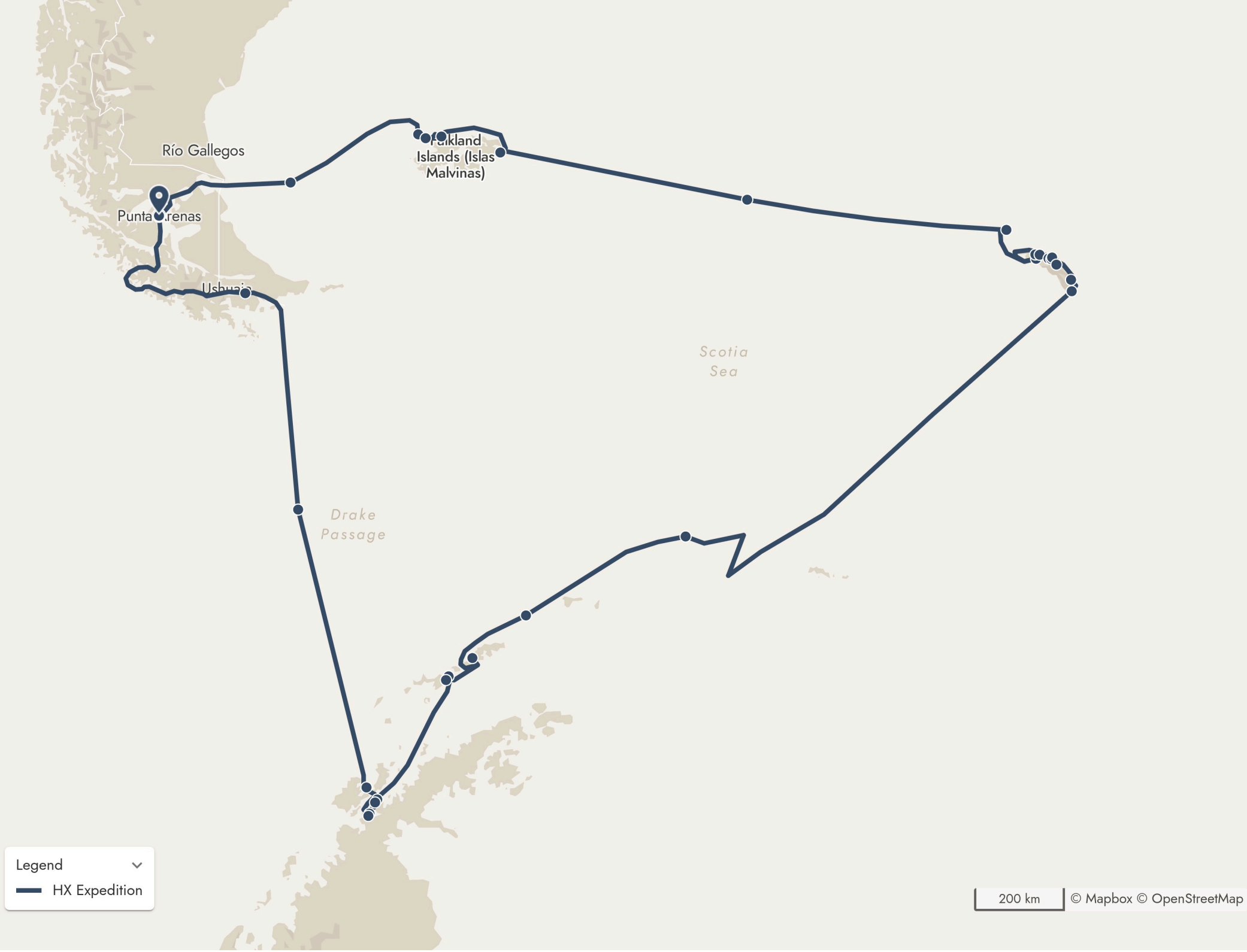




In-depth Antarctica, Falklands and South Georgia

2025.11.15 - 2025.12.06



Embarkation Day

After long hours of traveling across the world, we reached Punta Arenas in southern Chile, our Gateway for the incredible Antarctic expedition ahead of us. We embarked MV Fram, our floating home for the upcoming 3 weeks. After settling in, we all participated in safety drill. In the evening it was announced that due to difficult

conditions we would postpone sailing away until the next morning. Some used this opportunity to explore Punta Arenas in the evening while others chose to stay onboard and get proper rest after long flights.



Strait of Magellan

At 6am our voyage officially began. Though the whole morning we were sailing through the sheltered Strait of Magellan, the ship began to gently move with the waves. Guests learned about the ship and exploring life on board as we sailed. We also learned about the Science and Education program, including multiple Citizen Science

programs run on board. At exactly 17:00, the Captain's Welcome took place, at which our Captain, officers, and the Expedition Team introduced themselves. By late afternoon / evening, land disappeared, and we were on the open sea heading towards the Falklands Islands.



On our way to the Falklands

This was our second day of sailing towards Falkland Islands. With our on board naturalists, we had numerous occasion to observed birds flying around the ship, and we even had a pod of Commerson's Dolphins riding the bow wake of the ship. What a view! In the evening wind started to pick up and waves started to grow.

When western most islands of Falkland started to be visible, movement of the ship made walking on board difficult. Our bridge team, fighting the waves, was trying to find sheltered water and succeed just in time.





Legend

— HX Expedition

Westpoint Cove

Our first landing in Falkland Islands! After being slightly delayed due to heavy wind, conditions had to be assessed throughout the morning. When we finally made in on land, lovely farm houses on the side of the hill with Falkland flag in front appeared to our eyes. We hiked across the island to spectacular cliffs which are home to the

unique black-browed albatrosses. The Albatross colony is shared by Rockhopper Penguins as well! On the way back hikers stopped at the tea house for freshly brewed tea, coffee, and homemade pastry were served.



Cliff Point, Saunders Island

In the afternoon, our lovely Fram sailed towards Saunders Island where we had our second landing. The beach, with colors almost like in the Caribbean, gave us a chance to walk and observe numerous

Magellanic penguins. The ones who still had energy after whole day of exploration could walk to the Rockery – a cliff with an albatross colony. What a nature fill day!



Stanley

Early morning local pilot was picked up and we were able to transit the famous Narrows leading to the harbor. Numerous excursions started at the pier. Some of us went to hike while others explored the history of Stanley. Port Stanley gave everyone a chance to find something for themselves. Little cafes and gift shops created the

possibility of purchasing souvenirs for loved ones back home. In local Dockyard History Museum, we could learn about long history of Falklands Islands, its culture and nature. It was also only place where it was possible and permitted to touch a real penguin.



On our way to South Georgia

This was a beautiful day of sailing towards South Georgia. Although we all had time to rest, the day was filled with mandatory activities before arriving to South Georgia. In the morning, a briefing about bio-security on the island was given. Later on, rubber boot, outdoor clothing, and backpack cleaning/vacuuming was done. During these

activities we made sure that all foreign seeds, plants, and any kind of organic material was removed. South Georgia is a very isolated place, and because of this, strict bio-security rules are in place to keep its environment secure.



Meeting A23A

As we were getting closer to South Georgia, we had relaxing day on board. It was filled with wildlife watches, lectures, and other activities. We could spot numerous whales and seals which we encountered. During lectures we could hear the fascinating story of the Shackleton

expedition and how he saved his men. In the evening, we had a very unique and special opportunity to stop in front of A-23a, the iceberg which for decades was consider to be the largest in the world. We all gawked at the magnificent walls of this ice giant. What a spectacle!





Peggotty Bluff

"Land!" we could hear in the morning when the first sights of South Georgia appeared at the horizon. The sharp cliffs and steep mountains of the wild western coast were laid out in front of us. As we reached our first stop, Cape Rosa, ship was gently rolling with the swell. We could see Cave Cove, the place where Shackleton first reached South Georgia after 16 days of sailing from Elephant Island

in 1916. We continued sailing further into King Haakon Bay to finally make our first landing at Peggotty Bluff. This place was the beginning of Shackleton's trek across the island to Stromness. It is also home to numerous penguins and seals. At the landing side, our expedition team guided us to a spectacular view point. What a special moment!



Salisbury Plain

This morning we landed in Salisbury Plain. We all had a walk along the beach filled with fur seals to observe the colony of king penguins. Many chicks could be seen, in stark contrast to their parents. These

majestic animals weather intense conditions to call such a beautiful place home!



Prince Olav Harbour

In the afternoon, the Expedition Team took us for our first zodiac cruise around Prince Olav Harbour and Elephant Lagoon. Arriving in Prince Olav Harbour, we cruised to see the abandoned whaling

station and then saw many Elephant Seals and Giant Southern Petrels making their homes in the protected lagoon.



Fortuna Whistle Cove

We woke to a winter wonderland. Falling snow covered everything overnight. Our Expedition Team headed to the landing site to prepare it for us. After scouting, the decision was made to cancel the landing

due to large swell hitting the shore line and making a safe landing impossible.



Leith Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Nov 24, 2025

Stromness Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Nov 24, 2025

Stromness Harbour

We started sailing towards our afternoon destination — Stromness, an old Norwegian whaling station famous for being a place where Shackleton arrived to look for help after a gruelling 36 hour crossing of dangerous glaciers and ice fields.

While some of us walk around station observing large population of

fur seals, a group of hikers trekked up the valley to Shackleton's Waterfall. We could observe this beautiful natural feature which was the last obstacle for Shackleton, Worsley, and Crean on their long journey back to civilization.



Hercules Bay

In the morning our Expedition Team took us zodiac cruising in Hercules Bay. Step cliffs, beautiful waterfalls, and our first chance of

seeing Macaroni Penguins made for a great start to the day.



Grytviken

In the afternoon we arrived to Grytviken. We were first taken to a local cemetery to meet with famous explorer Sir Ernst Shackleton who's final resting place is here. His grave, the only monument facing south, reminds people who visit this place what his biggest love was. From the cemetery, we walked along the beach into Grytviken whaling station. This place operated between 1904 and 1964 and was one of the main centers for whaling not only in South Georgia but the whole Southern Ocean. We enjoyed visiting the museum and joining a local

guide from South Georgia Heritage Trust on a guided walk around the station. In the local museum we could also see a replica of the James Caird, the boat which Shackleton used to get from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

At the end of our visit, many chose to visit the local post office, one of the most remote postal offices in the world, and we send post cards all over the world.



Gold Harbour

Early this morning, we landed in Gold Harbor. Our landing area was limited by the presence of, once again, an abundance of wildlife! We stayed on the beach, close to the water line, as the bay was completely filled with King Penguins, Elephant seals, and Southern

Fur Seals. This made for a spectacular final landing in South Georgia. In the afternoon we started our sailing towards Antarctica. When we left the eastern coast of South Georgia, western wind and swell started to move ship up and down, significantly.



Cooper Bay Cruising, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Nov 26, 2025

At sea - Nov 27, 2025

Towards new horizons

On our way to Antarctica and because of this destination we spent our morning cleaning boots, clothes and equipment. Everything had to be disinfected to make sure that we will not spread organic

material to any of the landing sites we visit. The day was not only about cleaning though. It was also a great time to rest after amazing moments on South Georgia and to enjoy views outside.



Meeting with the sea ice

When we woke up, we were sailing along the edge of a sea ice band. The sea ice originated from the Weddell Sea and was drifting north. A couple of times, the ship had to backtrack and make sweeping turns to find her way through it. This was a great time for

observing wildlife. A large number of humpbacks were seen all around the ship. These sightings were just an introduction to what we would find in Antarctica proper!



Reaching the South Shetland Islands

Our last day before finally reaching Antarctica. We had the opportunity to visit the bridge where our Captain and officers were showing us the art of navigation and management of the vessel. During that day we had to change our course several times due to

icebergs and ice floes in our way. Nevertheless, it was a day with numerous whales spotted near the ship as well as Adelie penguins which were hanging out on ice.





King George Island

Yankee Harbour
Half Moon Island

James Ross Island

Dallman Bay

Anvers Island

Orne Harbour

Cuerville Island

Leith Cove

Admiralty Brown Station

Legend

HX Expedition

Yankee Harbour

Finally, we made it safely to Antarctica! At Yankee Harbor, we made our first step on land. In the morning, the weather was truly Antarctic. Cold with strong wind and heavy snow. Our expedition team was

making sure that we could safely get in and out of the zodiac while standing in freezing water filled with ice.



Half Moon Island

After a quick break for lunch, we sailed towards our second destination for the day – Half Moon Island. The weather changed drastically. The clouds parted, the sun appeared, and the wind calmed down significantly. Perfect condition for exploration. We got to see chinstrap penguin colony, Weddell seal and amazing glacier

on the other side of the channel. The lucky one got to snowshoe in the area of Argentinian research station and other to paddle on calm waters of channel in between Halfmoon and Livingston Island. What a day!



Orne Harbour

In the morning, we landed in Orne Harbor – our first continental landing – welcome to Antarctica! After setting foot on the Antarctic continent, we had the opportunity to walk up the hill where a Chinstrap penguin colony was present. All the effort was worth it

once you saw the view at the top. Beck on board, our Head Chef Tomasz and his team prepared a BBQ on the open deck. We had a chance to eat early lunch while observing the marvelous glaciers surrounding us.



Cuverville Island

In the afternoon, we landed in Cuverville Island. Cuverville held rookeries of Gentoo penguins, Skuas flying above them trying to

catch prey, and wonderful views of innumerable icebergs. What an amazing day!



Leith Cove, Camping Site

At night, our brave campers were dropped off at Leith Cove in Paradise Bay. After preparing tents and bivouacs, they had the unique opportunity to observe glaciers calving, listen to whales breathing,

and to feel the stunning loneliness of Antarctic night. Experiencing the Antarctic silence is truly a once in the lifetime experience.



Admiralty Brown Station

Our second continental landing! This time we landed in Almirante Brown Station. The Argentinian research station was closed during this visit. We could see from outside facilities used by scientists as

well as get to the view point to observe Paradise Harbor.



Dallman Bay

In the afternoon, we started our crossing through the famous Drake Passage. As we were leaving Antarctica group of whales was spotted off the bow. The ship was stopped and we have a great time

observing them feeding.

Later in the evening, the Drake Shake began. Take your seasickness medicine!

Drake Passage

Sailing towards South America, the sea has been moving the whole crossing. Waves were rolling the ship constantly, but the wind calmed down and sun appeared, making our time on the outside decks much more pleasurable.

Onboard, we had time filled with onboard programs, including lectures, stories, and workshops. Our galley team spoiled us one more time with some fresh afternoon waffles in Explorer Lounge. What a day!



Beagle Channel & Puerto Williams

A beautiful sunny day with gentle swell was a nice change. Onboard, we could hear about disembarkation plans, but the voyage was not over yet. In the evening, we could finally see land! The famous Cape

Horn was visible in the distance. After picking up the local navigation pilot, we entered Chilean territorial waters and the Beagle Channel, steaming towards Puerto Williams for clearance.



Chilean Fjords

Early this morning, while sailing through Beagle Channel, named after the HMS Beagle, we sailed past the Chilean Glacial Valley. During this part of the channel, we were constantly passing marvelous glaciers named after different countries who were holding scientific

expeditions like Germany, France, Italy, and Holland. The wind was strong, but this is Patagonia! Many people were on deck early to enjoy the beautiful Fjords as we continued west towards Punta Arenas.





Disembarkation Day

We arrived early in the morning to Punta Arenas. Though the journey is coming to a close, the memories and photos will last a lifetime.

What an expedition! From the Falklands, to South Georgia, and on to

Antarctica, it is extremely difficult to point out one favorite moment.

We all hope to see one another again some day.





logbook.travelmap.net/20251115-frant2510