



MS Fram

2025.12.27 - 2026.01.17

Legend

— HX Expedition



Day 1

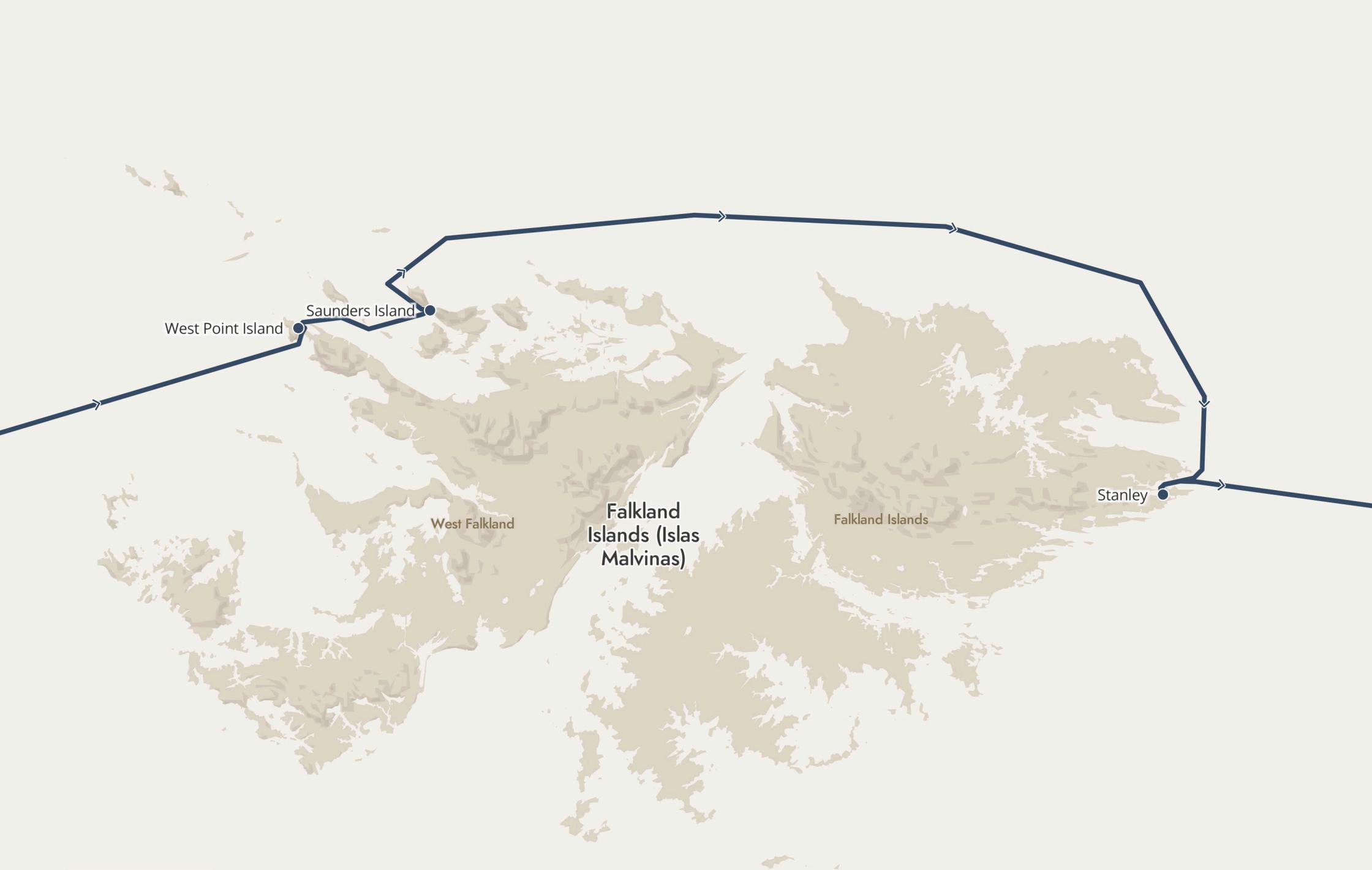
Our guests embarked in Punta Arenas and settled into their new home aboard the ship, shaking off travel fatigue as they explored the decks and common spaces. They attended the mandatory safety drill and learned how our boat groups work for landings and activities. After collecting their rubber boots, they felt properly equipped for the voyage ahead. Just before the ship departed the wind strengthened and we had to delay departure. However, luck was with us, and not

long after this the wind decreased and we set sail along the Strait of Magellan. After dinner we listened to Expedition Leader Tessa and Hotel Manager Judit give a ship and voyage introduction. This revealed an outline of our route and the possibilities for our adventure. Although tired, many guests gathered afterwards in the lounge to meet fellow travellers to share their excitement.

Day 2

The day was spent with guests easing into their routine, relaxing and enjoying the programme of talks and activities. Some joined a birdlife talk, met the Guest Scientists, and got a good sense of how the onboard science projects worked. In anticipation of our arrival in the Falklands, many attended a lecture about the Falkland Islands' history and the long-running sovereignty dispute. Some guests joined the art

corner to decorate their water bottles. Wildlife watches on deck gave guests the opportunity to scan the ocean for wildlife, while the Captain's welcome introduced the Expedition Team and crew leading the voyage. Later, after a mandatory boat safety briefing, the plans for the coming days were presented.



Legend

 HX Expedition

Day 3

Our first nature landing of the voyage was our guests' first experience being driven ashore in the ship's expedition boats. They landed at West Point Island in calm conditions and immediately the wildlife sightings began with some lively Commerson's dolphins playing around the boats. Some guests enjoyed a beautiful walk across to the other side of the island to see the magnificent black-browed albatross

colony at Cliff Mountain. To see the chicks on their turret nests was a delight for all, and then we enjoyed a delicious, traditional West Point afternoon tea. In the afternoon we had a visit to the magical 'neck' of Saunders Island, where we were privileged to see four species of penguins as well as a black-browed albatross colony, Falkland steamer ducks, and other seabirds.







Day 4

The weather forecast for the Falklands deteriorated rapidly overnight and the decision was made to spend one less day in the islands and head to Stanley for today. This meant we would steam ahead of the heavy storm due the following day, which risked the ship being trapped in Stanley or even denied entry. Although the weather was damp with varying degrees of drizzle and rain, we all achieved our various excursions and visits into the city itself. The scenery and

wildlife were fascinating, even in the rain, and those visiting the museum or taking part in the historical tours found their time ashore very interesting. In the afternoon there was also a talk about the whales and dolphins of the Southern Ocean, a story telling, wildlife watch and some relaxing piano music in the Explorer Lounge. In the evening we were treated to a talk by a conservationist from the South Georgia Heritage Trust.

Day 5

Today offered a full programme, beginning with the mandatory South Georgia regulations briefing, an iPhone photography session and a talk on identifying local wildlife. In the afternoon we learned more about Sir Ernest Shackleton's Trans-Antarctic Expedition before turning to our own preparations. We followed South Georgia's strict biosecurity measures by thoroughly vacuuming outdoor clothing and

cleaning muck boots, ready for inspections before going ashore. This evening we welcomed New Year's Eve with music from our pianist, a lively quiz with the Expedition Team and more music and dancing well past midnight as we celebrated the arrival of the New Year.

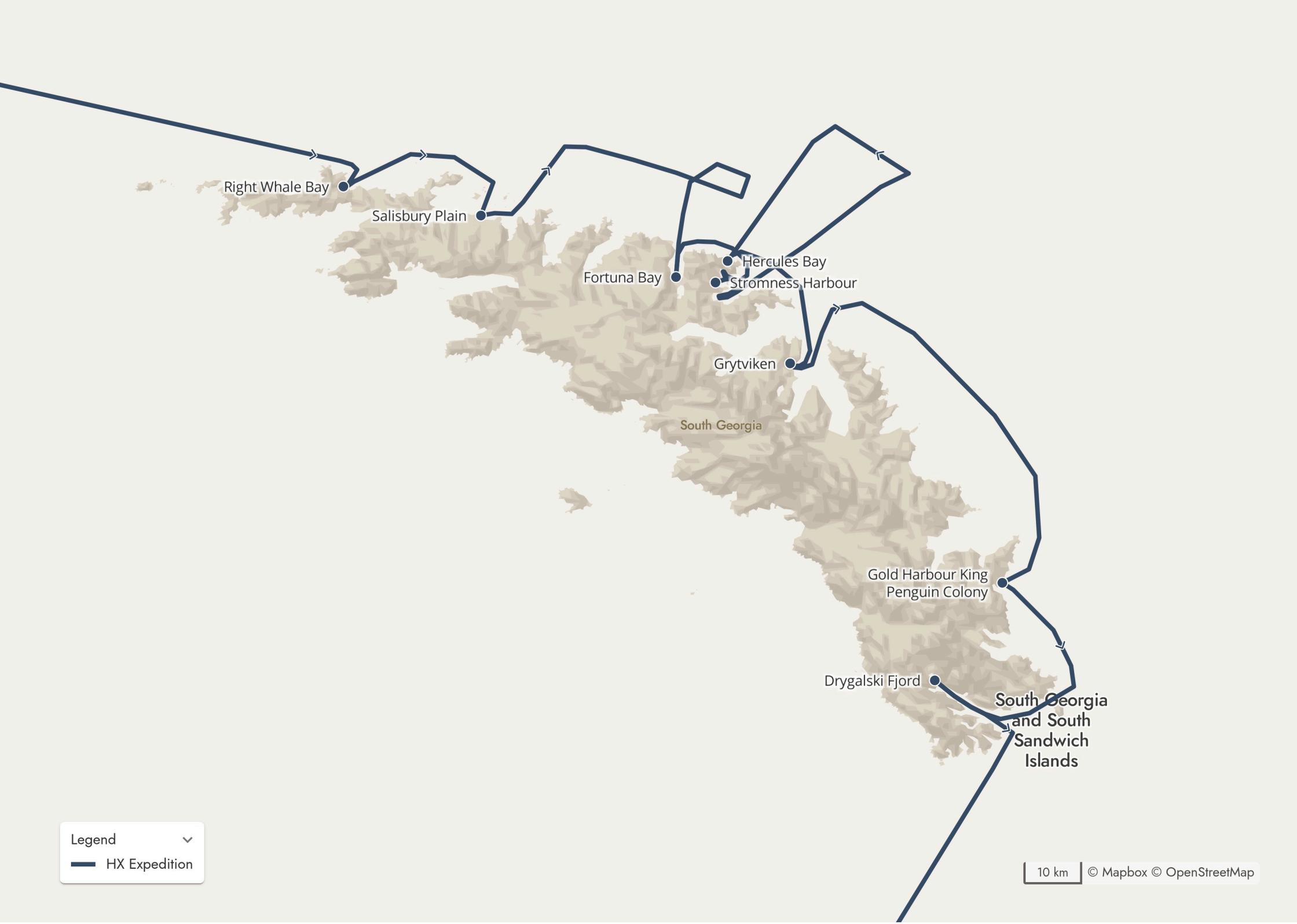


Day 6

We were very lucky regarding the sea state; we had only a little swell as we transited to South Georgia. Nature gave us a very big treat because we saw an incredible number of whales - fin, sei, and humpback. We'd already seen some after leaving the Falkland Islands, but today they gave us a real show. We passed the small but beautiful outcrop in the ocean known as Shag Rocks, the home to

hundreds of imperial shags. The weather gave us great visibility to enjoy the wildlife and the rocks themselves. As we sailed on toward South Georgia we saw some sei, fin and humpback whales, while on board the ship, guests enjoyed more lectures hosted by the expert Expedition Team.





Right Whale Bay

Salisbury Plain

Fortuna Bay

Hercules Bay

Stromness Harbour

Grytviken

South Georgia

Gold Harbour King
Penguin Colony

Drygalski Fjord

South Georgia
and South
Sandwich
Islands

Legend

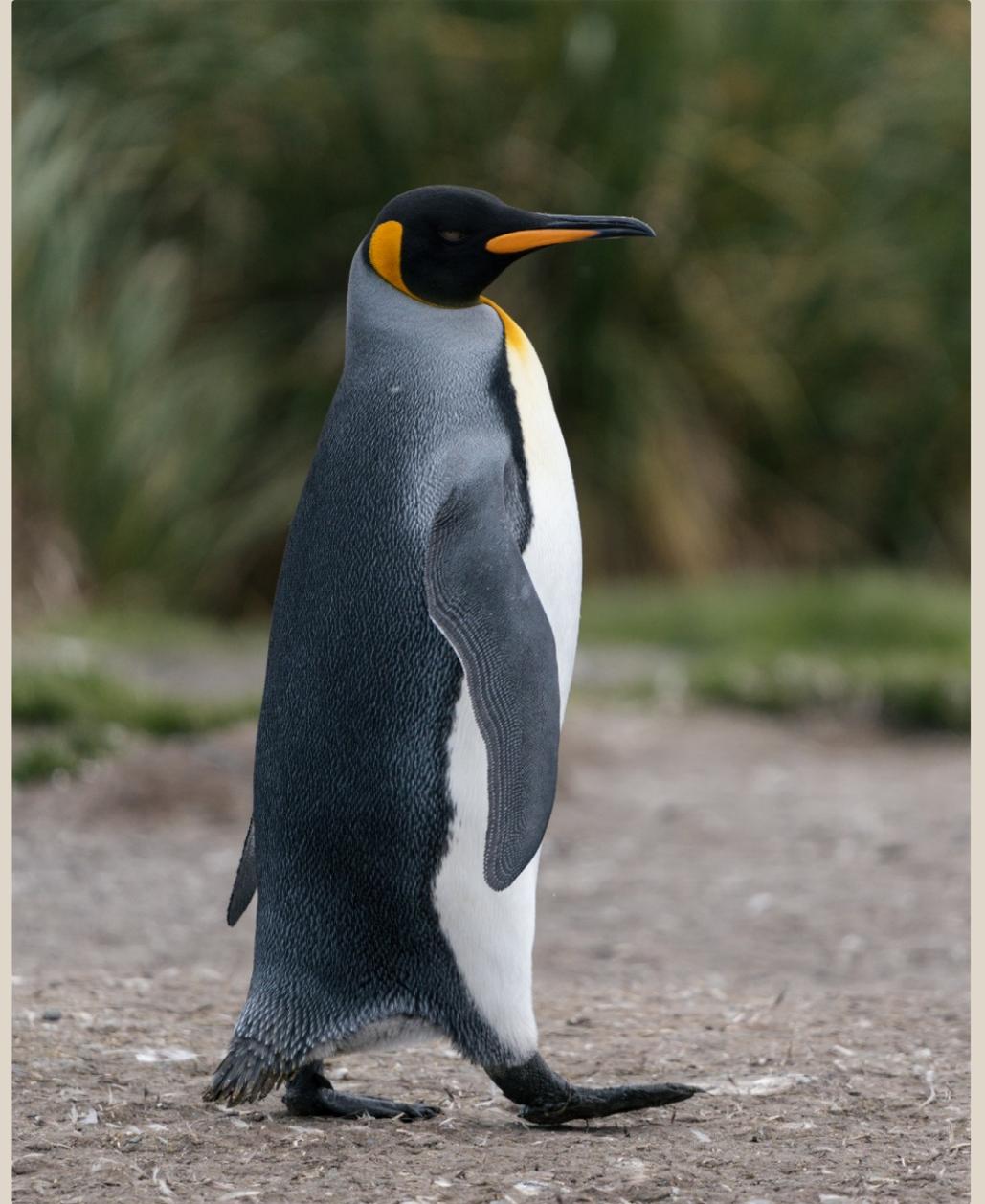
 HX Expedition

Day 7

The weather was good today for our guests' first taste of South Georgia. Unfortunately, avian flu had decimated the seal population here, requiring expedition boat cruising at Right Whale Bay. Here we had the opportunity to get close enough to shore to spot king and gentoo penguins and also the playful fur seals and their young pups. Our guests also had their first sight of some elephant

seals and see, in comparison to fur seals, how huge they are. In the afternoon we had the experience of a lifetime as we saw the second largest king penguin colony in South Georgia: Approximately 250,000 birds in total, with 60,000 being breeding pairs and their chicks. We also observed a large colony of fur seals here too.





Day 8

Today we visited Fortuna Bay, a peaceful place filled with wonderful wildlife, where our guests had the opportunity to walk to the king penguin colony, which had about 20,000 birds. The fur seals here seemed very relaxed, and many seabirds soared over us and the penguins. In the afternoon those guests not on the Shackleton Hike enjoyed a scenic cruise to the whaling station of Stromness. Guests who went on the hike had the opportunity to follow almost directly in

the footsteps of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsley, and Tom Crean as they crossed the uncharted interior of South Georgia in 1916. While we did not exactly follow their route (ours was without the errors they made and without the waterfall descent) to the Stromness whaling station, it surely felt as if we were experiencing a living a piece of history. In the evening we cruised to Leith and Husvik whaling stations for a look from the ship.





Day 9

The weather was kind to us as we cruised the beautiful Hercules Bay, whose cliffs shelter colonies of South Georgian wildlife. This enabled us all to enjoy the wonderful macaroni penguins, named after the outrageous headgear of 18th century wealthy British 'dandies'. In the afternoon we visited the only accessible whaling station in South Georgia, Grytviken. It is a fascinating place and an excellent snapshot of the grisly business of whaling in the first half of the 20th century.

The interesting museum enhanced our guests' knowledge of the explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who is buried in the cemetery there. Some guests enjoyed the Maiviken hike - a walk across the hills toward the next bay. This was a walk taken by whalers when they had free time on Sundays. That evening we experienced the momentous occasion of a blue whale sighting. It was really close to the ship!





Day 10

Gold Harbour was considered by many to be the most beautiful landing in South Georgia. The scenery was dramatic and an elephant seal colony with sparring young males filling the air with their roar greeted us here. The fur seals here were generally peaceable, with the majority sleeping, hidden in the tussock grass. It was here we had our last view of king penguins and the delightful moulting chicks from last season. Many of them were almost ready to go to sea, with almost

all of their down feathers gone and their fresh adult plumage on show. Good fortune continued because the wind dropped completely and we spent the rest of the day cruising past Cooper Island with its picturesque bays and inlets and along the narrow, glacier filled Drygalski Fjord. This is a rare treat as the entrance to the fjord is often blocked by icebergs.





At sea - Jan 6, 2026

Day 11

Today was another full program of onboard talks as we headed South to Antarctica. Anticipating the icy continent, we had a talk on glaciers and the species of seals we may encounter there. There was even an opportunity for guests to create their own memories of South Georgia

and the Falklands in modelling clay. Today's big wildlife sighting was observing a pod of magnificent Type A orcas - the minke whale-eating orcas - passing our ship, which created a lot of excitement

Signy Island, Antarctica - Jan 7, 2026

Day 12

Today we sailed toward the South Orkney Islands and our first Antarctic stop at Signy Island, a tiny British scientific research base. The opportunity to experience this small corner of Antarctica in the South Orkneys is not normally given to tourist vessels, but since MS Fram and HX support many scientists from different research bases and universities, the privilege was ours to enjoy. It was a fascinating insight into base life in this remote and isolated place where only

about seven people work. The afternoon was spent at sea with various lectures and workshops, and the evening included a quiz where we learned some fascinating and often-surprising facts about members of the Expedition Team. The highlight at the end of the day was the HX Charity Auction where some great items were put up for sale to raise funds for HX Foundation.



Day 13

Today was a relaxing day, with lectures on penguins, 'Blue Health' (the benefits of spending time near water), and a mandatory camping briefing for those hoping to take part. In the art corner, guests painted the clay models they made previously. There was a fun table

tennis tournament with guests and the Expedition Team. At our wildlife watches, we saw a lot of fin and humpback whales early in the day, as well as another pod of orcas seen momentarily close to the ship at lunch time.



Legend

 HX Expedition

Lemaire Channel ●
Yalour Islands ●

Anvers Island ●
Georges Point ●
Wilhelmina Bay ●
Kerr Point ●

Charlotte Bay ●

Telefon Bay ●

Half Moon Island ●

Aitcho Islands ●

James Ross Island



Day 14

At Half Moon Island, chinstrap penguins, Weddell seals, a crabeater seal, and a leopard seal were observed by those ashore. Meanwhile, kayakers basked in the stunning scenery of this Island, and the glaciers of Livingston Island made this activity an even more incredible experience. We also saw the Cámara Base, an Argentine meteorological base there that is active in the summer only. In the afternoon we found ourselves in the moon-like landscapes of

Deception Island, the island formed from a collapsed volcanic caldera. Landing at Telefon Bay, some guests hiked around a part of the caldera, but the winds became too strong so they shortened the walk. But wherever you looked, the scenery was so stunning that it captured your attention completely. Today was polar plunge day as we were able to do so at both Half Moon Island and Telefon Bay. Much cheering and encouragement was heard in both places.





Day 15

The sun shone brightly from early dawn and the sea reflected the mountains surrounding Wilhelmina Bay like a mirror. It was so calm that it was possible to see with ease the humpback whales which surfaced all around the ship. Our expedition boat cruising took our guests among the ice in the bay and the humpbacks showed themselves, along with a snoozing leopard seal. Kayakers had an outstanding experience, paddling among the icebergs. In the afternoon we visited Georges Point and enjoyed a walk among small

gentoo penguin colonies with a backdrop of jagged, snow-covered mountains and ancient glaciers, with a few Weddell seals and a handful of chinstrap penguins for good measure. Later in the evening, there was much excitement among those camping at Kerr Point. Expedition boats carried the intrepid overnights off with their tents and bivy bags for their overnight adventure. The HX Expedition Team members accompanying the campers were Lara, Lukas, and Tina.







Day 16

It was a very early start for our returning campers, but despite their tiredness, there were many tales heard about the wonderful experience of listening to Antarctic nature at night. Then we had a very relaxed and scenic cruise through the Lemaire Channel. Often this is ice filled, but today we were lucky, and with just a little ice and a touch of mountain top fog, we sailed past the Una Peaks. In the afternoon our guests could ice cruise by expedition boat or go ashore

to enjoy the charming colony of Adélie penguins. It was humorous to watch them travel around between nesting sites on their bellies. We also spotted a pair of chinstraps and a pair of gentoos among the Adélie. Some guests also chose to kayak here. To our great delight, some guests also saw yet another pod of magnificent orcas as we sailed away toward Orne Harbour.





Day 17

The sun was shining as many guests made the climb up the steep slope of Orne Harbour - their feet actually upon the great continental mainland. For some it was a their seventh continent visited, but for all, it was a big occasion. The views of the harbour, chinstrap penguin colony, and across the Errera Channel were outstanding. Our afternoon found us in absolutely perfect conditions - glassy sea and a

clear bright sky. The nature-sculpted icebergs of Charlotte Bay looked their absolute best in their glistening whites and blues. At one point, we were even joined by five humpback whales quietly foraging near the ship. From the expedition boats, some lucky guests even had the opportunity to enjoy sighting two sleeping humpback whales in the distance.





Day 18

Our final morning in Antarctica was at the scenic Barrientos Island in the Aitcho Islands archipelago. Although the skies were grey and the fog flowed in and out across the island, the two colonies of chinstrap and gentoo penguins provided our last sight of these delightful birds. This was also our last day for kayaking and for those guests who took

part, it was challenging but very fun. The water was choppy and there was fog around, but the activity guides showed them the land and wildlife close up from the water as they circumnavigated Barrientos Island.



Day 19

We had the rare treat of the 'Drake Lake'. We experienced a Drake's passage so calm, with just a little swell, that everyone was able to attend the onboard activities which sparked their interest. We had many whale sightings on this day, and some guests joined a perfectly

timed talk on the giants of the ocean. It was a wonderful day for spotting a considerable number of humpback whales. The day closed with a very interesting talk by our Environmental Scientist about her life in Svalbard.



Day 20

A busy programme of talks and activities led us to our fine weather landing in Puerto Williams. Guests either joined a fascinating bird walk with our Ornithologist and the two Penguin Watch scientists or joined a walk around town to soak up the atmosphere of this very

small Chilean town. Before going ashore, guests heard from two members of the HX Expedition Team who live in Puerto Williams to hear what daily life is like in the southernmost town in the world.



Chilean fjords, Chile - Jan 16, 2026

Day 21

Many guests were up early and out on deck this morning because our Captain was able to manage the return journey to Punta Arenas so cleverly that we were able to fit in time to visit the stupendous Garibaldi Glacier. For the rest of the day our guests enjoyed different talks and activities. Before the end of the day, a pod of orcas cruised

by close to the ship, and then we had our Captain's farewell. The end of the farewell peaked with a record-breaking auction aboard MS Fram. It was for the privilege of naming the blue whale we spotted earlier in the voyage. The excitement was tangible as the bidders fought for the honour. The winner named her 'Magrathea'.

Punta Arenas, Chile - Jan 17, 2026

Day 22

This was the last day of the voyage and most guests had an early trip to the airport. It was an emotional farewell as they not only said goodbye to many new friends but also the wonderful crew and the

Expedition Team. Many had tears in our eyes but were clearly looking forward to their next adventure!



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