

The background features two whales swimming in deep blue water. A large, semi-transparent 'IHW' logo is overlaid on the left side. The text 'Science & Education Report' is centered in white, with 'MS FRAM' below it.

# Science & Education Report

MS FRAM

# MS FRAM

7 – 28 Feb 2026

In-Depth South  
Georgia, Falklands  
& Antarctica  
Expedition



# History & Culture

New Island, The Falkland Islands

Our visit to New Island offered a striking glimpse into the Falklands' layered history—from early sealing and whaling to the later sheep-farming settlements that shaped life in this remote South Atlantic outpost.



# History & Culture

Stanley, The Falkland Islands

Stanley revealed the political and maritime heart of the Falklands, where colourful colonial houses, historic shipwrecks, and monuments reflect both its 19th-century British heritage and the lasting impact of the 1982 conflict.



# History & Culture

Point Wild, Elephant Island:  
In Shackleton's Footprints

We discovered Point Wild, which is the refuge where Ernest Shackleton's men endured four harrowing months in 1916 during the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, a site that stands today as a symbol of survival against overwhelming odds.



# History & Culture

Grytviken, a Whaling Station on South Georgia

A visit to Grytviken revealed the haunting remains of a once-thriving whaling station and the final resting place of Ernest Shackleton, linking South Georgia's industrial past with one of the most powerful stories of endurance in polar history.



# History & Culture

Chilean Esperanza Base research station

A glimpse at Esperanza Base in Hope Bay, on the northern tip of Antarctic Peninsula highlighted Argentina's long-standing presence in Antarctica, where scientific research, year-round habitation, and even the birth of the first person on the continent reflect the human dimension of Antarctic history.





# NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer

We had three NASA GLOBE Cloud sessions on this voyage and one satellite match.

Don't hesitate to continue looking at the sky back home, since every contribution helps scientists.

Image: Strømness, South Georgia

[View our data](#) on the global map.

<b>Observation</b>	<b>GLOBE</b>	
<b>Universal Date/Time</b>	2026-02-12 17:48:00	2026-02-12 17:37
<b>Latitude</b>	-52.42	-52.74 to -52.1
<b>Longitude</b>	-50.1	-50.42 to -49.78
<b>Total Cloud Cover</b>	Overcast (>90%) 	Overcast 100.00% 
<b>High Clouds</b>	Cover: Overcast (>90%) 	Cover: Scattered 30.36%  Altitude: 6.83 (km) Phase: Ice 241.52 (K) Opacity: Opaque
<b>Mid Clouds</b>	 Altostratus Cover: Overcast (>90%)  Opacity: Opaque	Cover: Broken 69.64%  Altitude: 5.05 (km) Phase: Ice/Water Mix 250.96 (K) Opacity: Opaque
<b>Low Clouds</b>	 Stratocumulus Cover: Overcast (>90%)  Opacity: Opaque	
<b>GLOBE Cloud Photos and Corresponding NASA Satellite Images.</b>	<b>GLOBE Photos</b> North East South    West Up Down   	<b>GOES-19</b> <a href="#">Visible</a>  <a href="#">Infrared</a>  <a href="#">GEO Tutorial</a>

# NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer

Our match was with the GOES-19 Satellite, which we were able to go through in a session in the Science Centre when the weather did not allow us to go outside for another observation!

This table shows how our observation from the ground compared to the satellite's observation from above.

[View our data on the global map](#)

# Science Boat

During our voyage, we conducted 8 science boat sessions, during which we collected Secchi Disk measurements, CTD data, and water samples.

Our CTD data was submitted to the [South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute SAERI \(SAERI\)](#), while our Secchi Disk data were uploaded to the [Secchi Disk Project](#). Lastly, the samples collected for [FjordPhyto](#) will be used to improve our understanding of the impacts of climate change on phytoplankton communities.

Thank you for your enthusiasm in joining the science boat sessions!





# FjordPhyto

During our voyage, we collected two samples for the FjordPhyto project, along with Secchi Disk and CTD data. These measurements will help scientists gain a better understanding of the variation and dynamics of the phytoplankton community around the Antarctic Peninsula and sustain this long-term project involving more Citizen Scientists like you.

Thank you very much for your enthusiasm and interest in the plankton communities!

To learn more about FjordPhyto, [please click here.](#)





# iNaturalist

Thanks to your efforts, we recorded over 300 observations, representing more than 100 different species, on iNaturalist.

These opportunistic observations contribute to a greater understanding of biodiversity in the remote regions where we sail. By sharing this data on iNaturalist, you are helping to build a global, open-access database that supports scientific research, conservation efforts, and species monitoring. Your contributions provide valuable data that researchers and conservationists can use to track species distributions and better understand ecosystem health.

You can view the project and also upload your observations from our voyage [by clicking here.](#)



## eBird

Our onboard Ornithologists completed 37 eBird checklists of 59 different species.

[View our data on our e-Bird trip report by clicking here.](#)



# Underwater Drone

During our voyage, we had the chance to explore beneath the surface at Danco Island. We managed to catch footage of gentoo penguins hunting!

[Click here to view the drone video from your voyage.](#)

# ORCA Ocean Watchers

Key survey figures\* compiled by Ocean Conservationist Kelda:

Time spent on effort: 25hrs, 19min

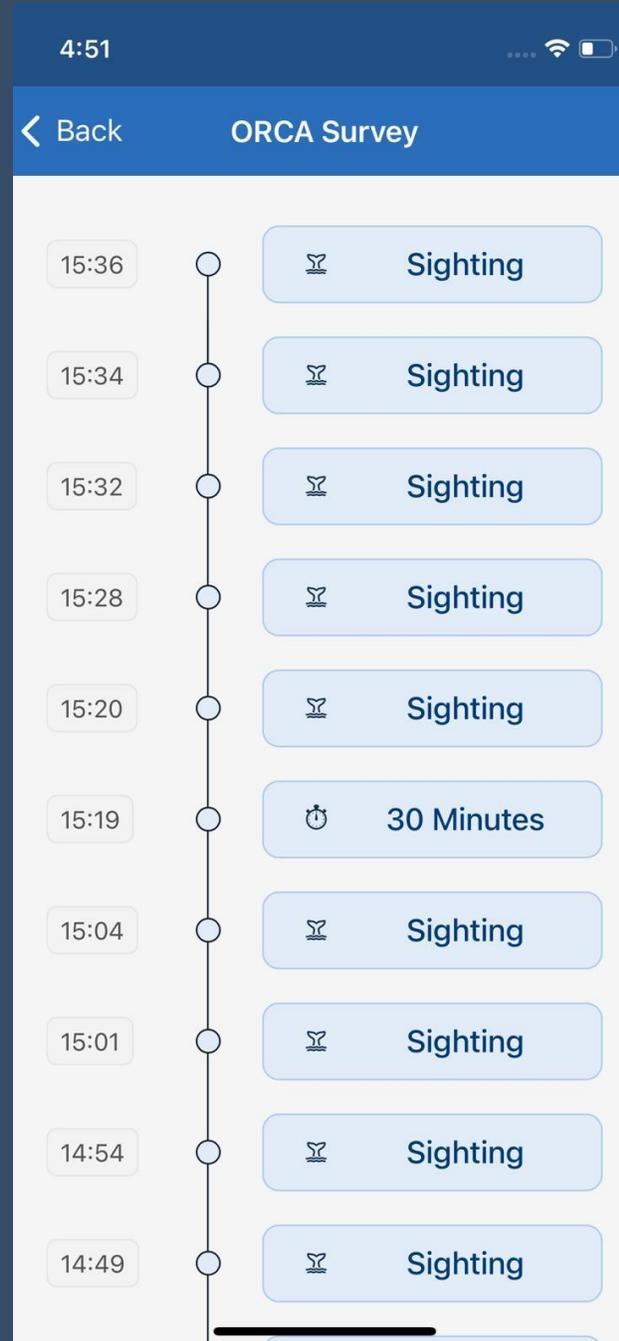
Distance surveyed: 457.4km

Total animals sighted from deck:  
336 individuals

Fin whale (98), sei (102), Peale's dolphin (48), unidentified whale (48), humpback whale (10), hourglass dolphin (6), southern right whale (2) Antarctic minke whale (2). Notable sightings: multiple sei whales spotted between New Island and West Point, 5 Arnoux's beaked whale seen in shallow water, approximately 250m, heading towards Deception Island, and a large aggregation of over 100 fin whales near Elephant Island.

[Click here to learn more about ORCA](#)

\*some duplicates with ORCA bridge surveys



# Happywhale

With 10+ photos uploaded just in the time we spent on the Antarctic Peninsula, we had a hugely successful voyage with our submissions to Happywhale. Most of the submissions were of humpback whales but we also had one submission of a leopard seal. During our voyage we also spotted an array of dolphins (four species) and five species of seals. We also had a very unique and rare glimpse of long finned pilot whales! There was an extremely special day leaving Elephant Island where we were all able to enjoy an encounter of well over 100 fin whales. This illustrates the power of Citizen Science around the world, and how opportunistic observations provide key information on movements patterns of marine animals.



# Guest Scientist

For our voyage, we were honored to welcome back Professor Marcos Santos from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, for the second season of the *Sounds Good!* project in partnership with HX Expeditions. Blending science, education, and art, the initiative seeks to capture the living soundscapes of some of the most extraordinary environments on Earth.

Over the course of the expedition, nearly six hours of natural recordings were gathered across 13 remarkable locations — four in the Falkland Islands, five in South Georgia, and four along the Antarctic Peninsula. Each landing offered a unique acoustic portrait, contributing to a growing archive that documents the rhythms and voices of the Southern Ocean.



# ORCA Guest Scientists

We also had the privilege of hosting Rebecca Walker and Hannah Elms, volunteer Research Scientists from ORCA.

Rebecca and Hannah have been on board conducting exciting whale research, monitoring the recovery of large whale populations across the Southern Ocean, with a particular focus on the waters around South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

Rebecca and Hannah have primarily been collecting data from the bridge of the ship, but have also recorded animals during deck watches. They surveyed for 51 hours and 18 minutes and counted a total of 503 animals across 159 sightings\*. The species they saw included fin, humpback, sei, Arnoux's beaked, and southern right whales as well as hourglass, Peale's, and dusky dolphins.



[Scan the QR code or click here to visit the ORCA website to find out more.](#)

\*duplicate sightings removed from deck surveys



An aerial photograph of two whales breaching the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep, clear blue-green. Two distinct plumes of white spray rise from the whales' blowholes, indicating they are exhaling. The whales' dark, sleek bodies are partially visible above the water's surface, with some white foam from their breaching. The overall scene is dynamic and captures a moment of natural behavior in the wild.

# Wildlife List — Marine Mammals

# Wildlife List – marine mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	sei whale	Seiwal
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	minke whale	Zergwal
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	Finnwal
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal
<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	southern right whale	Südlicher Glattwal
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale	Grindwal
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin	Peale-Delfin
<i>Cephalorhynchus cruciger</i>	hourglass dolphin	Schwarzdelfin
<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>	Commerson's dolphin	Commerson-Delfin
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic fur seal	Antarktischer Seebär
<i>Hydruga leptonyx</i>	leopard seal	Leopardrobbe
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	crabeater seal	Krabbenfresser
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell seal	Weddellrobbe
<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Southern elephant seal	Südlicher See-Elefant
<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	dusky dolphin	Dunkler Delfin

# Wildlife List — Birds



# Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	king penguin	Königspinguin
<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	western rockhopper penguin	Südfelsenpinguin
<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	macaroni penguin	Goldschopfpinguin
<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellanic penguin	Magellanpinguin
<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	gentoo penguin	Eselspinguin
<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adélie penguin	Adeliepinguin
<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	chinstrap penguin	Kehlstreifpinguin
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's storm petrel	Buntfuß-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Garrodia nereis</i>	grey-backed storm petrel	Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	black-bellied storm petrel	Schwarzbauch-Sturmschwalbe
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	wandering (snowy) albatross	Wanderalbatros
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	light-mantled albatross	Graumantelalbatros
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	black-browed albatross	Schwarzbrauenalbatros
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	southern royal albatross	Südkönigsalbatros
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	northern royal albatross	Nordkönigsalbatros
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	grey-headed albatross	Graukopfalbatros

# Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	southern giant petrel	Riesensturmvogel
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	northern giant petrel	Hallsturmvogel
<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	southern fulmar	Silbersturmvogel
<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	snow petrel	Schneesturmvogel
<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	soft-plumaged petrel	Weichfeder-Sturmvogel
<i>Daption capense</i>	cape petrel	Kapsturmvogel
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	grey petrel	Grausturmvogel
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	white-chinned petrel	Weißkinn-Sturmvogel
<i>Ardenna gravis</i>	great shearwater	Großer Sturmtaucher
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	sooty shearwater	Dunkler Sturmtaucher
<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic prion	Taubensturmvogel
<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	slender-billed prion	Dünnschnabel-Sturmvogel
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	common diving petrel	Subantarktis-Lummensturmvogel
<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	Magellanic diving petrel	Magellan-Lummensturmvogel
<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>	South Georgia diving petrel	Breitschnabel-Lummensturmvogel
<i>Chionis albus</i>	snowy sheathbill	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel

# Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic tern	Antarktikseeschwalbe
<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	South American tern	Falklandseeschwalbe
<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	south polar skua	Antarktiskua
<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	brown skua	Subantarktiskua
<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chilean skua	Chileskua
<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>	brown-hooded gull	Patagonienmöwe
<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>	dolphin gull	Blutschnabelmöwe
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	kelp gull	Dominikanermöwe

# Wildlife List – Water birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	Falkland steamer duck	Falkland-Dampfschiffente
<i>Tachyeres pteneres</i>	flightless steamer duck	Magellan-Dampfschiffente
<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	upland goose	Magellangans
<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	kelp goose	Kelpgans
<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	ruddy-headed goose	Rotkopfgans
<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>	crested duck	Schopfente
<i>Anas georgica</i>	yellow-billed pintail	Spitzschwanzente
<i>Anas flavirostris</i>	yellow-billed teal	Südandenente
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night heron	Nachtreiher
<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	rock shag	Felsenscharbe
<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	imperial shag	Kaiserscharbe
<i>Haematopus ater</i>	blackish oystercatcher	Südamerikanischer Austernfischer
<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>	Magellanic oystercatcher	Magellanausternfischer
<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>	two-banded plover	Falkland-Regenpfeifer
<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	white-rumped sandpiper	Weißbürzel-Strandläufer

# Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture	Truthahngeier
<i>Geranoaetus polyosoma</i>	variable hawk	Rotrückenbussard
<i>Phalcoboenus australis</i>	striated caracara	Falklandkarakara
<i>Caracara plancus</i>	southern crested caracara	Schopfkarakara
<i>Daptrius chimango</i>	chimango caracara	Chimangokarakara
<i>Cinclodes antarcticus</i>	blackish cinclodes	Falkland-Uferwipper
<i>Muscisaxicola maclovianus</i>	dark-faced ground tyrant	Maskengrundtyrann
<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	grass wren	Graszaunkönig
<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>	Cobb's wren	Falklandzaunkönig
<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>	austral thrush	Magellandrossel
<i>Anthus correndera</i>	correndera pipit	Correnderapieper
<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>	South Georgia pipit	Riesenpieper
<i>Spinus barbatus</i>	black-chinned siskin	Bartzeisig
<i>Leistes loyca</i>	long-tailed meadowlark	Langschwanzstärling
<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>	white-bridled finch	Weißbart-Ammertangare



THX

**Thank you for your  
participation!**