



THE  
IPAA

MS FRAM

2026.01.17 - 2026.02.07



## 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 voyage and ship introduction. Guests saw an outline of our route and the possibilities for our adventure. Although tired, many gathered afterwards in the lounge, meeting fellow travellers to share their excitement.

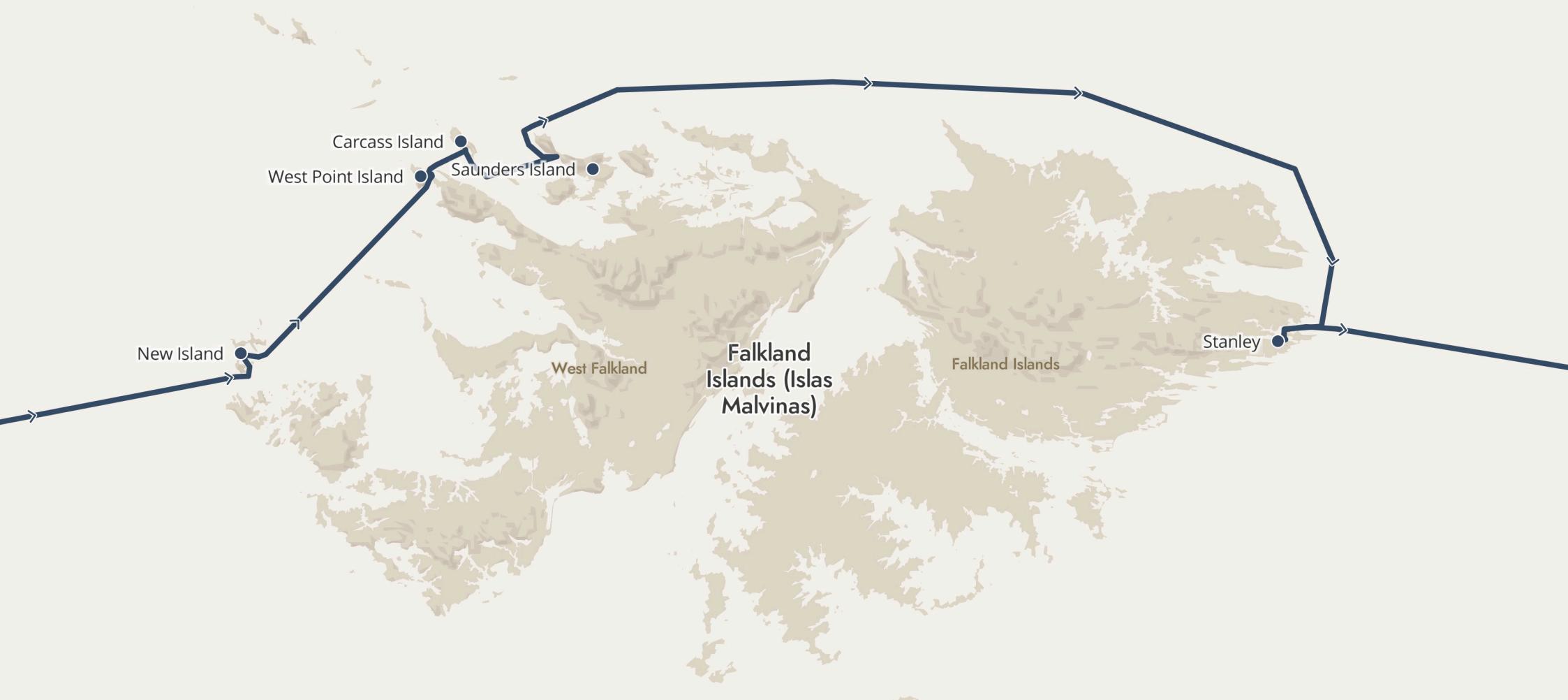


## Day 2

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

Some took the chance to join art corner to decorate their HX water bottles. Wildlife watches on deck gave guests brief chances to scan the ocean, while the Captain's Welcome introduced the crew leading the voyage. Later, after a mandatory boat safety briefing, the plans for the coming days were outlined.





Legend

HX Expedition

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

## Day 3

Our first nature landing of the voyage was also our guests' first experience of being driven ashore in the ship's expedition boats. We landed at New Island, owned by the Falklands Conservation. On the island, we encountered the thriving Falklands wildlife, visiting a mixed colony of rockhopper penguins, black-browed albatrosses, and blue

shags. Along the trail, we met many geese and several other bird species, including meadowlarks and caracaras. In the afternoon, we visited West Point Island. Some guests enjoyed a walk across the island to see the black-browed albatross colony. Seeing the chicks on turret nests was a delight!



West Point Island, Falkland Islands - Jan 19, 2026

63.9 km

Carcass Island, Falkland Islands - Jan 20, 2026

11.1 km

## Day 4

The sun was shining for our beach landing on Carcass Island. Some guests hiked across the island enjoying stunning sea views, while others strolled along to the jetty in search of the rare Cobb's wren. Many spotted a young striated cara cara and for a lucky few, juvenile Southern elephant seals. A highlight was the spread of delicious

cookies offered by the locals. The sunshine then followed us to Saunders Island. Many gentoo penguins were on the beaches, with chicks chasing the adults. Commerson's dolphins were riding the surf waves too. Several guests cooled off by taking a polar plunge.



Saunders Island, Falkland Islands - Jan 20, 2026

23.7 km

Stanley, Falkland Islands - Jan 21, 2026

244 km

## Day 5

Stanley offered a change of scenery from the previous nature landings. Guests took time to explore the town and its history, from history walks to museum visits. Many visited Gypsy Cove for a nature walk, which offered beautiful coastal views and the chance to spot Magellanic penguins. Some took part in a fascinating plankton

workshop and wildlife watch, with everyone attending an early briefing on South Georgia regulations. Excitement was growing, though we were warned we may face rough seas the next day, which we braced ourselves for.



## Day 6

With warm sunshine and light wind, many guests spent time out on deck and were glad that the swell wasn't as strong as expected. Some were interested to learn about the whales and dolphins we could see on our journey and how to use eBird and Merlin. They learned how to

take great photos from their phones cameras. Reflecting on our time in the Falklands, excitement was clearly growing for South Georgia. A fascinating introduction was offered and the guests competed as to when we would see the first iceberg.

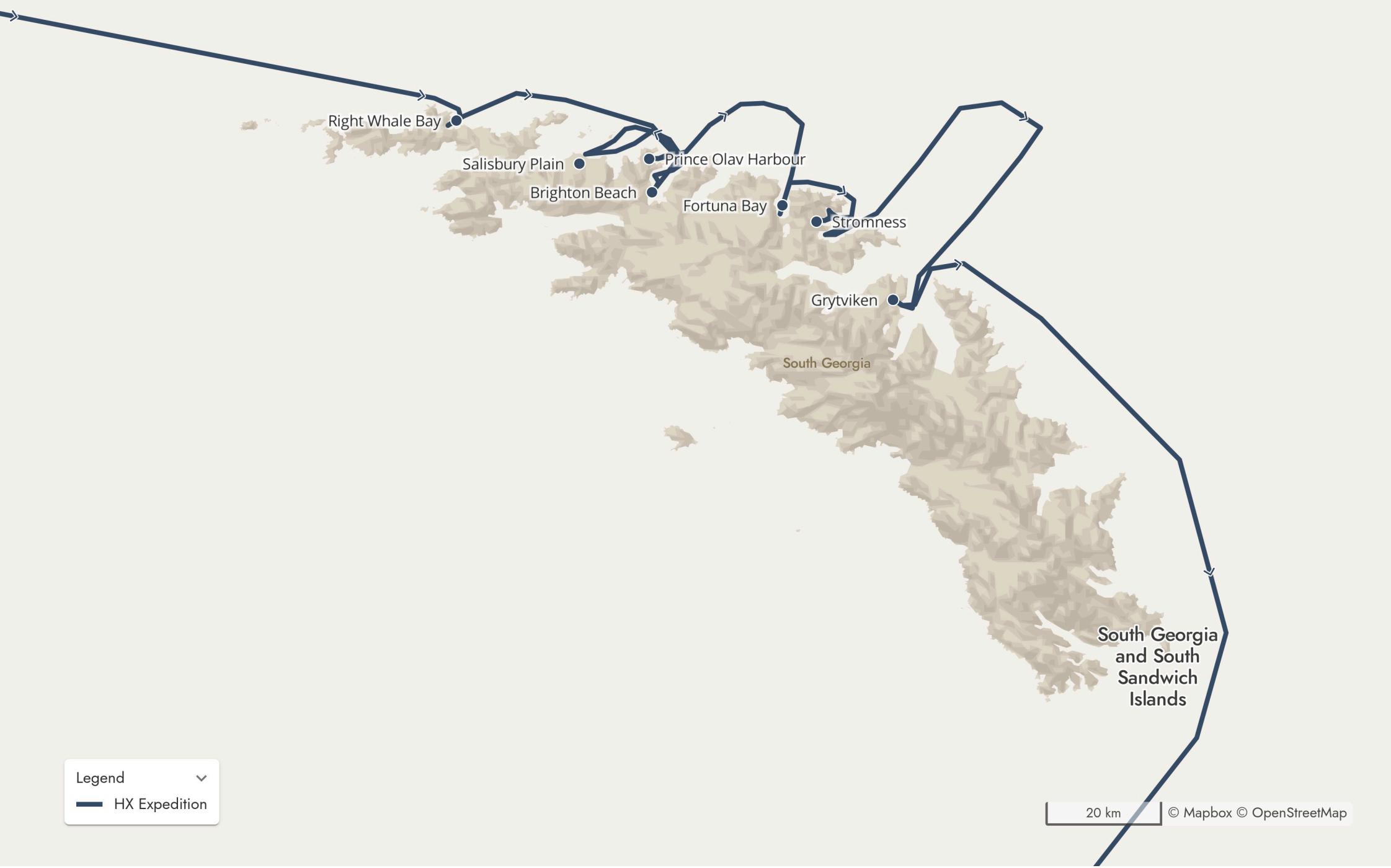


## Day 7

Today was a great day for wildlife watching, with a 'how to identify marine wildlife' workshop helping many guests spot hourglass dolphins, albatrosses, fin whales, humpbacks, and king penguins. Guests learned about the history, climate, and wildlife of South Georgia, with many taking part in Citizen Science with the NASA

GLOBE Cloud Observer project. The Expedition Team shared information about the stunning hikes possible in South Georgia, including about the inspirational Shackleton and his journey. Many took time to relax, from joining the knitting corner to unwinding with live piano tunes in the Explorer Lounge & Bar.





## Day 8

Cruising within Right Whale Bay was spectacular, with lots of king penguins on the beach with their fluffy chicks, as were fur seals and their pups. Many guests were overjoyed to watch them swimming energetically around the expedition boats. During our afternoon of sailing we noticed our first iceberg of the trip, which was an

impressive sight. A memorable, sunny afternoon was then spent at Brighton Beach, which was abundant with playful fur seal pups and other wildlife including petrels and king penguins. Here we had breathtaking glacier views, with many noticing how quickly the Purvis Glacier is receding over time.



Brighton Beach, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 24, 2026

51.6 km

Salisbury Plain, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 25, 2026

28.6 km

## Day 9

The sun was still shining for our visit to Salisbury Plain. The waters were teeming with life, and it was wonderful to watch the fur seals porpoising through the water. Our scenic stroll was abundant with fur seals and king penguins, with a special treat when we reached the vast king penguin colony. Cruising around Prince Olav Harbour, we

learned about the seal and whale hunting operations here as we overlooked the remains of the old whaling station. We also had great views of elephant and fur seals within the Elephant Lagoon. Later many celebrated Burns Night, enjoying Scottish *ceilidh* dancing.



Prince Olav Harbour, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 25, 2026

22 km

Fortuna Bay, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 26, 2026

46.5 km

## Day 10

Fortuna Bay was our guests' first opportunity to share a landing site with elephant seals, an impressive sight. Then the guests were expertly navigated through fur seal territory to reach a large king penguin colony. We were thrilled to spot fluffy skua chicks with their

mothers! Some embarked on the iconic Shackleton hike, enjoying mountain views seeped in history, while the rest sailed onwards to Stromness to meet the hikers there. Several guests walked to view the waterfall, famously referenced in Shackleton's daring journey.



Stromness, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 26, 2026

26 km

Grytviken, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - Jan 27, 2026

101 km

## Day 11

Today's visit to Grytviken was eye-opening to our guests, and there was a solemn atmosphere as we visited Shackleton's grave and the old whaling station. The museum described the whaling industry of South Georgia and the transition from hunting to conservation. The South Georgia Heritage Trust gave guided tours to explain the life

whalers led in Grytviken. After departing, the swell increased with many of guests taking rest. For those able to enjoy a window view, they were treated to a spectacular display of humpback whales, with hundreds passing close by the ship and breaching on all sides. This was a rare and exceptional experience.

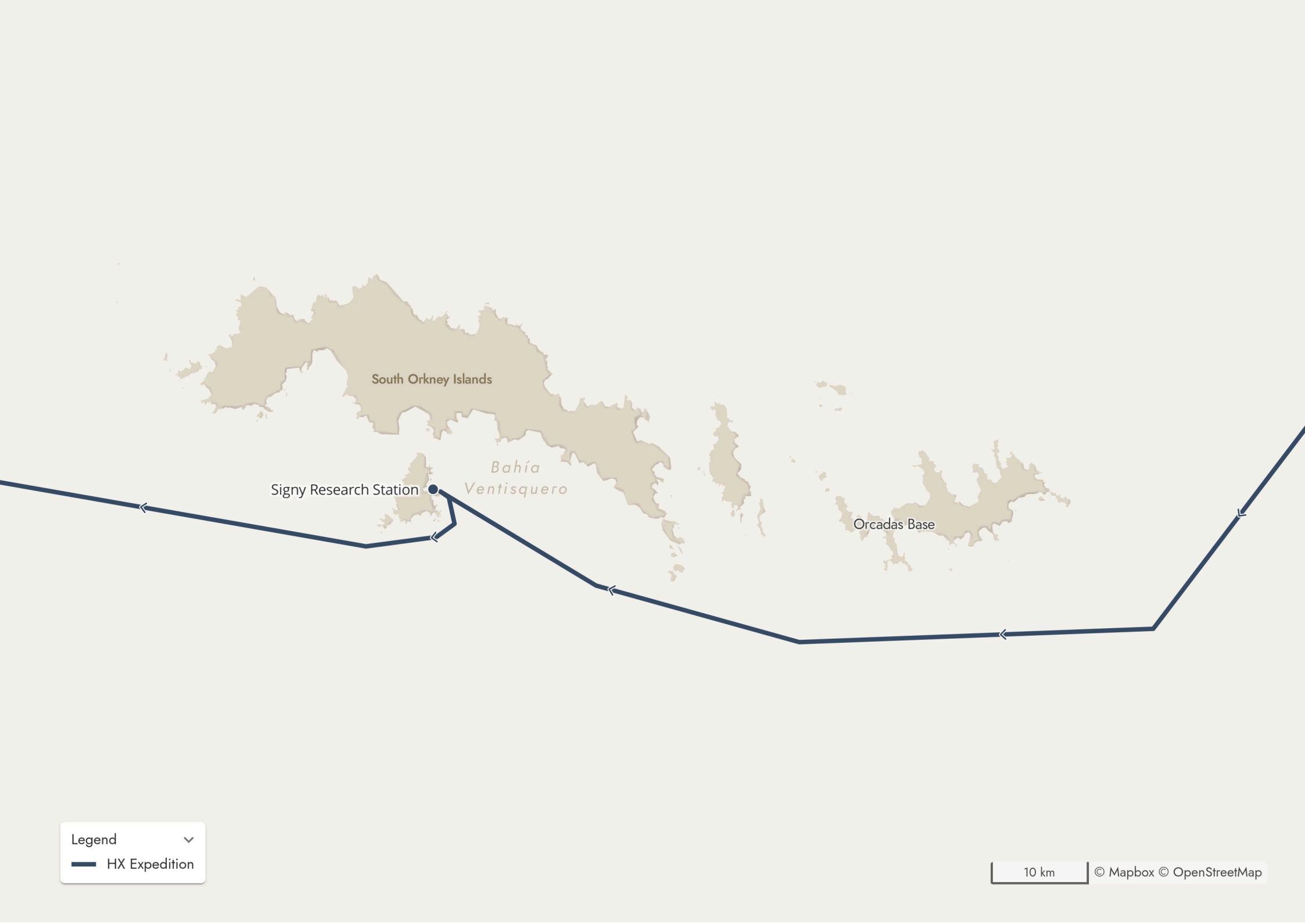


## Day 12

Our sea day offered our guests the chance to rest and recharge, while enjoying a variety of onboard activities that built even more excitement for Antarctica. Our Guest Scientist being dropped off at Signy Island talked about the human impact in Antarctica and how to help protect the important ecosystems there. Other sessions included

an exciting introduction to Antarctic seals followed by a workshop on the flora of the Southern Ocean. Everyone took great care in cleaning their boots and clothes ahead of the next landing, and many joined the kayak briefing. From a wildlife watch to art and knitting corners, our guests took some time to relax.





## Day 13

Excited to enter Antarctic waters, we began the day with a talk on the history of Antarctica. This was followed by a wildlife watch and a discussion into penguin life. In the afternoon we visited Signy Research Station while dropping off British Antarctic Survey staff and collecting others. Guests learned about the research taking place and

what life is like living and working at the station. Some guests joined a whale song session and later we all enjoyed a lot of laughs and surprises during the Expedition Team quiz. A lucky few won some wonderful prizes while raising funds at the evening auction.



## Day 14

We had a relaxing day today, with many of guests learning more about Antarctic ice and deep-diving mammals. Our Ornithologists ran a bird ID session for guests to bring their photos to, and the Expedition Team also hosted a sunny wildlife watch and a NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session. Excitement was growing as we

approached the peninsula, with briefings covering IAATO regulations as well as camping activities. A special highlight was the guests visiting the bridge, a fun and interesting experience with spectacular views and charts on display.





Legend ▾

— HX Expedition

— HX Expedition

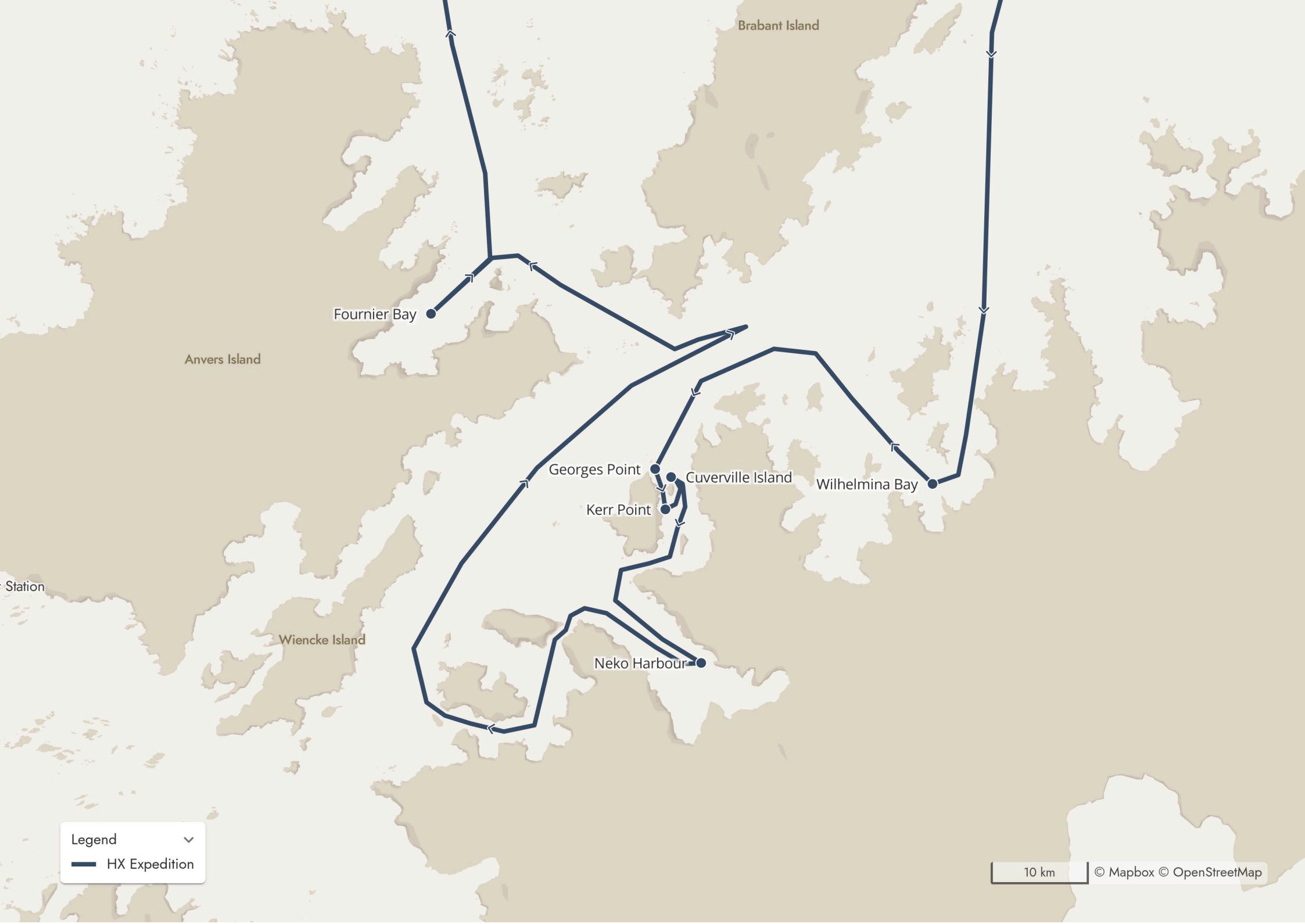


## Day 15

This morning was fascinating, with guests learning about whale tagging, bird feathers, and photo editing. The sun was shining and it was wonderful to be out on deck, during the wildlife watch and particularly when passing through Neptune's Bellow to enter Deception Island. We were greeted in Whalers Bay by our sister ship,

then crossed the sunken volcanic crater to reach Telefon Bay. Many guests hiked to and around the vast volcanic crater, managing the wind and even some hail and snow. The views were stunning. Many guests even took part in a polar plunge into Antarctica's clear blue waters.





## Day 16

This morning we sailed through the Gerlache Strait in quiet awe as we were surrounded by glaciers and logging humpbacks. The cruising was phenomenal: the water like a mirror as the sun shone brightly. We made special memories watching the humpbacks and seals. Some guests went out kayaking or out on the science boat. In the

afternoon we landed at Georges Point, delighted to see more gentoo penguins and their chicks, but we were on icy snow this time as we hiked uphill to a beautiful viewpoint. More kayakers enjoyed the water, and then we sailed to Kerr Point, where the campers disembarked for their overnight adventure ashore.



Georges Point, Antarctica - Feb 1, 2026

40.5 km

Kerr Point, Antarctica - Feb 1, 2026

4.3 km

Cuverville Island, Antarctica - Feb 2, 2026

4.4 km

## Day 17

It was a cloudy Antarctic morning in Cuverville Bay, where we strolled along the rocky shoreline in the presence of gentoo penguins and many chicks. It was wonderful to listen to the birdlife, including Antarctic terns defending their nests from approaching skuas. Some hiked along the icy hillside to enjoy views of sea ice and glaciers. At

Neko Harbour we stepped onto the Antarctic mainland. The glacier was breathtaking and we even heard calving too! Surrounded by gentoos and crossing the 'penguin highway' to walk on fresh Antarctic snow for a memorable view, we enjoyed peaceful moments surrounded by natural beauty.



Neko Harbour, Antarctica - Feb 2, 2026

28.1 km

Fournier Bay, Antarctica - Feb 3, 2026

130 km

## Day 18

Amid our sunny sailing into Fournier Bay, we spotted many humpback whales. Cruising was exceptional, with many having incredible views of humpback whales as well as resting seals including leopard, crabeater, and Weddell. Kayakers enjoyed these wonderful wildlife moments too. Many took part in whale song meditation, which helped

them reflect on these magical moments. Guests learned about the diversity of tubenose birds and took a look at the plankton collected in the science boat session. They listened to stories of life living below the Antarctic Circle and relaxed with live piano tunes in the evening.



## Day 19

Our guests enjoyed a relaxing sea day, which began with tiny talks about Antarctic plankton, humpback whales, and British Antarctic Survey adventures. Our guests learned how simple and important it is to upload their marine life photos to Happywhale and also learned about plastics in the polar regions. Some made penguin sculptures in

the art corner while others learned about the new HX itineraries in Norway. Guests joined our Guest Scientists to watch and learn about the use of their portable genomic sequencer, testing samples for avian influenza. Then they took part in a ship-wide scavenger hunt, and the games continued with a fun and lively polar music quiz.





## Day 20

Approaching mainland Chile, we were treated to many cetacean sightings including dusky dolphins, a sei whale, and a fin whale. The Expedition Team explained the challenges of being a whale, and then we enjoyed an eBird quiz and ID session.

Arriving in Puerto Williams, watercolour artist Jiazi introduced us to

life in the southernmost city in the world, and many were in admiration of her beautiful watercolour art inspired by Antarctica. Some guests enjoyed a guided walk around town, with others delighted in identifying lots of interesting species on the bird walk. We relaxed in the evening with live piano tunes.



## Day 21

The sunshine followed us as we sailed through the Chilean fjords; we have had wonderful weather together. We spotted wildlife such as humpback whales, southern sea lions, albatrosses, and Magellanic petrels. From forests to glaciers and a shimmering rainbow, this was a beautiful sailing to complete our journey together. The science programme recap revealed we gathered almost 1,000 data points, an

impressive number thanks to everyone's enthusiastic participation. The Captain's Farewell was a warm embrace among friends, sharing thanks and well wishes. Watching the voyage highlights video together, we shared in the treasured memories made. Guests explored Puenta Arenas in the evening.





## Day 22

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The last day in what was an incredibly special experience shared. Some of us had an early trip to the airport, flying out of Chile to our various destinations. It was an emotional farewell as we not only said goodbye to many new friends but we also the wonderful crew and the Expedition Team. We're sure that new friendships have been formed, since experiences like this connect us more with each other and our natural world. Many of us had tears in our eyes but many of our minds were looking forward to rest, reflection then the next

adventure.

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HX

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