Hut was opened so that we could have a glimpse of how a station like this looked like 30 years ago. There are even tin cups

hanging on the kitchen wall as if ready to give travel-weary scientists a restoring cup of tea! As soon as we were back on board we were visited by the staff on the close by located Lockroy station, a British station and the southernmost post office of the world. They brought some gifts on board to sell and explained the work they were doing there. At midday we started our way back to South America and very soon the waves of open seas were back to keep us company. We started saying good bey to this amazing continent, there pristine landscapes and wild nature





## Drake Passage

---

As we sailed through the Drake Passage, our day at sea was filled with enriching activities and moments of relaxation. We began our morning with a Wildlife Watch session on the bow of deck 5. Some of us participated in the EBird Citizen Science project, contributing to important research while enjoying the ocean views. The day's educational program was particularly engaging. We attended a fascinating lecture on the "Dogs in Antarctica" and a "Tiny talk Roulette" which provided us with valuable insights into the region we

had just visited. Later, we learned about tides in another captivating presentation. For those of us interested in hands-on activities, the Science Center offered intriguing sessions from Scientific drawing through a Happy Whales session to a NASA Globe Session. The knitting enthusiasts among us gathered in the Explorer Lounge for a cozy Knitting Corner, sharing techniques and stories.

And the artistic among us proved themselves in an origami session. The highlight of the night was an Antarctic Quiz on deck 7.



## Puerto Williams

Today we can see how fast we are approaching the land of Tierra de Fuego. We can see Cape Horn from the distance and as a surprise we docked in Puerto Williams, Isla Navarino, Chile, the southernmost city of the world since 2019. We were ashore from 17:00 to 19:30 on our own visiting the city. During our time on board during the morning and midday we had a big array of activities to choose from. The morning started with a wildlife watch and with some very

interesting lectures: "Selknam, Yamanas and Alakaluf" gave us an introduction to the life of the original people of Tierra del Fuego, "Birds of Patagonia" gave us a last glimpse of the fantastic fauna we were seeing during all our trip. In the Science center we learned "What's in the ice". In the evening we had the most animated party on deck 7, with the crew band playing some music which made most of us stand up and show our best moves





## Chilean Fjords

---

As we stepped off MS Fram, our hearts swelled with bittersweet emotions. For three extraordinary weeks, this ship had been our gateway to the wonders of the Southern Hemisphere. Our journey through the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Antarctica, the Beagle Channel, and the Strait of Magellan left an indelible mark on our souls. We found ourselves amidst vast colonies of albatrosses and penguins in the Falklands. In South Georgia, we stood in awe before thousands of king penguins, their golden crests gleaming against dramatic landscapes. Antarctica's pristine realm of ice and snow exhilarated us as we witnessed majestic icebergs and observed curious wildlife in their natural habitat. Sailing through the Beagle

Channel, we marveled at fjords and snow-capped mountains. Navigating the legendary Strait of Magellan connected us to the spirit of intrepid explorers. Our experiences — from thrilling zodiac cruises among ice floes to warm friendships and insightful lectures — were more than a vacation; they were a transformative journey to the end of the world. As we bid farewell to the dedicated crew of MS Fram, we felt a pull to return, knowing that the impact of this extraordinary adventure would resonate within us for years to come, calling us back to the majestic landscapes and incredible wildlife of these southern realms







Punta Arenas, Chile - Nov 15, 2025







[logbook.travelmap.net/20251024-frant2509](http://logbook.travelmap.net/20251024-frant2509)