



Science & Education Report

MS FRAM

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6 – 27 December 2025

In-Depth Antarctica, Falkland
Islands & South Georgia
Expedition



History & Culture

During our voyage we visited the hallowed cemetery in Grytviken, South Georgia, where the mortal remains of Sir Ernest Shackleton rest eternally. It was a profoundly emotional moment for all who revere the extraordinary feats of this indomitable man, as well as his unyielding courage and tempered resolve.



Arts & Crafts

Our sea days were not only time to rest while crossing the Southern Ocean, but also filled with opportunities to participate in arts and crafts projects.

Guests painted, drew, and created origami sculptures, as well as decorated our Christmas cookies. It was a nice way to connect with others and help process our inner world full of emotions inspired by our exciting expedition.





NASA Globe Cloud Observer

Together with the help of Amelie, we collected three observations for NASA using the GLOBE Observer app, each matched with a satellite overpass. This provides essential data in the polar region to help calibrate satellites and to gain vital insights into atmospheric changes that trigger cloud formation. Please consider continuing observing the sky from home, as every contribution supports scientists.

[View our data](#) on the global map



iNaturalist

Thanks to your efforts, we collected more than 100 observations of 59 species for iNaturalist! The most reported species were the gentoo penguins and fur seals, while one-third of the species were plants.

Gathering opportunistic data helps scientists draw conclusions on where to find hotspots of biodiversity, and track the arrival of invasive species in remote locations.

You can submit your observations from our voyage [here](#).



eBird

Your onboard Ornithologist Andres completed 72 eBird checklists of 81 different species. The greatest diversity was observed in the Falkland Islands and the Chilean fjords, while South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula were limited to seabird species. The most abundant species was the king penguin, with more than 16,000 individuals in total, while the most frequently observed species were the kelp gulls, the black-browed albatross, and the southern giant petrel. The complete overview of our voyage is available in our trip report.

[View our data on our e-Bird trip report](#)



Happywhale

We submitted four photos of humpback whales' flukes during our voyage. One individual was spotted on our way to South Georgia, while the three others were spotted in the Gerlache Strait in the Antarctic Peninsula. One of those individual gave an immediate match, showing resighting for the fourth time in 10 years. This illustrates the power of Citizen Science around the world, and how opportunistic observations can provide key information on movements patterns of mobile marine animals.





Science Boat

During our voyage we conducted three Science Boats sessions during which we collected Secchi disk measurements, CTD data, and water samples. While the greatest diversity and concentration of planktonic organisms was found in the Falkland Islands, associated to the kelp forests ecosystem, the clearer waters with low phyto and zoo-plankton diversity and abundance were encountered in the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula. CTD data was submitted to the [Southern Atlantic Environmental Research Institute SAERI](#), while Secchi disk data was automatically uploaded to the [Secchi Disk Project](#).

Thanks for your enthusiasm in joining the science boat sessions and the workshops. It was a great fun to have a look at our samples with you, even at your 'sock juice' collected after a polar plunge!



Underwater Drone

During our voyage, we explored the underwater ecosystems of giant kelp forests (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) around New Island in the Falkland Islands and compared them with the benthic communities near the Barrientos Islands, South Shetland Islands, in the Antarctic Peninsula. There, the effects of ice scouring were evident in the flattened, carpet-like seaweed formations, in contrast to the tall and dense kelp forests observed in the Falklands. Gentoo penguins were frequently seen gliding between pieces of ice, a striking contrast to their clumsy movements during their land-based breeding activities.

[Click here to visit our YouTube channel to see the drone videos from your voyage.](#)

Wildlife List — Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals - Cetaceans

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	Seiwal
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	Finnwal
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale	Grindwal
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	killer whale, orca	Schwertwal, Orca
<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Antarctic minke whale	Südlicher Zwergwal
<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson's dolphin	Commerson-Delfin
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin	Peale-Delfin
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	hourglass dolphin	Stundenglasdelfin
<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	southern bottlenose whale	Südlicher Entenwal
	unidentified whale	
	Unidentified dolphin	
	Unidentified beaked whale	

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals - Pinnipeds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	South American fur seal	Südamerikanischer Seebär
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic fur seal	Antartischer Seebär
<i>Otaria byronia</i>	South American sea lion	Mähnenrobbe
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell seal	Weddelrobbe
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	crabeater seal	Krabbenfresser
<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	southern elephant seal	Südlicher See-Elefant
	Unidentified pinniped	



Wildlife List — Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	king penguin	Königspinguin
<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	gentoo penguin	Eselspinguin
<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	southern rockhopper penguin	Südfelsenpinguin
<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	macaroni penguin	Goldschopfpinguin
<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellanic penguin	Magellanpinguin
<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adélie penguin	Adeliepinguin
<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	chinstrap penguin	Kehlstreifpinguin
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's storm petrel	Buntfuß-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Garrodia nereis</i>	grey-backed storm petrel	Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	black-bellied storm petrel	Schwarzbauch-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	wandering albatross	Wanderalbatros
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	light-mantled albatross	Graumantelalbatros
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	black-browed albatross	Schwarzbrauenalbatros
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	southern royal albatross	Südkönigsalbatros
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	northern royal albatross	Nordkönigsalbatros
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	grey-headed albatross	Graukopfalbatros

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	southern giant petrel	Riesensturmvogel
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	northern giant petrel	Hallsturmvogel
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	southern fulmar	Silbersturmvogel
<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	snow petrel	Schneesturmvogel
<i>Daption capense</i>	cape petrel	Kapsturmvogel
<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>	white-headed petrel	Weißkopf-Sturmvogel
<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	blue petrel	Blausturmvogel
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	white-chinned petrel	Weißkinn-Sturmvogel
<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	great shearwater	Großer Sturmtaucher
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	sooty shearwater	Dunkler Sturmtaucher
<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic prion	Taubensturmvogel
<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	slender-billed prion	Dünnschnabel-Sturmvogel
<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	fairy prion	Feensturmvogel
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	common diving petrel	Subantarktis-Lummensturmvogel
<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>	South Georgia diving petrel	Breitschnabel-Lummensturmvogel
<i>Chionis albus</i>	snowy sheathbill	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel
<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	Magellanic diving petrel	Magellan-Lummensturmvogel

Wildlife List – Waterbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	Falkland steamer duck	Falkland-Dampfschiffente
<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	upland goose	Magellangans
<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	kelp goose	Kelpgans
<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	ruddy-headed goose	Rotkopfgans
<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>	crested duck	Schopfente
<i>Anas georgica</i>	yellow-billed pintail	Spitzschwanzente
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night heron	Nachtreiher
<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	rock shag	Felsenscharbe
<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	imperial shag	Kaiserscharbe
<i>Leucocarbo georgianus</i>	South Georgia shag	Südgeorgienscharbe
<i>Leucocarbo bransfieldensis</i>	Antarctic shag	Antarktikscharbe
<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>	Magellanic oystercatcher	Magellanausternfischer
<i>Haematopus ater</i>	blackish oystercatcher	Südamerikanischer Austernfischer
<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>	two-banded plover	Falkland-Regenpfeifer
<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	white-rumped sandpiper	Weißbürzel-Strandläufer
<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>	brown-hooded gull	Patagonienmöwe

Wildlife List – Waterbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>	dolphin gull	Blutschnabelmöwe
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	kelp gull	Dominikanermöwe
<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	South American tern	Falklandseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic tern	Antarktikseeschwalbe
<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	south polar skua	Antarktiskua
<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	brown skua	Subantarktiskua
<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chilean skua	Chileskua
<i>Gallinago stricklandii</i>	Fuegian snipe	Kordillerenbekassine

Wildlife List – Landbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture	Truthahngeier
<i>Phalcoboenus australis</i>	striated caracara	Falklandkarakara
<i>Caracara plancus</i>	southern crested caracara	Schopfkarakara
<i>Cinclodes antarcticus</i>	blackish cinclodes	Falkland-Uferwipper
<i>Muscisaxicola maclovianus</i>	dark-faced ground tyrant	Maskengrundtyrann
<i>Tachycineta leucopyga</i>	Chilean swallow	Chileschwalbe
<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	grass wren	Graszaunkönig
<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>	Cobb's wren	Falklandzaunkönig
<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>	austral thrush	Magellandrossel
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow	Haussperling
<i>Anthus correndera</i>	correndera pipit	Correnderapieper
<i>Spinus barbatus</i>	black-chinned siskin	Bartzeisig
<i>Leistes loyca</i>	long-tailed meadowlark	Langschwanzstärling
<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>	white-bridled finch	Weißbart-Ammertangare
<i>Phrygilus patagonicus</i>	Patagonian sierra finch	Graukopf-Ammertangare
<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>	white-crested elaenia	Weißkronen-Olivtyrann
<i>Theristicus melanopis</i>	black-faced ibis	Schwarzzügelibis

Wildlife List — Flora



Wildlife List — Flora of the Falkland Island

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH
<i>Hierochloe redolens</i>	cinnamon grass
<i>Poa alopecurus</i>	blue grass
<i>Luzula alopecurus</i>	native woodrush
<i>Gunnera magellanica</i>	pig vine
<i>Armeria macloviana</i>	Falkland thrift
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	field mouse-ear
<i>Oxalis enneaphylla</i>	scurvy grass
<i>Hebe elliptica</i>	boxwood
<i>Luzuriaga marginata</i>	almond flower
<i>Apium australe</i>	wild celery
<i>Senecio candidans</i>	sea cabbage
<i>Acaena lucida</i>	native yarrow
<i>Acaena magellanica</i>	prickly burr
<i>Symphotrichum vahlii</i>	marsh daisy
<i>Pernettya pumila</i>	mountain berry
<i>Empetrum rubrum</i>	diddle-dee
<i>Baccharis magellanica</i>	Christmas bush

Wildlife List – Flora of the Falkland Island

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH
<i>Caltha sagittata</i>	arrow-leaved marigold
<i>Senecio littoralis</i>	Falkland woolly daisy (endemic)
<i>Nassauvia gaudichaudii</i>	coastal nassauvia (endemic)
<i>Bolax gummifera</i>	balsam bog
<i>Leucheria suaveolens</i>	vanilla daisy (endemic)
<i>Blechnum cordatum</i>	tall fern
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	small fern
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	groundsel (introduced)
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep sorrel (invasive)
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse (invasive)
<i>Ulva</i> sp	sea lettuce
<i>Irídeae cordata</i>	iridescent wrack
<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>	giant kelp
<i>Durvillea antarctica</i>	bull kelp ('cochayuyo')

Guest Scientists — ORCA

We had the privilege of hosting Ellie and Sarah from ORCA, one of the UK's leading whale and dolphin conservation charities. Ellie and Sarah have been on board conducting some exciting whale research for a project that is monitoring recovering whale populations in the Southern Ocean. Ellie and Sarah have been carrying out their scientific surveys from the bridge of the ship and the data collected will help better understand the abundance and distribution of large whales around South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula. During their surveys a total of 608 individual animals were recorded from nine different whale and dolphin species.

You can contribute to the ORCA project by visiting their [website](#) and helping gathering more data through [donation](#).



Guest Scientists — Penguin Watch

We had the privilege of hosting Craig and Zoe from [Penguin Watch](#), a penguin monitoring project based at Oxford Brookes University on MS Fram. For this research project, Zoe and Craig have worked across the Falklands, South Georgia, South Shetland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. They conducted drone surveys for population counts over 21 colonies (seabirds and seals) during this trip, serviced 5 existing timelapse cameras, and deployed two new tripods with cameras that look at penguin behaviour and biology. Their highlights this trip were keeping long-standing time-series functioning at Salisbury Plain, and surveying a chinstrap penguin colony near Fort Point that hadn't been monitored in several years because it is so difficult to get to! They will need time to analyze the results, and we look forward to hearing more about their [research](#) on their web site.



Guest Scientists — Penguin Watch

Zoe and Craig would like to thank everyone who has enthusiastically participated in counting penguins through our Zooniverse platform. If you'd like to continue supporting this project from home, please visit our [website](#) and spend some time helping us [capture data](#) by observing the colonies through the cameras.



What data?	How much data?
CTD for SAERI	3 profiles
Secchi depth	3 measurements
Cloud observations for NASA	3 observations
iNaturalist	100+ observations
eBird	72 checklists, 81 species,
Cetacean sightings for ORCA/IAATO	608 observations, 67 hrs of effort survey
Happywhale	4 submissions
Penguin Watch	44 aerial drone surveys, 5 cameras maintained, 2 newly built

Data in Total

Our voyage stood out for the data it yielded for ORCA, Penguin Watch, and eBird, thanks to the dedication and passion of our guest scientists and Ornithologist Andrés. These three initiatives account for the most observations and direct submissions to their respective projects, fueling the scientific community with the crucial data needed to better understand diversity and distribution patterns of mobile species and monitor the arrival of invasive species.

Our journey across three distinct bioregions allowed us to cross the Antarctic polar front (Antarctic Convergence) twice, travel through calm waters, and experience the Drake Passage on our return to Punta Arenas. In the Chilean fjords, we were awe-struck by the pristine landscapes that characterize this region of the world. Our encounters with the majestic woodpecker at the edge of the world were a fitting finale to this voyage.

Thank you!

The MS Fram Science and Education Team, together with our guest scientists, would like to sincerely thank you for choosing HX to explore some of the most remote places on Earth. Your participation not only supports the daily work of scientists but also makes it possible for them to come aboard our ship, conduct valuable research, and access vital logistical support that would otherwise be difficult to obtain.

We are deeply grateful for your genuine curiosity — for sharing our enthusiasm for birds, marine mammals, ice, lichens, mosses, and even the tiny creatures found in a drop of water (or perhaps a drop of 'sock juice' — thank you, Carol!). We truly enjoyed exchanging ideas, discussing history over coffee, and marvelling together at the pristine natural ecosystems we encountered. We hope this journey will remain among the most cherished memories of your life.





IX

Connect with your
inner scientist