



MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN

19 – 29 January 2026





Day 1 - Embarkation in Ushuaia

Today our guests embarked beautiful MS Fridtjof Nansen. Once on board, they had some time to roam around and find their way around the ship before attending a mandatory safety predeparture drill. We also hosted a welcome briefing where our guests got some more tips

and tricks about where to find things around the ship. Our Captain announced that we would have a bumpy ride across the Drake Passage for the next two days, so we all tried to get a good night's sleep and prepare ourselves for some rough seas ahead.





Day 2 - Drake Passage Southbound

We could already feel some bumps during the night, and we woke up to the 'Drake Shake' with close to 7m waves (with the occasional bigger waves passing by!). Nonetheless, it was a busy day with many briefings for our guests to attend as well as picking up their HX expedition jackets. The briefings included those about the activities that would be available on this voyage and how to sign up for them.

There was also a separate briefing for those interested in kayaking. Later that evening we had our mandatory IAATO briefing with information about how we should behave ashore. After another delicious dinner on board, the Captain and officers introduced themselves and the Expedition Team members to the guests.





Drake Passage Southbound

Half Moon Island

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 3 - Drake Passage Southbound

We woke up to similar weather conditions on our second seaday crossing the Drake Passage, however many found their 'sea-legs' and the ship was busy with many guests attending briefings, having lunch, and also picking up their rubber boots. and animal patches, which would be their boat group for the rest of the voyage.

Later on that evening, as we were sailing between the South Shetland Islands, we had a briefing about our very first day in Antarctica. So, we all went to sleep excited for what was in store the next day!



Legend ▾
HX Expedition



Orne Islands



200 m

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

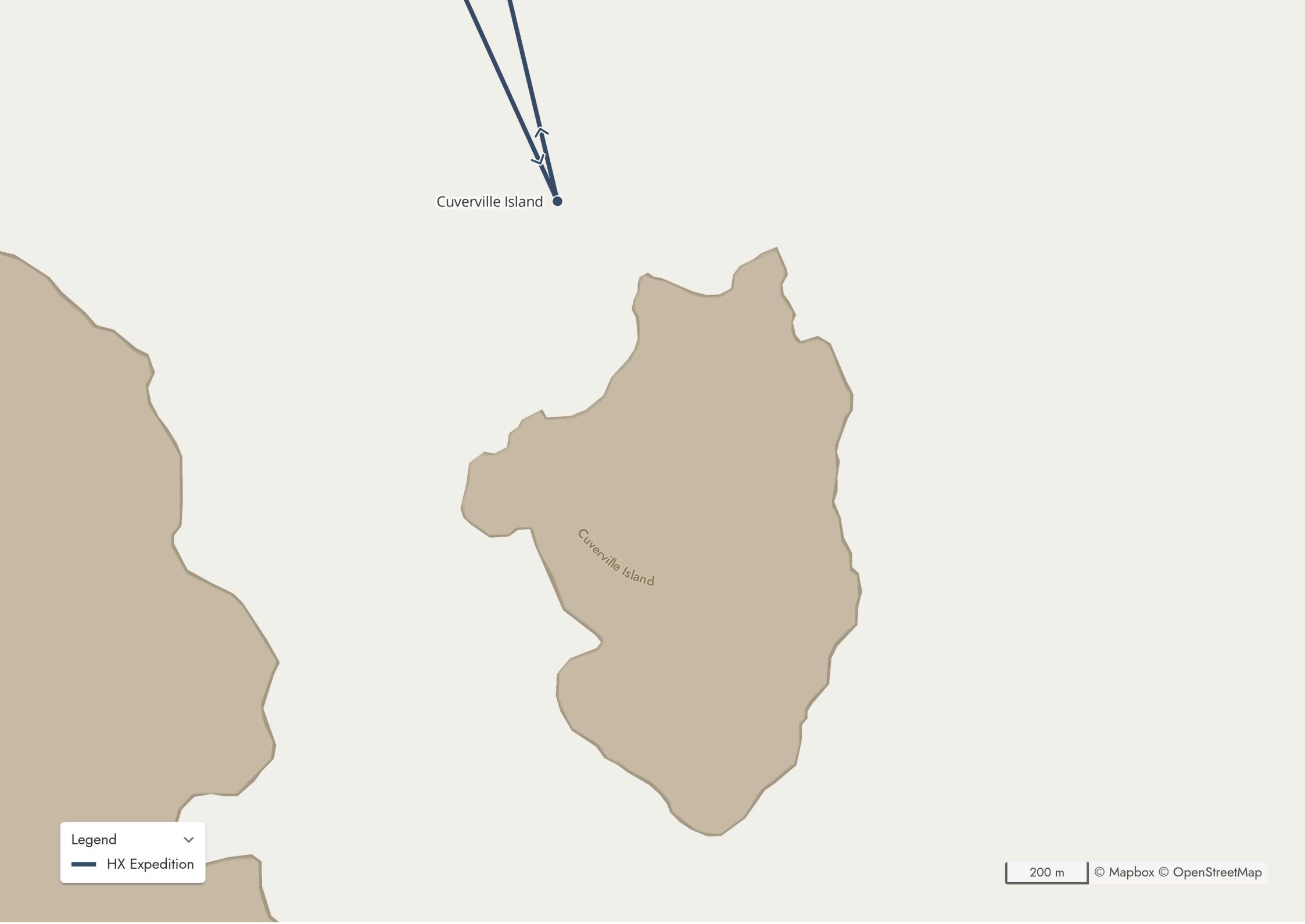
Day 4 - Expedition Boat Cruising and Kayaking at Orne Islands

Our first day in Antarctica looked promising from a weather standpoint as we had calm conditions and sunny skies for our morning cruising operation and kayaking at Orne Islands. We cruised around the small rocky islands and observed the Gentoo and Chinstrap penguin colonies both on land and in the water. We even spotted a Fur Seal and Weddell Seal resting on the rocks.

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Day 4 - Landing at Cuverville Island

After lunch we moved the ship only slightly to reposition ourselves for our afternoon landing at Cuverville Island to see the gentoo penguin colony on land. The landing site itself is rather small, so we had around 60 minutes to roam around, which was more than enough

time for most. Unfortunately, the weather turned in the late afternoon, and suddenly we had winds gusting at 50 knots, so we had to cancel the last part of the landing for everyone's safety.

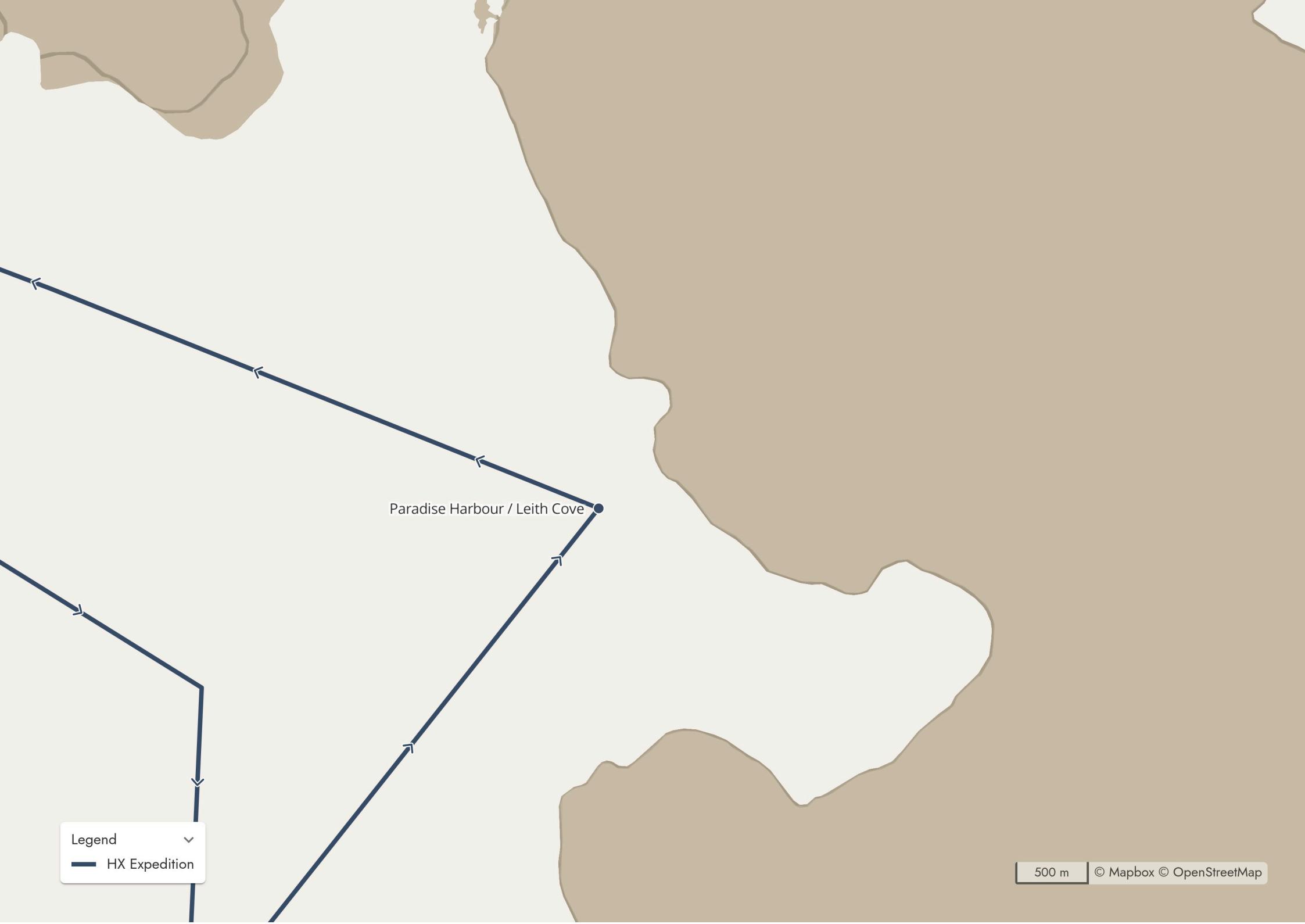






Stony Point

300 m © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



Day 5 - Cancelled Landing at Stony Point

We were scheduled to make our continental landing at Stony Point this morning, but the strong winds persisted and were unfortunately too severe for us to carry out the landing or the planned kayaking.

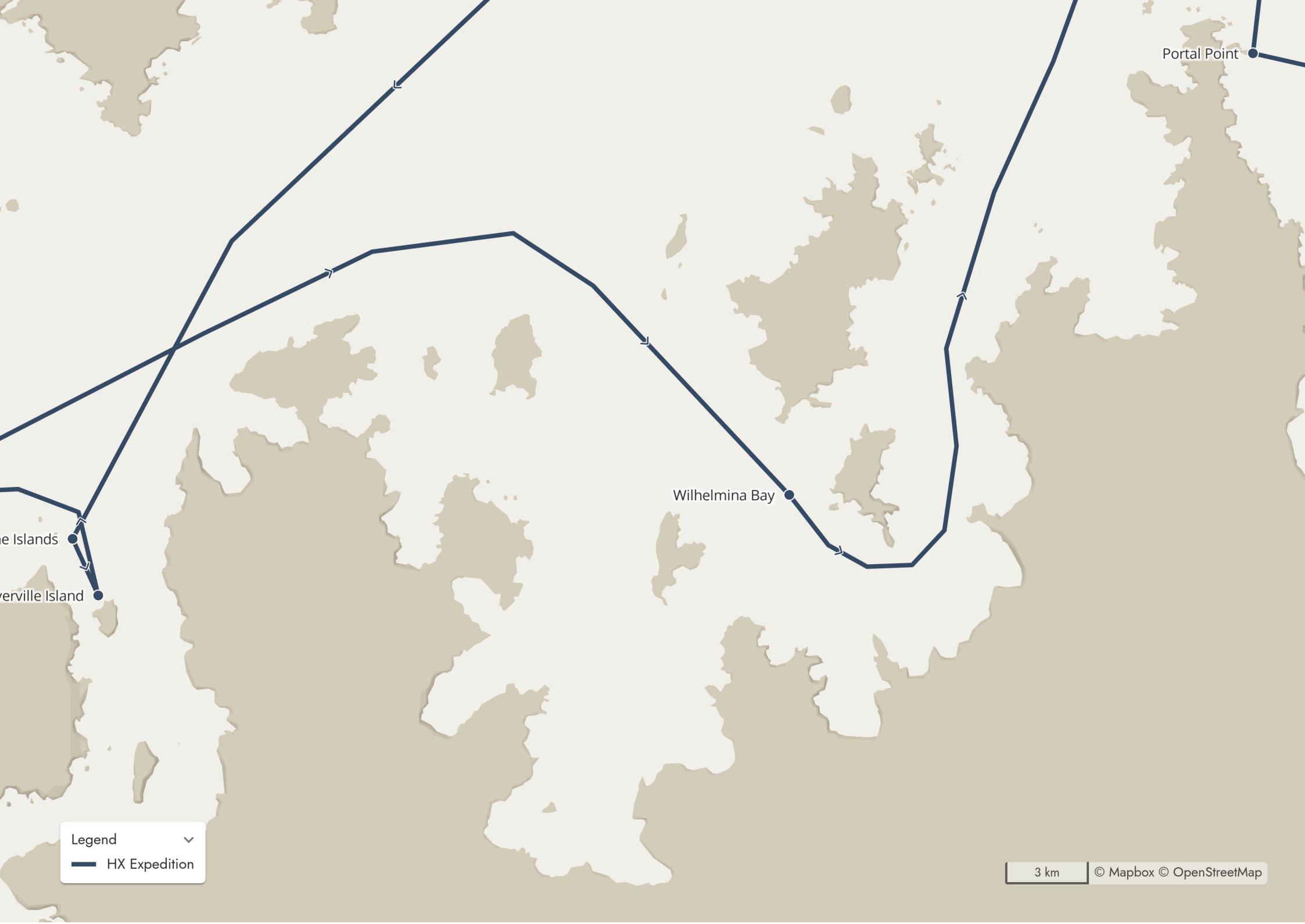
Instead, we refreshed our onboard program with engaging lectures on geology and history while hoping for improved conditions later in the afternoon.

Day 5 - Expedition Boat Cruising in Paradise Harbour and Camping at Leith Cove

Later in the afternoon, the conditions improved dramatically, so we were fortunately able to go ahead with our plans for expedition boat cruising as well as kayaking and having a couple of science boats out. All activities were fantastic, with whale encounters all throughout the afternoon. The humpbacks that were in the bay were generally quite

curious, with some even approaching our expedition boats rather closely, giving us an incredible experience. We even got a glimpse of the Chilean González Videla research base from the expedition boats in the Aguirre Channel. Later that evening we sent out just under 60 campers to experience a night sleeping under the skies of Antarctica.





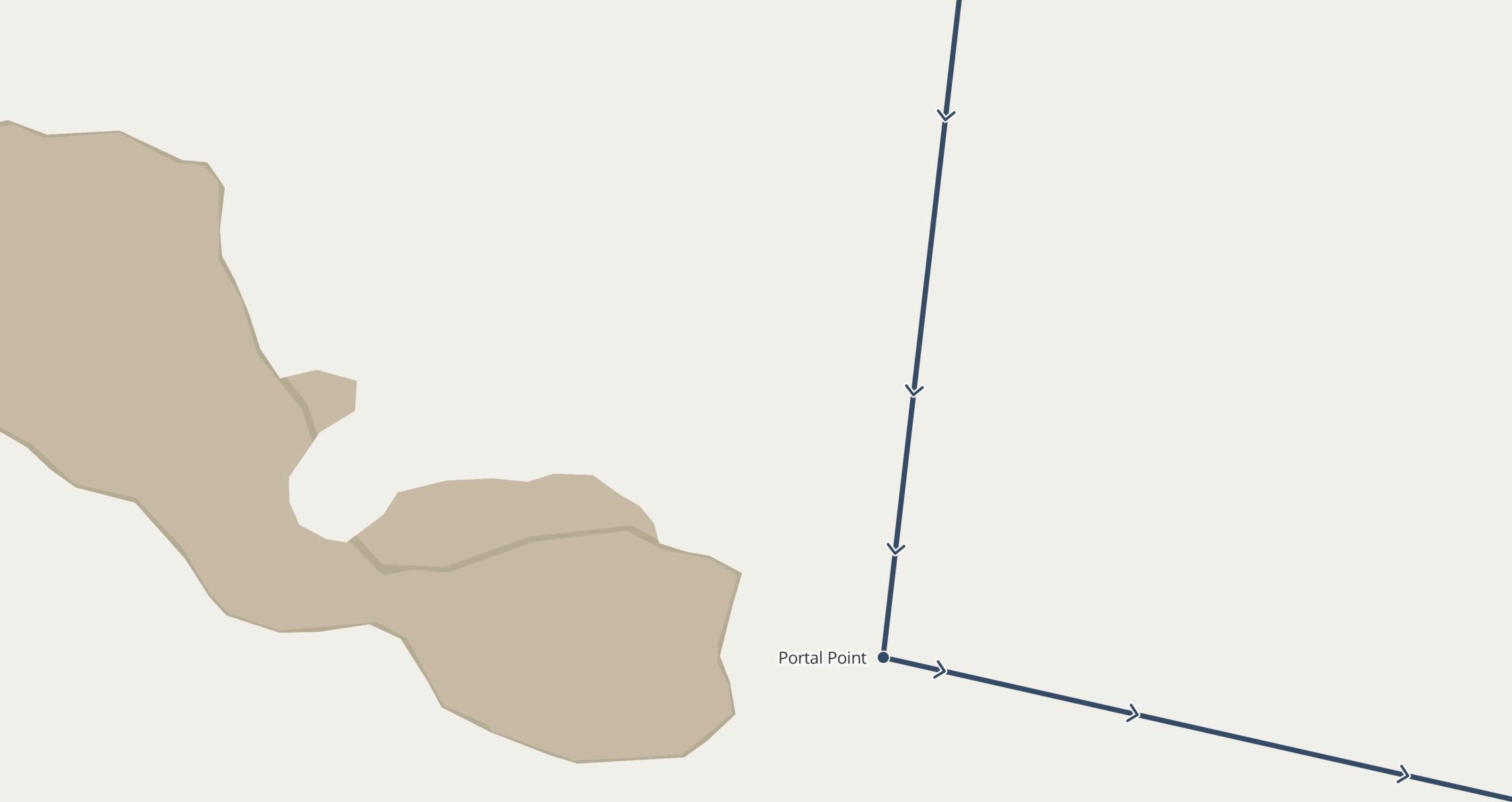
Day 6 - Expedition Boat Cruising in Wilhelmina Bay

Wilhelmina Bay – also known as 'Whale-helmina' Bay or simply 'Whale-mania' – never disappoints. While expedition boat cruising we had whales all around us, with many of them coming close to the boats before showing their impressive flukes and going down on deep dives. Aside from the whales, there was plenty more to see. We also saw plenty of penguins (mainly gentoos) in the water and also

resting on some of the beautiful icebergs in the bay. It was pure joy just watching the penguins trying to jump up out of the water onto the icebergs (not always successfully!). The main highlight, however, was observing the apex Antarctic predator, the leopard seal, who was resting on one of the ice floes.







Legend ▾
— HX Expedition

50 m © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

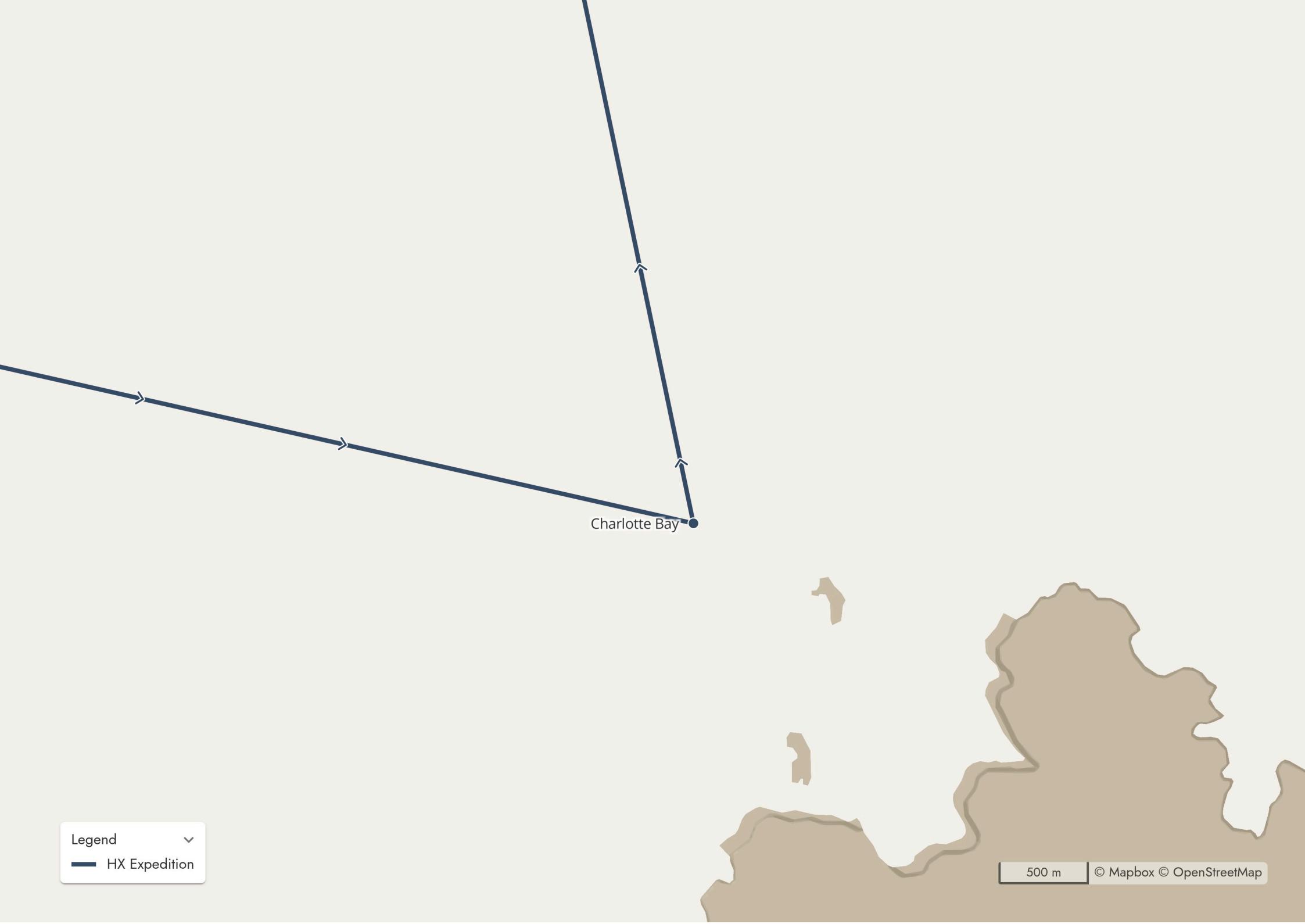
Day 7 - Landing at Portal Point

Today we were in Charlotte Bay for our continental landing at Portal Point (just at the entrance to the bay). It was a beautiful location, with quite a bit of snow still unlike many other areas. While there was no breeding wildlife at the landing area, we did have a few visitors with mainly gentoo and chinstrap penguins (as well as one Adelie towards the very end). Many just enjoyed the ability to walk freely in the snow, up to the nice viewpoints on both sides of the peninsula.

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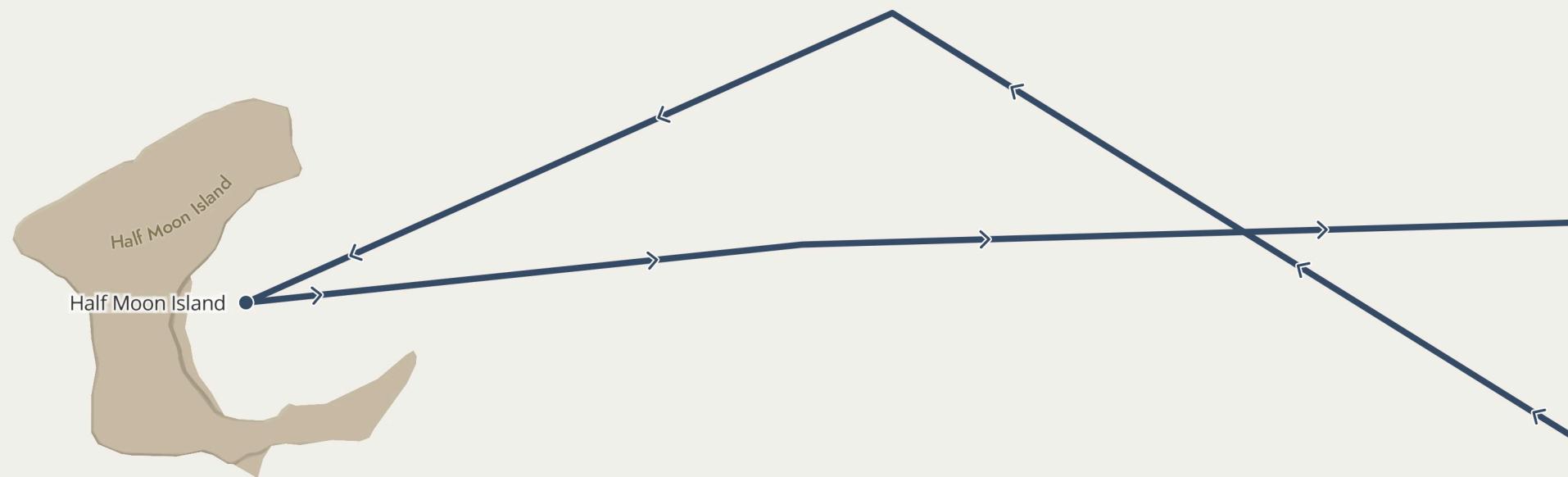
Day 7 - Kayaking and Polar Plunge in Charlotte Bay

In the afternoon, we repositioned the ship slightly further into the bay, setting the stage for another adventure. The plan was to open up our tender pit once more and coordinate a polar plunge in the frigid Antarctic waters for anyone who wanted to participate. We had an

incredible 152 passengers take part in the plunge! At the same time, a group of kayakers set out across the calm bay — many of them returning just in time to squeeze in a quick plunge of their own after their paddle.







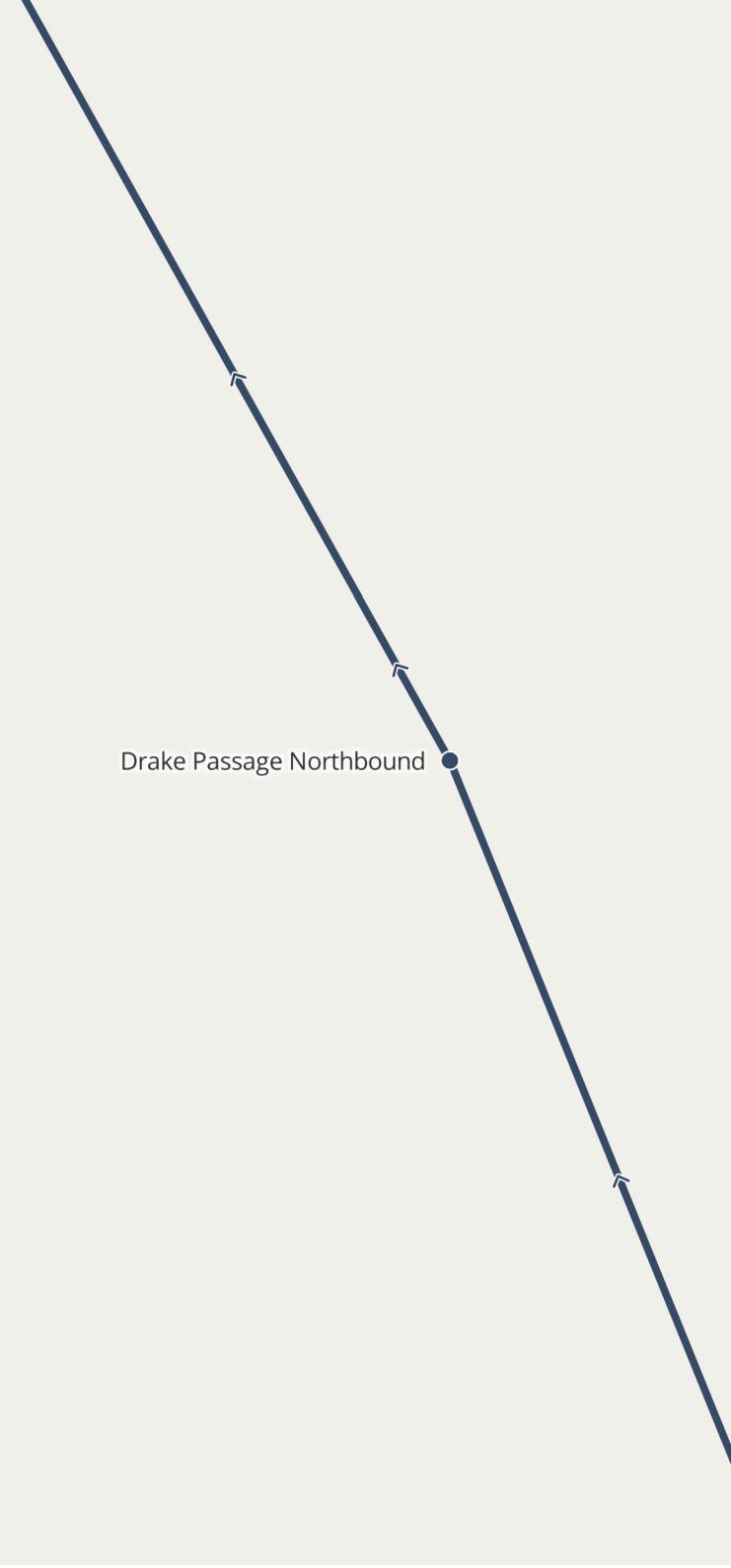
Day 8 - Landing and Discovery Kayaking at Half Moon Island

Our last landing of the voyage at Half Moon was incredible! Aside from the nesting chinstrap penguins everywhere, we also had quite a number of Antarctic fur seals scattered around the island that we could see. On one side of the island, we saw a hauled-out Weddell seal and a crabeater seal resting on the beach. Most of the seals were

just resting, although at one point we had a group of three youngsters emerge from the water and run around the perimeter for a while, very much entertaining the guests ashore at the time. The Discovery Kayaking session happened simultaneously with the landing, and they were lucky to experience calm waters in the sheltered bay.







Drake Passage Northbound

Legend ▾
HX Expedition

10 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

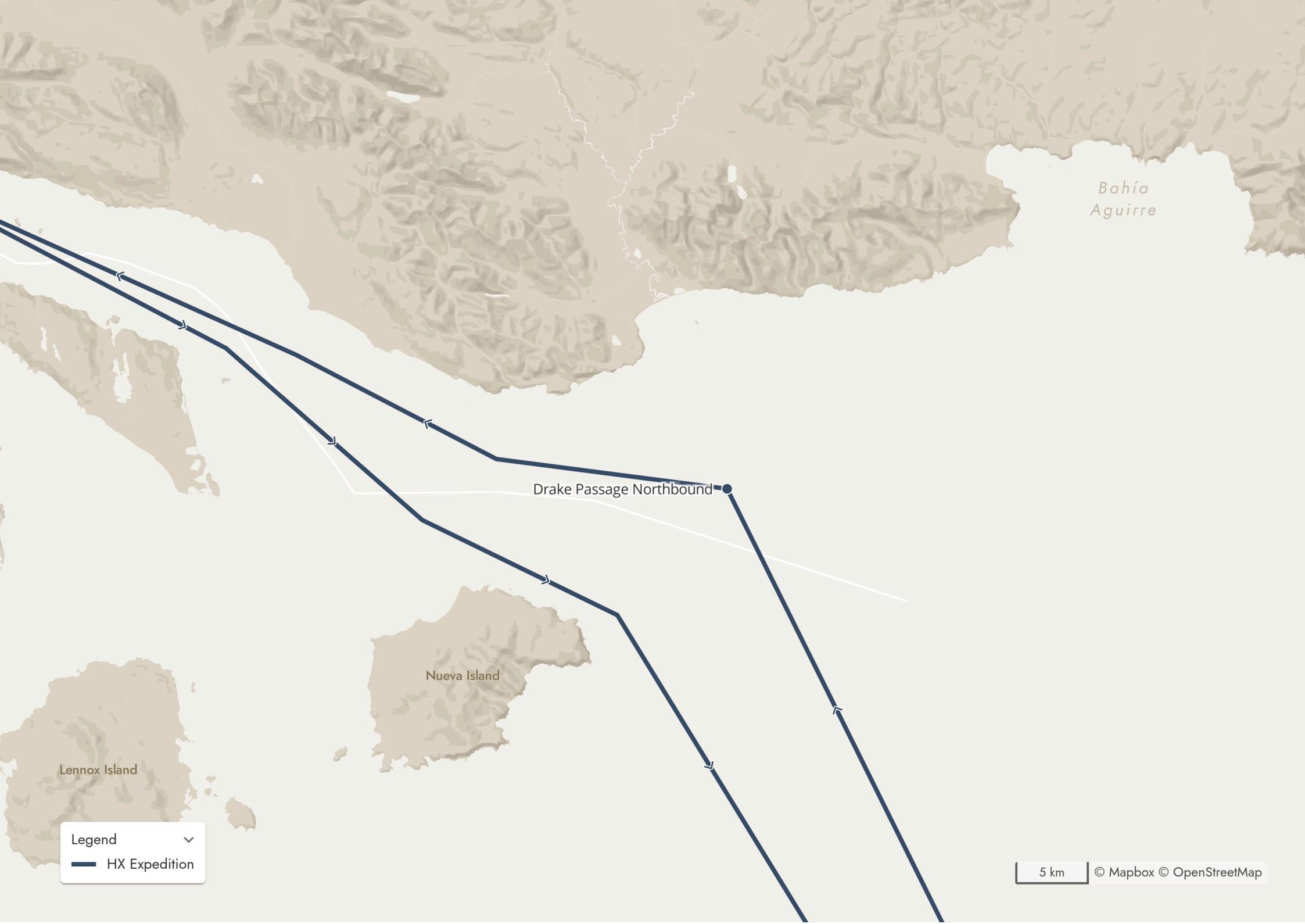
Day 9 - Drake Passage Northbound

The seas started off calmer than expected in the morning hours, so most headed for breakfast and some caught the morning lecture. Guests returned their rubber boots now that we were on our way back to Ushuaia. There was also the opportunity to visit the bridge today. After lunch the waves and wind picked up quite a bit, so many guests

stayed in their cabins in the hope of a calmer night.

We found out that we'd be speeding up to reach Ushuaia earlier than expected due to the weather conditions. This meant that our guests would have an evening to explore Ushuaia at their leisure.





Day 10 - Drake Passage Northbound

The seas calmed as we entered sheltered waters sometime during the night, so most of us were able to get a good night's sleep. By the morning, we were already slowly making our way through the Beagle Channel one more time. We would be alongside in Ushuaia at around 3pm today, and guests would have an afternoon and evening to

explore the town. The crew would take this opportunity to perform some drills during this extended time in Ushuaia. Before arrival, we enjoyed the Captain's farewell, which was followed up by a slideshow of voyage highlights from our ship photographer, Timo.







Ushuaia, Argentina - Jan 29, 2026

136.3 km

HX

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