



MS Fridtjof Nansen

20 – 30 December 2025



Buenos Aires - Ushuaia

Flying in from Buenos Aires, our guests descended into Ushuaia, with some lucky enough to have a window and catch their first glimpses of the Beagle Channel. Some caught their first glimpse of their home for the next ten days, MS Fridtjof Nansen tugging at its lines, eager to head south again.

The guests boarded, found their luxurious accommodation, attended the mandatory safety briefing, and while at dinner, we were on our way. Let the adventure begin!



Drake Passage, First Day at Sea

Any fears of the mighty, fearsome Drake Passage proved unfounded, as it showed us its kinder side. A gentle swell rocked the ship, like a baby in a cradle. A day at sea building the anticipation, our guests

received their badge of honour, our expedition jacket, and the Captain welcomed them warmly on board.



Drake Passage, Second Day at Sea

The Drake is giving us a taste of how fearsome she can be. During the night, we crossed 60° South and are officially in Antarctica. The Captain, in his wisdom, altered course to the east to ensure a more comfortable ride for the ship.

Guests were briefed on IAATO and their expected behaviours ashore,

and received their rubber boots and boat group patches. Strict biosecurity protocols saw them vacuuming their clothes so we can be assured that we will keep Antarctica pristine. You can smell the anticipation in the air. Albatrosses and cape petrels followed our boat and danced effortlessly through the winds.



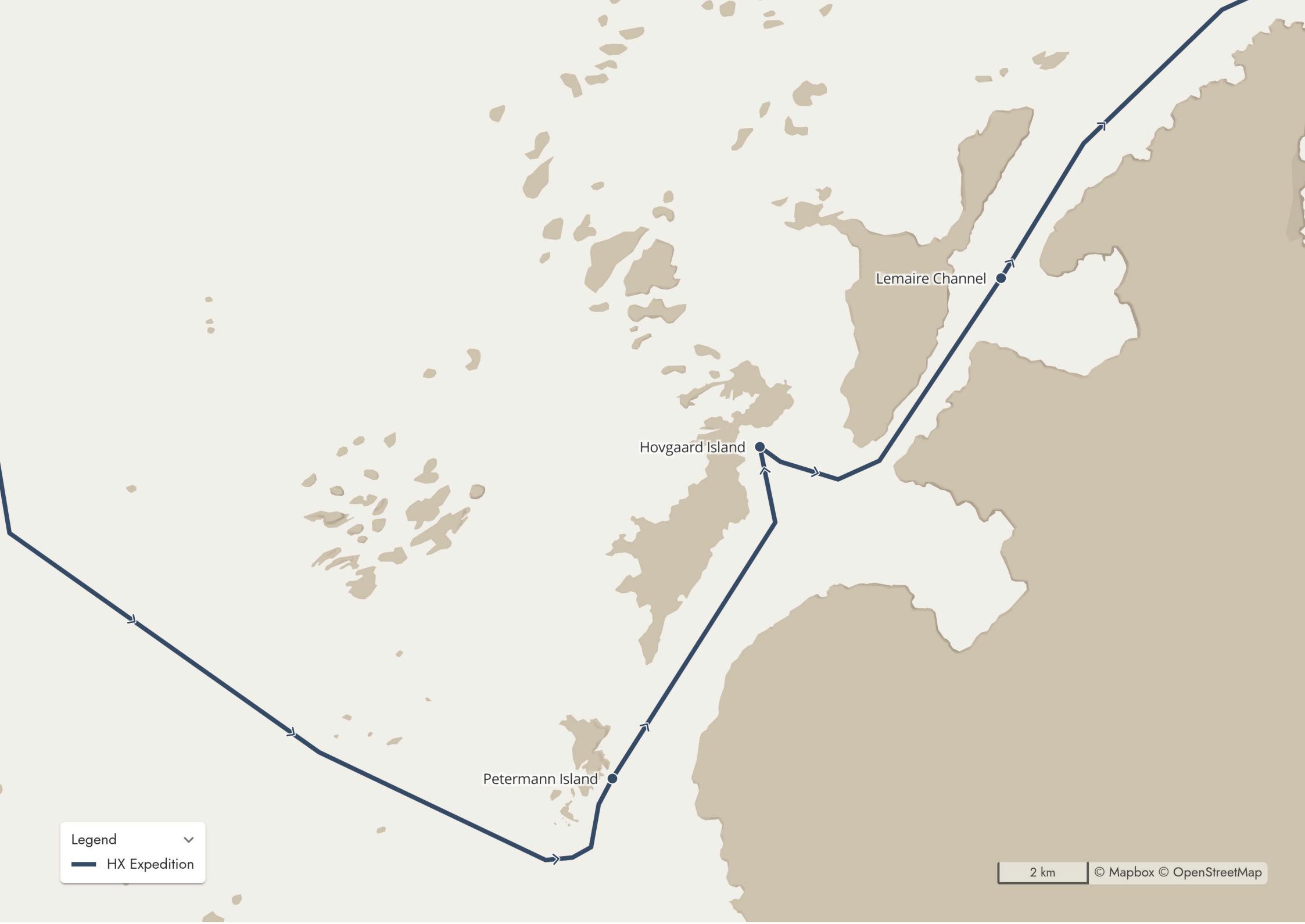
French Passage to Petermann Island and the Penola Strait

Pulling back the curtains in the morning, we were greeted by the awe-inspiring sight of Antarctica. Soaring snow-clad peaks, draped with clouds, and massive tabular icebergs dotted the cerulean blue seas.

After a hearty breakfast and the morning on board, operations began

in earnest. Our first landing on Petermann Island had us entertained by gentoo and Adélie penguins, as we walked up to a viewpoint to see icebergs aground in the bay. Small boat cruising occurred at the same time, with our knowledgeable Expedition Team sharing their wisdom and knowledge of this amazing land.





Hovgaard Island

A lucky group ventured forth to Hovgaard Island and snowshoed to a vantage point, often overlooking fellow guests, friends, and family small boat cruising among the icebergs of the Penola Strait and

Girard Bay. While expedition boat cruising, the scenery was filled with quiet moments of excitement and wonder as we weaved through the ice, immersed in the stillness and scale of the Antarctic landscape.



Lemaire Channel

We then sailed through the famous Lemaire Channel, where the Historian, Magnus, regaled us with stories of its rich history and early explorers. Towering vertical cliffs rose on either side of the ship, their dark rock faces streaked with snow and ice. As we moved slowly

forward, the Captain carefully navigated between drifting icebergs in the narrow channel, the stillness broken only by the sound of ice brushing past the hull, leaving us absorbed in the moment.

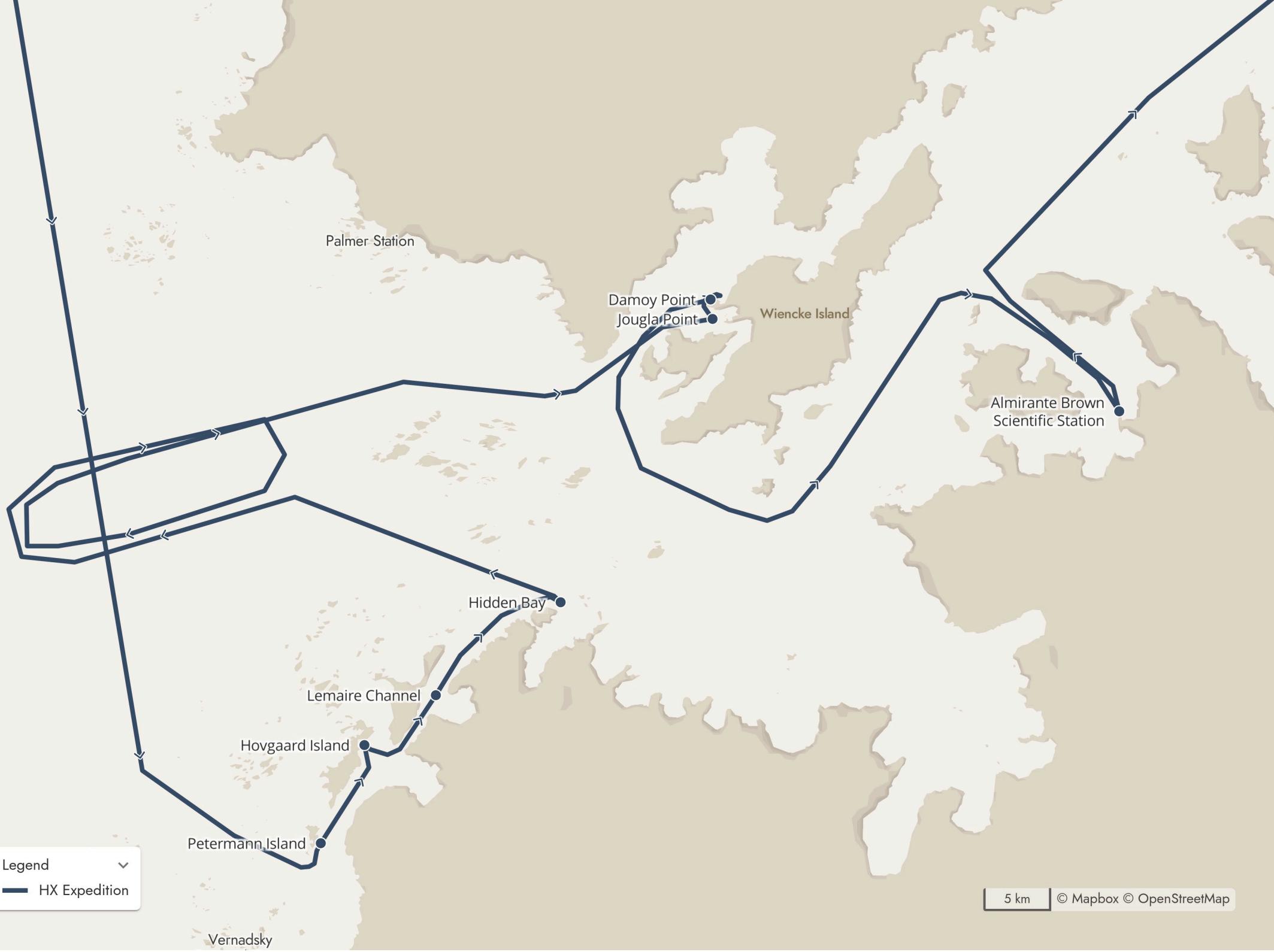


Hidden Bay

At the end of the Lemaire Channel, we turned to starboard and began more small boat cruising in Hidden Bay, weaving around massive icebergs, some of which were slowly rolling over. Whales cavorted

nearby, adding to the sense of wonder as we explored the bay. During the evening, the crew sang Christmas carols, and we were treated to a surprise visit from Santa.





Polar Plunge at Port Lockroy

We awoke to the sight of the Union Jack lazily slapping in the morning breeze above Bransfield House and the British Base, Port Lockroy.

Some ventured forth and kayaked around the base, witnessing some of the most studied penguins in Antarctica.

The Expedition Team also sent out two groups to conduct science

activities, collecting data for a range of Citizen Science projects supported by HX and the Science Team on board. Before leaving, several brave souls decided to test their mettle by conducting a polar plunge from the tender pit.



Damoy Point

Before lunch, the ship repositioned to Dorian Bay, Damoy Point, where the Expedition Team organized multiple activities, including Discovery Kayak and a landing. Increasing ice pressure in the bay, however, forced the cancellation of Discovery Kayak, as well as a change in the landing site as the expedition boats worked carefully to press through the ice.

We landed at Dorian Bay and stretched our legs with a long circuit

around Damoy Point, including a visit to the hut which served as a depot for the British Antarctic Survey. Gentoo penguins watched us idly as we walked around the landing site.

In the evening, a lucky group headed out to camp on Wiencke Island, experiencing the rare magic of spending a night out in Antarctica, surrounded by silence, ice, and the vast southern sky.



Continental Landing in Paradise Harbour

Observing the speed restrictions in Antarctica to protect the acoustic environment for marine animals, we reached the Argentine Summer Station site of operations, Almirante Brown Station, in Paradise Harbour. It truly was paradise today, with the sun shining brightly. For some guests, this marked their seventh continent, and they were thrilled to finally step foot on the continent itself.

Later, we were able to go expedition boat cruising again, and for some this proved to be the highlight of the voyage. At one point they were surrounded by feeding humpback whales and penguins lazily cleaning themselves before heading back to the rookeries at the Almirante Brown Station.





Like another World

Today we encountered a very different landscape as we sailed through the narrow entrance of Deception Island into the calm waters of the caldera. We were inside an active volcano, which last erupted in the early 1970s. Our destination was the remains of a parasitic volcanic cone, where we could really stretch our legs and work off some of the Christmas cheer we had enjoyed on board.

Unlike the towering ice cliffs and brilliant blues we had grown used to, this was a stark and surreal environment. Ice and snow lay scattered across volcanic rock and ash, the land stripped back to black and white tones. The contrast was striking, giving the strong impression of walking through another world, and reminding us just how diverse and unexpected Antarctica can be.



Heading North

The Drake was kind to us today with blue skies and a favourable light wind as we left behind a land of amazement. They had only briefly touched the surface, and it was time for our guests to leave. As Fridtjof Nansen once said, "We all have a Land of Beyond to seek in our life — what more can we ask? ... the call comes to us, and we

have to go."

Rubber boots were returned and thoughts turned to the future — what adventures will come next?



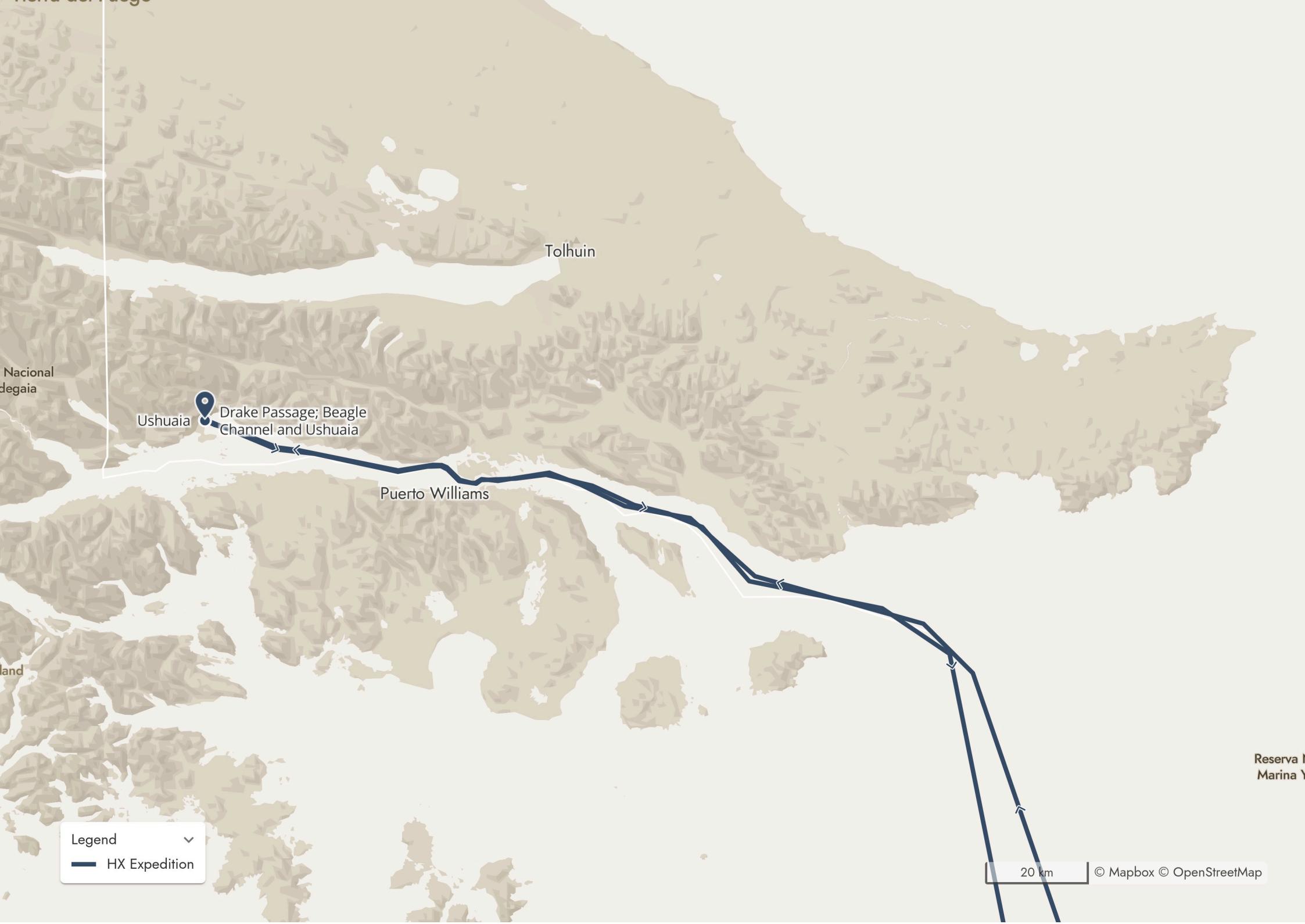
Drake Passage and into the Beagle Channel

The Drake was even kinder to us today, which was welcome as our guests set about the tasks of packing for their journey home. They spent time with newfound shipmates, sharing stories of the adventures experienced together – and even making plans for upcoming voyages. We hope our guests have the opportunity to be a powerful voice for Antarctica after they return home, to ensure we protect this pristine land, and to stand up and be counted as Antarctic ambassadors.

Just before entering the Beagle Channel, we gathered for the Captain's farewell. His words were warm and heartfelt, reflecting on the journey we had shared and the challenges we had overcome together. Everyone felt proud and inspired, our guests knowing that this adventure would stay with them forever.

We arrived a bit earlier than expected back in Ushuaia, which gave our guests the opportunity to explore the evening and nightlife of the southernmost city.







Disembarkation

The day has come, and it is time for our guests to leave their newfound home and the family we have become. We hope our guests head home fundamentally changed by our shared experience in Antarctica. The purity of the White Continent has washed over them and left its mark. Will their friends and family recognize the subtle changes in them, their desire to tread more gently on this

planet we all share?

Guests and the crew say a final goodbye and bestow best wishes. We hope this experience makes our guests feel inspired and ready to carry the spirit of Antarctica with them wherever they go.



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