



MS Fridtjof Nansen

10 – 20 December 2025



Scotia
Sea

Drake
Passage

Legend
HX Expedition

100 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Embarkation in Ushuaia: Gateway to the White Continent

Our expedition began in Ushuaia, Argentina, known as the southernmost city in the world. Surrounded by dramatic mountains and the Beagle Channel, we spent the day completing embarkation procedures and boarding our expedition vessel. After settling into our cabins and meeting the expedition team and fellow passengers, we participated in safety briefings and introductions. As the ship departed the harbor in the evening, the lights of Ushuaia slowly disappeared, marking the official start of our journey toward the Antarctic continent.

Our expedition began in Ushuaia, Argentina, known as the southernmost city in the world. Surrounded by dramatic mountains and the Beagle Channel, our guests spent the day boarding our expedition vessel and completing embarkation procedures. After the guests settled into their cabins we participated in safety briefings and introductions. As the ship departed the harbour in the evening, the lights of Ushuaia slowly disappeared, marking the official start of our journey toward the Antarctic continent.





Drake Passage: First Day at Sea

Our first full day at sea was spent crossing the legendary Drake Passage. The Southern Ocean made its presence known with a slightly bumpy start, giving us our guests their first taste of expedition cruising. Throughout the day, the Expedition Team hosted informative briefings on planned activities, safety procedures, and the onboard

science program, helping us understand what to expect in the days ahead. In the early evening, we gathered for the Captain's welcome, officially marking the beginning of our Antarctic voyage as the ship continued its course southward.

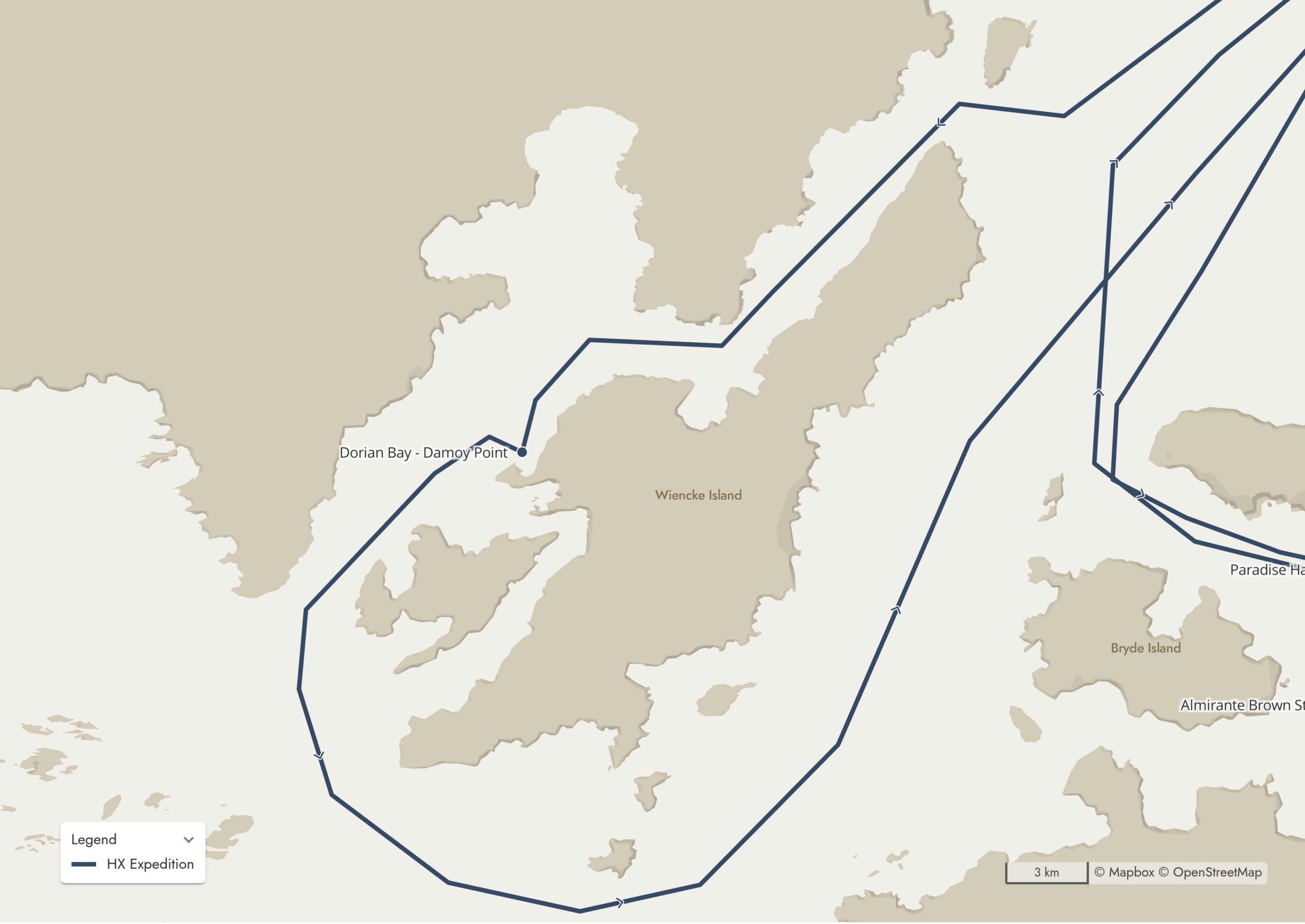


Drake Passage: Second Day at Sea

Our second day crossing the Drake Passage was still accompanied by slightly shaky seas, reflecting the energy of the Southern Ocean. The day was filled with a varied onboard program, including the important IAATO briefing, which outlined environmental guidelines and our responsibilities as visitors to Antarctica. We also spent time

wildlife watching from the decks, observing seabirds gliding alongside the ship. In the early evening, excitement grew as we caught our first distant glimpses of the South Shetland Islands on the horizon, signalling that Antarctica was finally within reach.





Damoy Point: First Landing in Antarctica

We reached Damoy Point for our first full day of activities in Antarctica. The day included expedition boat cruising along the icy coastline, offering close views of glaciers, ice formations, and the surrounding landscape. We also went ashore for our first continental landing, where a snowshoe hike allowed some of us to explore the

area on foot. Gentoo penguins were spotted around the landing site, providing our first close encounters with Antarctic wildlife. The experience marked a memorable beginning to our time on the Antarctic Peninsula.



Paradise Harbour: Morning Expedition Boat Cruising in the Aguirre Channel

The morning was spent expedition boat cruising through the spectacular scenery of Paradise Harbour and the Aguirre Channel. Calm waters allowed for excellent views of towering glaciers, ice formations, and snow-covered mountains. During the cruise, we passed the inactive Chilean research station González Videla and

Waterboat Point, gaining insight into the human presence and scientific history of the region. Occasional wildlife sightings complemented the serene atmosphere, making this a memorable and scenic start to the day.

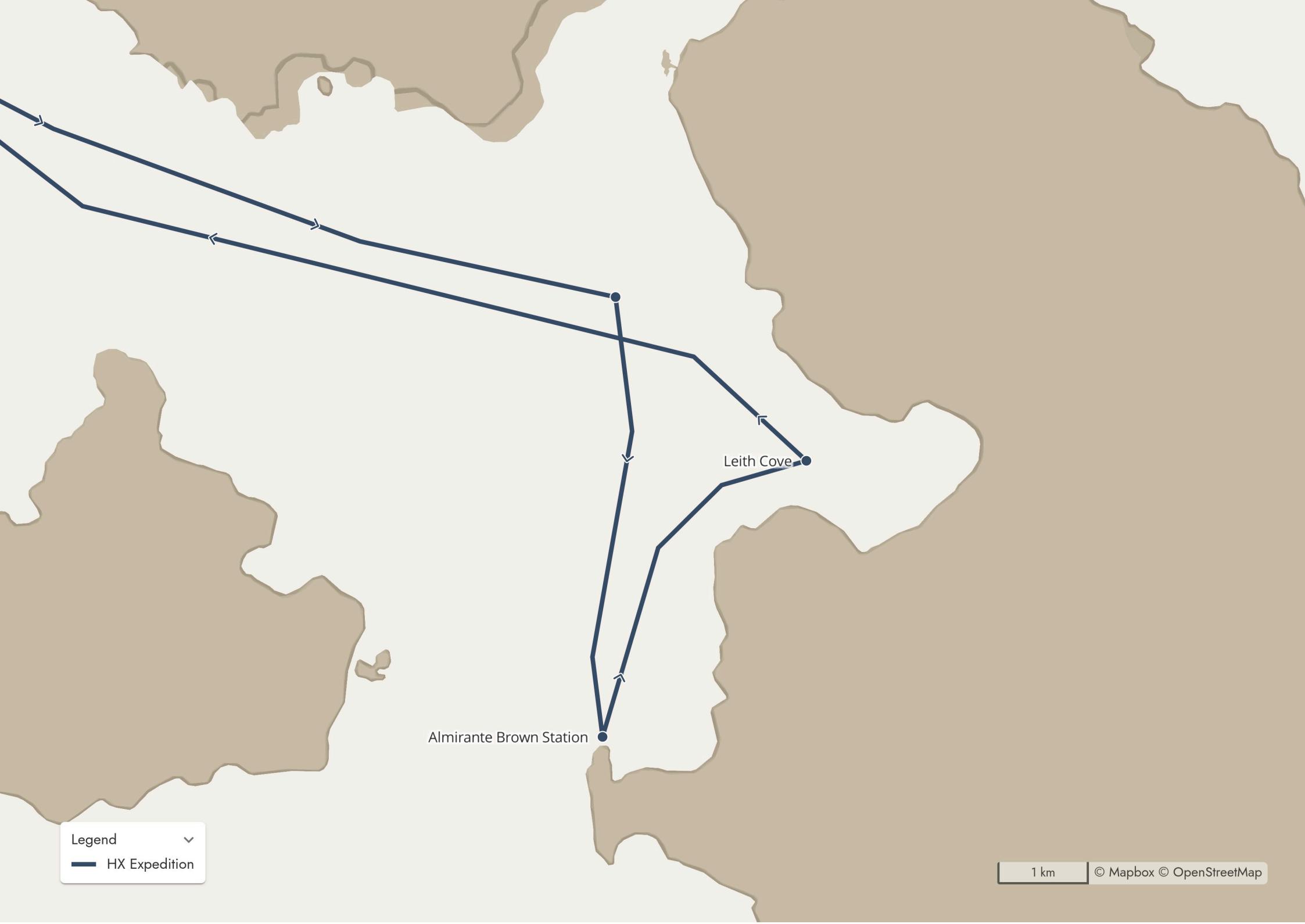


Paradise Harbour: Afternoon Continental Landing at Brown Station

In the afternoon, we made a continental landing at Brown Station, marking our first steps on the Antarctic mainland during this expedition. Our second encounter with a penguin colony, Gentoo penguins were abundant near the shore. Magnus, dressed as Roald Amundsen, welcomed us and set up a replica tent to commemorate

Amundsen's historic journey to the South Pole. The landing offered a unique combination of wildlife observation, exploration of the continent itself, and a vivid connection to the history of Antarctic exploration, making it a truly unforgettable experience.





Paradise Harbour: Camping at Leith Cove

In the evening, a group of adventurous guests went camping at Leith Cove, taking advantage of the long Antarctic summer day. The sun dipped lower on the horizon, casting soft, golden light across the

snow and ice, though it never fully darkened. Surrounded by the serene landscape and the distant sounds of calving ice, campers experienced a quiet and personal connection to the continent.



Fournier Bay: Expedition Boat Cruising

In the afternoon, we explored Fournier Bay on an expedition boat cruise, gliding among towering glaciers and scattered icebergs. The calm waters provided excellent opportunities for close observation of the Antarctic environment. Several whales were spotted engaging in bubble-net feeding, a fascinating and coordinated hunting behaviour that highlighted their intelligence and power. Meanwhile, some

adventurous guests took part in Discovery Kayaking, paddling quietly among the ice and gaining a unique, intimate perspective of the bay. The combination of dramatic ice formations, active wildlife, and personal exploration made this a truly memorable Antarctic experience.



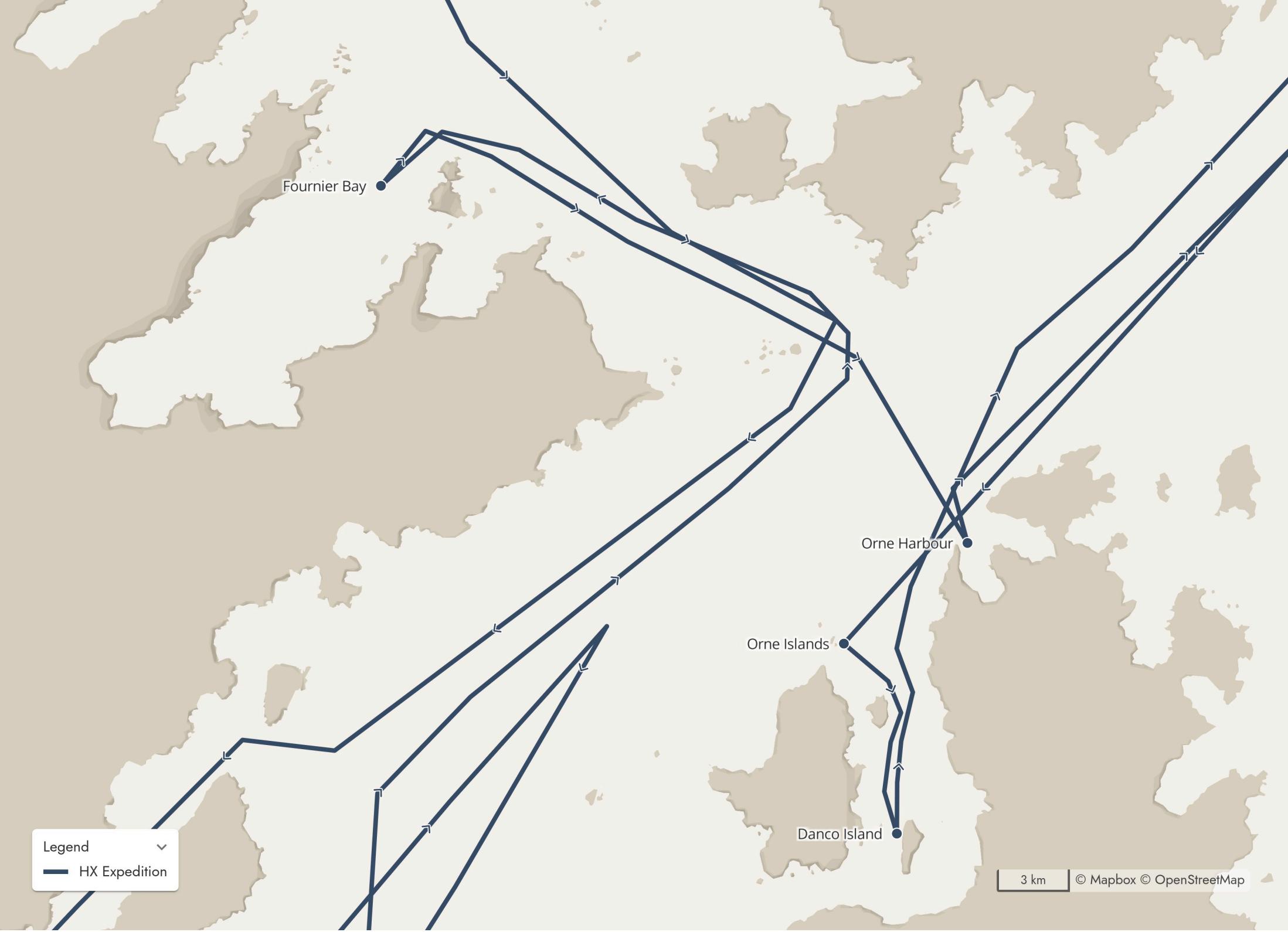
Meeting MS Roald Amundsen

Orne Harbour: Evening Meeting with MS Roald Amundsen

In the evening, we sailed toward Orne Harbour to meet our sister ship, MS Roald Amundsen. On the way, we were thrilled to spot a large pod of orcas, moving gracefully through the icy waters. The sight of these apex predators in their natural habitat was

unforgettable, with some surfacing close to the ship and others gliding elegantly beneath the waves. Meeting our sister ship in the calm waters of Orne Harbour provided a striking visual reminder of the scale and scope of Antarctic exploration.

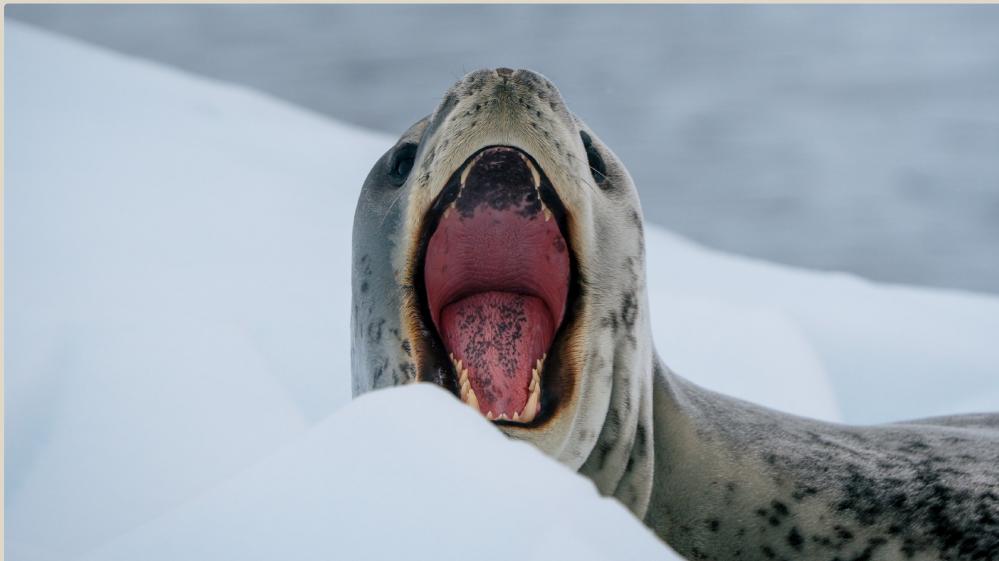




Orne Islands: Expedition Boat Cruising and Wildlife Spotting

In the morning, we cruised around the Orne Islands in our expedition boats, navigating among icebergs and channels. The waters were alive with wildlife: whales surfaced nearby, Weddell seals were observed resting on land, and colonies of chinstrap and gentoo

penguins dotted the shoreline. A leopard seal resting on an ice floe was a particular highlight, offering a rare and impressive sight. The combination of active marine life and dramatic Antarctic scenery made for an exhilarating start to the day.



Danco Island: Afternoon Landing and Gentoo Colony

In the afternoon, we landed at Danco Island, home to a large gentoo penguin colony. The rocky shore and bustling penguins provided an incredible opportunity to observe these charismatic birds up close.

Many adventurous guests took part in a polar plunge from the shore, experiencing the icy Antarctic waters firsthand.



Whalers Bay: Exploring History

Our day at Whalers Bay marked our last day in Antarctica, a fitting finale to an incredible voyage. The ruins of old whaling and research stations lie beneath rugged volcanic slopes, offering a glimpse into the challenges of life in this remote environment. Snow and ice framed the landscape, while chinstrap penguins explored the area, seemingly unbothered by our presence. As the afternoon waned, a

few daring guests took a polar plunge from the expedition launch into the icy waters, creating a lively and unforgettable conclusion to our time on the continent. Surrounded by wildlife, history, and the raw beauty of Antarctica, we know our guests would leave with memories that will last a lifetime.





Legend ▼

— HX Expedition

2 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Drake Passage: Heading North

Leaving Antarctica behind, we began our northbound journey across the Drake Passage. The ship settled into steady movement, and guests spent the day engaging in a variety of activities. Many visited the bridge to watch the navigation and learn about ship operations, while others attended lectures on Antarctic science and conservation,

deepening their understanding of the region we had just explored. Creative guests participated in art sessions, capturing the dramatic landscapes and wildlife they had encountered. The day offered a mix of reflection, learning, and creativity as we sailed away from the continent and into the open Southern Ocean.



Drake Passage: Reflections and Farewell Preparations

Our second day sailing northbound across the Drake Passage was a time for reflection and wrapping up the expedition. Guests revisited their favourite memories from Antarctica, sharing stories and photographs of wildlife encounters, landings, and breathtaking landscapes. Lectures continued, including a recap of the onboard

science program, highlighting the research and observations made throughout the voyage. As we approached the Beagle Channel, the Captain hosted a farewell gathering, and preparations for disembarkation began, marking the approaching end of an unforgettable Antarctic adventure.





Ushuaia: Disembarkation and Farewell

We returned to Ushuaia, bringing our Antarctic expedition to a close. After a final breakfast on board, guests prepared for disembarkation, reflecting on the incredible experiences of the past days, from wildlife encounters to continental landings and the vast, icy landscapes. With

warm wishes, the crew of MS Fridtjof Nansen bid our guests farewell at the close of a remarkable journey, as they departed with unforgettable memories of Antarctica's extraordinary beauty, wildlife, and history.



HX

logbook.travelmap.net/20251210-fnant2521