



MS Roald Amundsen

9 – 23 December 2025



Embarkation in Ushuaia

Our guests were welcomed by a windy Ushuaia after arriving from Buenos Aires. Some strolled the city, enjoying the views of the Beagle Channel and the lively atmosphere of the world's southernmost town.

After embarkation, guests were invited to explore the ship and familiarize themselves with its spaces before gathering for the mandatory safety drill.

By late afternoon, MS Roald Amundsen cast off its lines, and we began our journey south. As we sailed down the Beagle Channel, gusts of strong Patagonian wind continued – an early foreshadowing of the Drake Passage waiting ahead. With excitement and anticipation in the air, our voyage to Antarctica had officially begun.



Drake Passage Day 1

We woke to the gentle motion of the ship as we continued south through the Drake Passage, already feeling the transition away from Ushuaia and toward Antarctica. The excitement of finally heading south stayed with us throughout the day, carried by an endless horizon and a growing sense of remoteness. Weather conditions were favourable: steady northwest winds of 6–8 m/s, moderate swell, and temperatures around 4–5°C, with alternating cloud and brief sunshine over the steel-grey ocean.

The day was filled with onboard activities and briefings covering upcoming plans in Antarctica and the Falklands, including camping, snowshoeing, kayaking, and shore excursions. We also completed our rubber boot fitting, preparing for our first landings. Time on deck rewarded us with sightings of wandering albatrosses, while the Science Centre offered lectures and hands-on exploration. By evening, we maintained a steady 12–13 knots, nearly halfway across, anticipation steadily building as Antarctica drew closer.



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Drake Passage Day 2

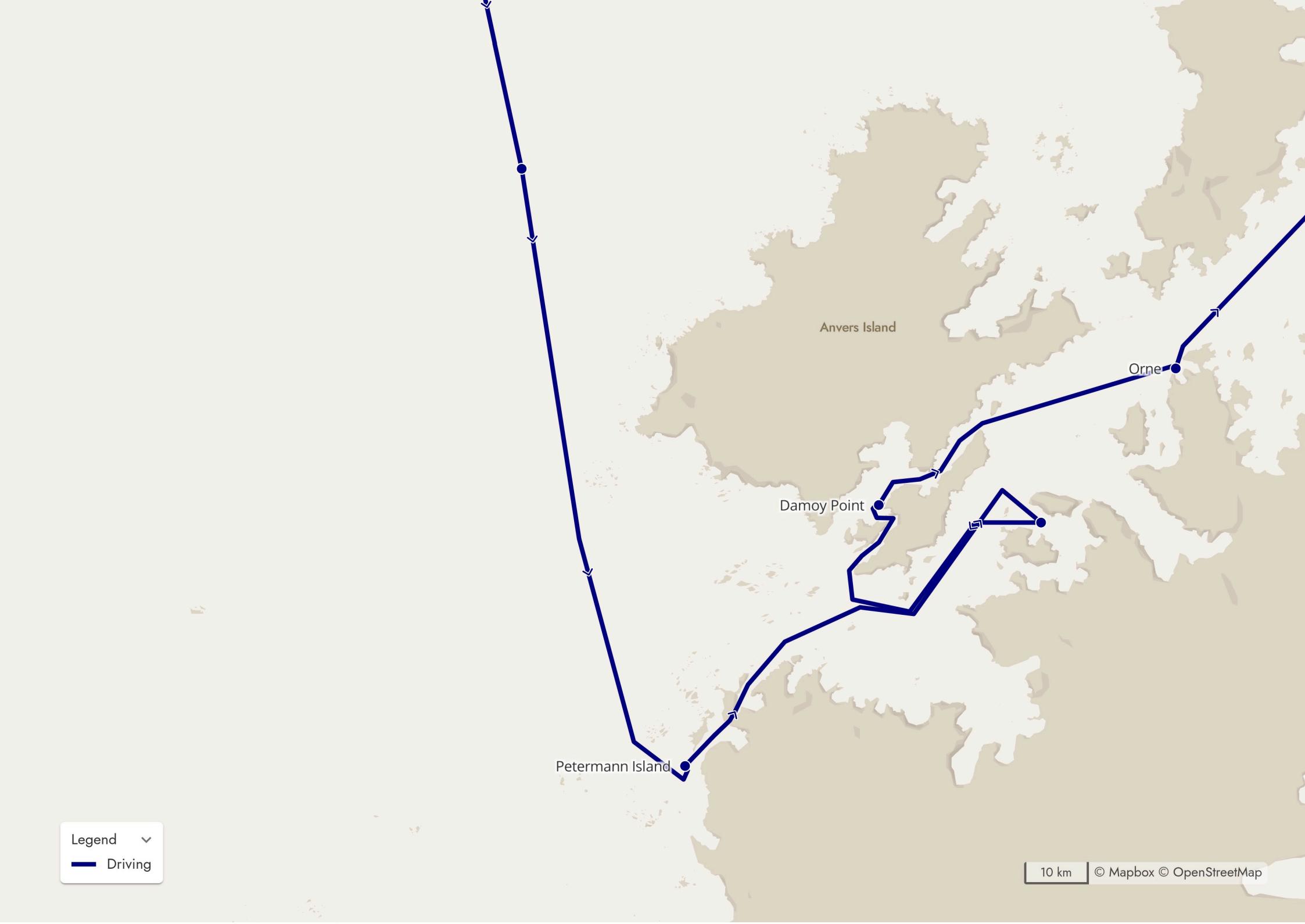
We spent our second day crossing the Drake Passage under low visibility, gentle fog, and the long, rolling swell of the Southern Ocean. Winds from the west–northwest remained between 8 and 12 m/s with moderate gusts, while waves held at 2–3 metres, making for a relatively calm and comfortable crossing toward Antarctica.

The day began with a full program of briefings. The lounge filled for the IAATO briefing, held in a warm and festive atmosphere beneath the ship's Christmas decorations. This was followed by activity briefings for kayaking, camping, snowshoeing, and expedition boat landings in Antarctica and the Falklands. These activities added to the excitement as we drew closer to the continent.

Around midday, we held a paddle practice session on deck despite the cold and fog, creating a relaxed and enjoyable moment outdoors. Later, we spotted Antarctic petrels gliding over the misty sea, a true sign of entering Antarctic waters. In the afternoon, lighter winds and a

brief snowfall marked our first real Antarctic weather.





Petermann Island

Day 3 surprised us with how warm it felt, despite temperatures reaching only about 5°C. Under clear skies, strong solar reflection from ice and snow created an almost mild sensation once ashore. Conditions were excellent, with light winds, calm seas, low swell, and good visibility among brash ice and small bergy bits, allowing smooth operations throughout the day.

Wildlife encounters were exceptional. We spent extended time among feeding humpback whales, watching their blows, rolling backs, and powerful flukes as they passed calmly near our expedition boats. On the ice and along the shoreline, we observed Adélie and gentoo penguins, easily distinguished by their movements, as well as a leopard seal resting on the ice.

Some guests explored the area by kayak, paddling quietly through the ice with whales nearby and glaciers surrounding them. From water level, every sound felt amplified and intimate. They returned to the ship sun-warmed, tired, and deeply satisfied, feeling they had

experienced the true essence of Antarctica.



Brown Station & Paradise Harbour

Day 4 took us deeper into the Antarctic Peninsula, focusing on Paradise Harbour and a visit to Brown Station. The morning began with calm seas, light winds, and low clouds that gradually lifted to reveal the dramatic glaciers and mountains surrounding the bay.

Stable conditions allowed for operations both on the water and ashore. We started with an expedition boat cruise through the still waters of Paradise Harbour, where ice fragments floated on mirror-like seas reflecting steep rocky slopes and glaciers. Wildlife encounters included seals resting on ice floes — most notably a leopard seal — and occasional whale blows breaking the silence.

Later, we landed at Brown Station, the Argentine research base set against a rugged shoreline. Walking among the buildings highlighted the human presence and scientific history of the area. From higher ground, we enjoyed panoramic views over the harbour, drifting icebergs, and snow-covered peaks. Gentoo penguins were active near the landing site. Some guests kayaked across the calm bay, while

others explored ashore. The day combined wildlife, history, and stunning scenery.



Damoy Point

Day 5 was entirely focused on Damoy Point and felt like a true Antarctic expedition from beginning to end.

We woke to calm seas, clear light, and excellent conditions, with snow-covered slopes and glaciers surrounding the bay. During the day, we went ashore and explored along marked routes, taking time to contemplate the vast scenery. From higher ground, we enjoyed sweeping views of glacier fronts, quiet water scattered with ice, and the ship resting offshore. Gentoo penguins were active near the landing site, while seals rested peacefully along the shoreline.

Some guests ventured farther inland on snowshoes, crossing gentle slopes where the scale and silence of Antarctica became truly apparent. Others stayed closer to the coast, observing wildlife and the stark landscape.

In the evening, excitement built as we returned ashore with bivy bags and camping gear. Those who spent the night on the snow, wrapped in stillness and soft polar light, likely experienced one of the most

defining moments of their journey: raw, simple, and unforgettable.



Orne Harbour

Day 6 began early at Damoy Point, where we returned ashore to collect the camping group after a clear, calm Antarctic night.

Conditions were ideal, with temperatures around 0°C, no wind, and soft morning light reflecting off the surrounding glaciers, creating a quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

Once everyone was safely back on board, we sailed north through the Gerlache Strait towards Orne Harbour. During the transit, temperatures dropped slightly to around -1°C to -2°C, but the sea remained calm. Drift ice appeared as we approached Orne, adding to the dramatic scenery. A major highlight of the day was the sighting of orcas moving effortlessly through the icy waters.

We landed at Orne Harbour on a rocky shoreline beneath steep, glaciated slopes. The site offered impressive views over the Errera Channel and surrounding islands. Chinstrap penguins, seabirds, and fragile mosses and lichens highlighted the richness of life in this harsh environment. Day 6 combined calm conditions, striking

landscapes, and unforgettable wildlife encounters.



Spert Island & Southern Ocean Transit

Day 7 began with the lingering excitement from the previous evening, when some of the bravest among us completed an unforgettable polar plunge from the ship at Orne Harbour. The icy jump was met with cheers, laughter, and a strong sense of shared adventure.

The morning was dedicated to expedition boat cruising around Spert Island, a dramatic landscape of steep cliffs, narrow channels, and floating ice. Conditions were calm and stable, with light winds, temperatures around 0°C, and good visibility. We observed seals resting on ice, seabirds skimming the water, and striking blue icebergs contrasting sharply with dark rock. The quiet and stillness made the experience especially powerful.

During the day, onboard lectures and workshops provided time to warm up and reflect, while deepening our understanding of the region. In the evening, we sailed into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island, a surreal and symbolic farewell to Antarctica. From there, we set course north towards the Falkland Islands, marking a

clear transition from the Antarctic chapter of our voyage.



Legend ▾

- Driving

Spert island

10 km

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At Sea (Southern Ocean / Drake Passage)

We spent the day entirely at sea, settling into the rhythm of the ship as we continued northbound through the Southern Ocean. Our position was around 60°45' South, 59°07' West, and we maintained a steady speed of approximately 15.6 knots. Wind conditions increased to 15–16 m/s, and significant wave heights reached about 5.1 metres, a clear return to classic Drake Passage conditions. Despite the rougher seas, the ship handled the swell confidently and life on board continued smoothly.

Time on deck was limited due to wind and sea state, but there were brief opportunities to observe the long Southern Ocean swell. A full onboard program filled the day, with lectures on polar history, wildlife, and exploration, alongside interactive activities, art sessions, and Citizen Science projects. Bridge visits and storytelling offered insight into navigation and life at sea.



At Sea, Drake Passage

Today was spent entirely at sea while crossing the Drake Passage, making steady progress toward the Falkland Islands. Conditions were typical for the Drake, with a persistent westerly wind, rolling swell, and a constant motion of the ship. Despite moderate to fresh winds and low air temperatures of around 3–5°C, the vessel handled the conditions well and maintained a comfortable average speed. Passing showers and broken cloud cover created a classic Southern Ocean atmosphere.

In the morning, many guests joined the wildlife watch on Deck 7, scanning the horizon and enjoying the dynamic seascape. Later, bridge visits offered insight into navigation and ship operations, offering our guests a strong sense of scale and direction in the open ocean.

The onboard program included lectures on Falkland Islands birdlife, humpback whales, and perspectives on the Falklands War, alongside

workshops and Citizen Science projects. A highlight was the Ice Palette Challenge art session, which provided a calm and creative contrast to the moving sea. The day ended with the plans-for-tomorrow briefing and live music in the Explorer Lounge & Bar, closing a relaxed and rewarding day at sea.



Port Stanley, Falkland Islands

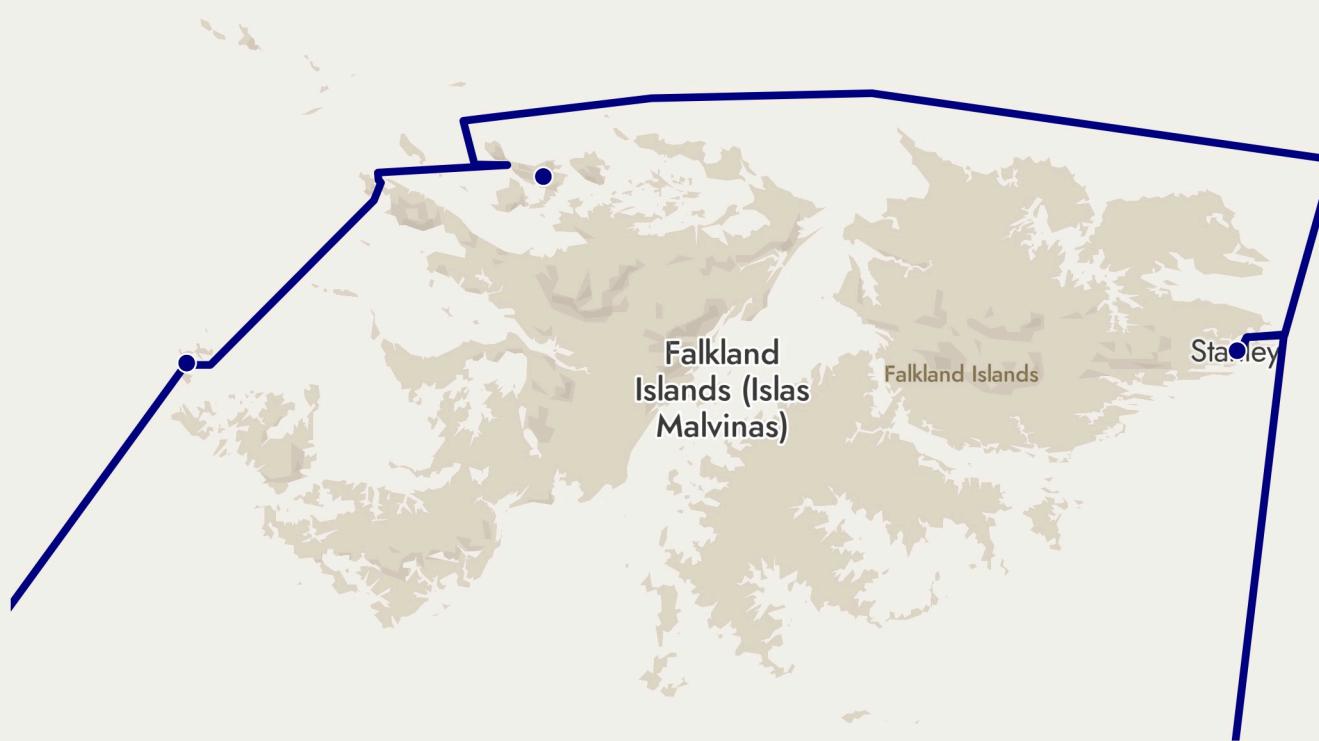
We woke at anchor off Port Stanley beneath a classic Falklands sky of fast-moving clouds, shifting light, and a steady breeze. Expedition boat landings began early, and the day unfolded with a variety of parallel activities ashore.

Many explored the countryside around Stanley, walking along defined paths through open heathland and tussac grass across gently rolling terrain. Wide views opened over the bay and town, and wildlife encounters included upland geese with chicks resting quietly in the vegetation. From higher ground, we looked back toward the anchorage, while the landscape beyond town remained calm and open. Weather was changeable but favourable, with cool temperatures, good visibility, and alternating sunshine and clouds.

Others chose expedition boat cruises to seek wildlife, longer hikes, or time in town visiting museums, shops, and cafés. Continuous

expedition boat operations allowed flexibility throughout the day. Back on board in the afternoon, the ship settled into a relaxed rhythm, with time to warm up, review photos, and watch the bay. Evening briefings marked the transition as we prepared to leave the Falklands, closing a varied and rewarding day that combined wildlife, open landscapes, and local history.





Legend ▾

Driving

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Saunders Island

Today we spent a full and rewarding day on Saunders Island, a place where nature feels raw and untouched. Conditions were favourable for operations, with overcast but stable weather, a moderate westerly wind, and a calm sea allowing smooth expedition boat landings. Once ashore, we explored the island in small groups, walking along the coastline and across rolling grass and peat-covered hills. From higher viewpoints, we enjoyed wide views over the ocean and long sandy beaches, with a strong sense of remoteness.

Wildlife encounters were the highlight of the day. We observed penguins along the shore and within their colonies, and spent time near black-browed albatrosses, learning about their breeding ecology and the importance of the Falklands as a nesting area. Throughout the walk, stops were made to interpret the landscape and its biodiversity.



New Island

Today our guests enjoyed an unforgettable landing at New Island, one of the most wildlife-rich and scenic sites in the Falkland Islands. We went ashore in the morning under good conditions, with fresh winds but clear visibility.

Following established paths through tussac grass, we reached the cliffs overlooking the South Atlantic, where wildlife encounters were exceptional. Large colonies of rockhopper penguins and black-browed albatrosses dominated the dramatic coastline, and a special highlight was spotting a macaroni penguin among the rockhoppers, easily identified by its bright yellow crest.

From the clifftops, we enjoyed spectacular views as seabirds soared constantly around us, providing excellent opportunities to observe their natural behaviors. The Expedition Team guided our guests and shared the island's ecological importance.

In the afternoon, we departed New Island and began our return crossing toward Ushuaia. Seabirds continued to follow the ship as we

settled into a relaxed, reflective sea-day atmosphere. Tomorrow, we will transit the Beagle Channel, marking the final stage of our journey.





Beagle Channel

This day marked the beginning of our final navigation back to Ushuaia, bringing the expedition to a close. During the night and early morning, we left the open ocean and entered the calm, sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. The change in scenery was immediate, with smooth seas, forested slopes, and distant mountains accompanying our last stretch of the journey.

Our guests spent a quiet and reflective day on board, packing luggage, exchanging photographs, and sharing memories with fellow guests and crew after so many days of shared experiences. The atmosphere combined satisfaction and nostalgia, with conversations recalling wildlife encounters, memorable landings, and life at sea.

Many went out on deck to enjoy the peaceful Fuegian landscape, taking advantage of the gentle conditions to reflect on the journey. The ship continued at a steady, relaxed pace, allowing everyone to fully enjoy the final hours of navigation.

We arrived in Ushuaia this evening, marking the quiet and emotional conclusion of our expedition. After days at sea and time spent in some of the most remote regions on Earth, the sight of city lights and calm harbour waters felt both comforting and bittersweet. Overnight alongside allowed us a final, restful night on board, giving time to reflect on the journey and say unhurried goodbyes.



Final Day

The morning began early with breakfast and final disembarkation procedures. Cabins were vacated on schedule, luggage — prepared the night before — was already on its way to Buenos Aires, and guests were called by bus groups to leave the ship smoothly.

As our guests stepped ashore, we could all feel a strong sense of gratitude toward the crew and Expedition Team, and pride in having completed such a remarkable voyage. The expedition ended not with haste, but with reflection, memories, and a deep connection to the polar world we had explored.

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