



Antarctica & Falklands Expedition – From Punta Arenas to Buenos Aires

MS Fram, 21.3–12.4.2026

Legend ▾

— HX Expedition



Embarkation Day

After a tour around historical Punta Arenas, our guests headed for the dock and with mounting excitement, boarded MS Fram. After collecting their rubber boots to keep for the voyage, our guests were offered refreshments in the Explorer Lounge on Deck 7. Then they

attended the mandatory safety briefing. In the evening, they enjoyed their first dinner on board and, in fairly breezy conditions and with much excited anticipation, we set sail south towards the Beagle Channel.



The Beagle Channel

After breakfast, our guests were welcomed by our Hotel Manager, Milos, and Tomski, our Expedition Leader, who gave an overview of our voyage and explained that as we are now 'expeditioners', we need to prepare for Plans A, B, C, or even D on any given day, depending on what nature brings us. Then our guests met our Scientists and Historians, who would be providing lectures and

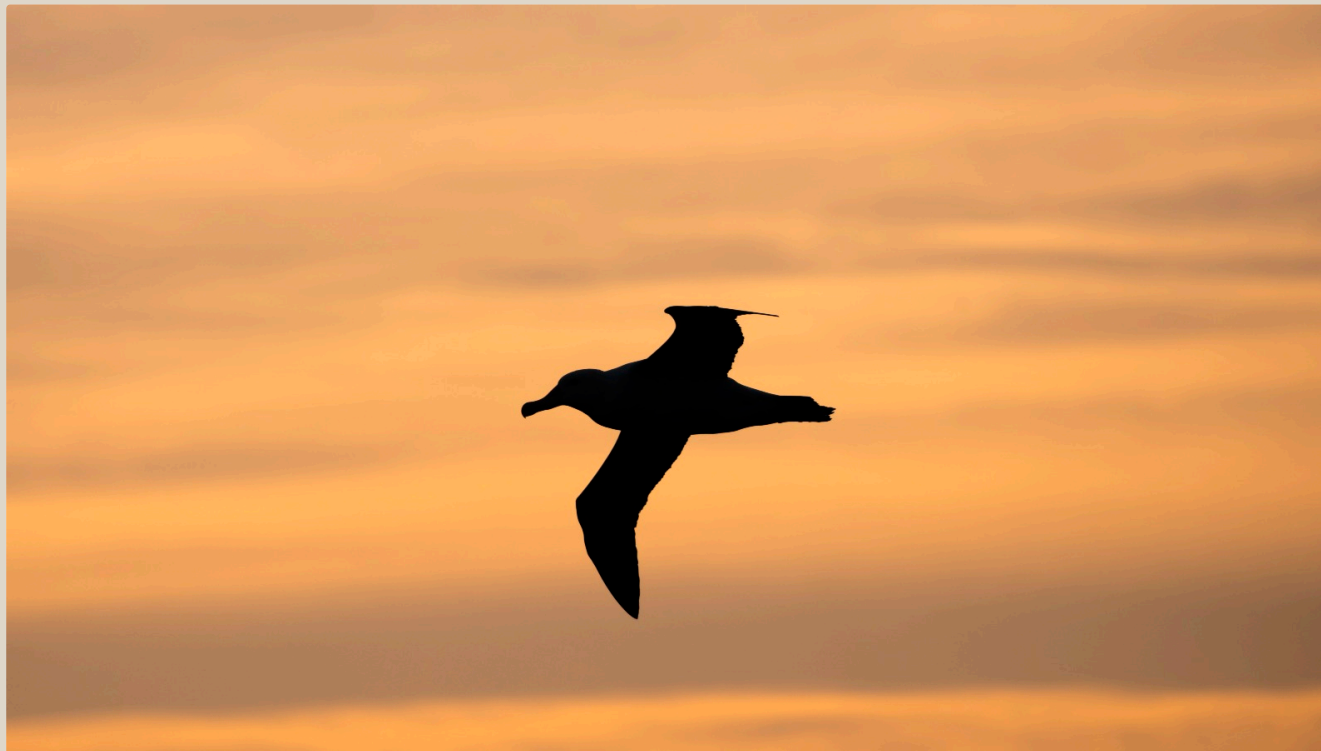
activities; listened to a lecture on HMS Beagle and Charles Darwin, and attended a talk about the native peoples of Tierra del Fuego. After dinner, we gathered to hear the Captain's Welcome. Meanwhile, throughout the afternoon and evening, the sea was filled with dolphins and porpoises, and even some magnificent humpback whales putting on a fine display of breaching out of the water.



Crossing the Drake Passage Heading South

Today began with a rolling sea of about 4 metre swells and cresting waves. However, the air was full of birds. Some were lucky to see at least 10 snowy (wandering) albatrosses following the ship. Others caught sight of two humpbacks and two bottlenose whales in the distance. The Expedition Team conducted the IAATO briefing and presented an overview of the outdoor expedition experiences on

offer. In the afternoon, our guests enjoyed a photographic technique session, and attended fun Art Corner session painting their HX water bottles. The Expedition Team hosted their 'Introduction to Seabirds' talk, and a Guest Scientist on board gave a talk about living and working in Antarctica.



Reaching the Antarctic Peninsula

We had rolling seas in the night, but woke to seabirds all around the ship, the star of which, for many, was the light-mantled albatross, with its distinctive white eye ring. It was a full day of hosted lectures from the Expedition Team, from bird pathogens to the whales and dolphins we could see on this voyage, plus a lecture on the Scott and Amundsen 'Race to the Pole'. Guests were also offered a workshop

on the meaning of nautical communication flags, watercolour painting in the Art Corner, a convivial Knit & Natter session, a boat safety briefing, a kayakers' briefing, our on-deck wildlife watch, and participation in the NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer Citizen Science activity. It was a busy day!



- Crossing the Antarctic Circle, Antarctica - Mar 25, 2026

Crossing the Antarctic Circle

Excitement mounted at dawn we spotted our first sight of Antarctica. It was a thrill!. Bets were on to guess the closest time of our crossing the Antarctic Circle later that morning. The results: We crossed at

09:15 hrs, 25 March 2026, 66°33.402' S; 067°28.313' W. A true moment to remember!



Legend ▾

— HX Expedition



30 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Liard Island

This afternoon we carried out Zodiac cruises around impossibly beautiful sculptured icebergs. We spotted about 20 fur seals playing

by a berg, some Weddell seals, and for many of us, two chinstrap penguins!



The Gullet

Then we successfully navigated the incredibly narrow, icy stretch of water known as 'The Gullet'. On our way, many saw a minke whale, humpback whales, and crabeater and fur seals. Our Expedition Team hosted a talk on ice, a microscope session, and for the brave few, the

very icy Antarctic Circle crossing ceremony with Neptune himself presiding. Our briefing for the following day whetted our guests' appetite for our first Antarctic landing, and they also heard the remarkable tale of 'Steve the Dog'.



Horseshoe Island

Today was our first landing in Antarctica, and to make it even more special, it was below the Antarctic Circle! Horseshoe Island was named for the shape of the mountain range, and contains a hut from the 1950s, British Base Y. Some guests hiked across part of the island, which was great exercise and fascinating to see. The wildlife highlight of today were two Adélie penguins. We also saw two

humpback whales, a light-mantled albatross, and a grey-headed albatross, plus other seabirds. In the afternoon, the Expedition Team hosted a workshop about rock formation and a lecture about the explorer Adrian de Gerlache, as well as a fun clay animal making session and another Knit & Natter.



Zodiac Cruising in George VI Sound

This was a day that left even the most experienced travellers in awe. In the morning, in perfect Zodiac cruising conditions, we expertly manoeuvred around the icebergs and floes of this beautiful body of water. However, the pinnacle of excitement was seeing six emperor penguins on an ice floe and one swimming in the water. But it wasn't

just about the penguins! We saw multiple humpback whales logging and foraging around us, treating us to plenty of tail fluke displays. Two minke whales put on a show at one point as they sped past some of the Zodiacs in a magnificent fast-feeding foray.



- Sea Ice Landing, Antarctica - Mar 27, 2026

Sea Ice Landing

After lunch, the calm conditions continued, and we were very lucky because the Captain and Tomski found a suitable ice floe for us to

actually land on! An utterly unique experience to be standing on ice that had the sea beneath our feet and not solid rock!



Red Rock Ridge

A welcoming committee of Weddell seals and a solitary Adélie penguin met us at Red Rock Ridge, where we witnessed a brilliantly backlit view of glaciers, bergs, mountains, and sky. Indescribable in

words! It was a moment of peace and grandeur none of us will ever forget. Here, some brave people took the polar plunge and became part of the Fram Beach Club!



Stonington Island

In the afternoon, we visited the historically significant British and US bases at Stonington Island, where a huge glacier loudly shed deep blue ice into the sea right in front of us. We ended the day sailing

north past the Argentine Base San Martin, heading for our route north back through The Gullet.



Sailing along the Peninsula

We sailed back through The Gullet, which is often blocked with ice. However, the ice played a different game today and allowed us free passage through this narrow strait, our passage to the Gerlache Strait, and our next destination, Neko Harbour, had to be routed via a very stormy sea. Most guests made it out of their cabins to enjoy the

onboard activities. The Expedition Team hosted an art session making clay seals and penguins, a lecture on Roald Amundsen's 'human' side, a talk on the importance of sea ice to our climate, a talk on the seals of the Antarctic, and a sociable Knit & Natter session.





Telefon Bay

Melchior Base

Anvers Island

Cuverville Island

Neko Harbour

Legend

— HX Expedition

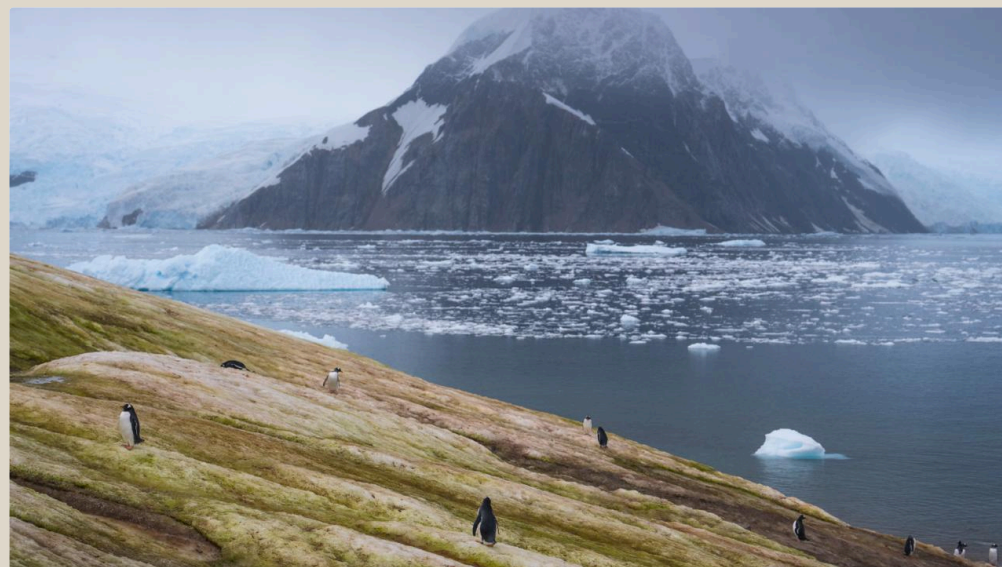
30 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Neko Harbour

We sailed north through a storm and eventually, in the morning, having experienced very high swell, we arrived into the peaceful waters of Bismarck Strait and then into beautiful Neko Harbour. The Expedition Team hosted a talk on the working sled dogs of Antarctica and what happened when they were banned. They also hosted a talk on the penguins of Antarctica and a hilarious 'lesson' on how to

paddle!

We saw our first gentoo penguin colony on our afternoon landing in Neko Harbour. We even had the additional excitement of hearing a large calving from a nearby glacier.



Cuverville Island

This morning, we went ashore at Cuverville Island, where there were hundreds of gentoo penguins and even a lone chinstrap! Most were undergoing their annual moult, seeming very frustrated as they had just spent two weeks unable to go to sea while renewing their feathers. We all enjoyed observing the antics of the younger

generation, already resplendent in their first plumage and able to swim. Some fur seals were on shore and in the water, and a leopard seal made a swift meal of one unfortunate penguin. Later, some spotted a leopard seal grabbing a fish with the unlikely name of 'gobionotothen gibberifrons'.



Melchior Islands

By the afternoon the drizzle had vanished and the sun shone for a wonderful Zodiac cruise around nearby islands. Back on board, some

guests attended a lecture about Roald Amundsen as we slowly sailed past the snow-covered mountains of nearby Brabant Island.



Telefon Bay, Deception Island

We had an incredible morning landing at Deception Island! The bay at one end of the volcanic caldera had experienced heavy snowfall, making it a monochromatic, almost-lunar landscape. We were actually hiking in the area of the last eruption in August 1970, which added an extra layer of excitement, although we have been assured this is one of the safest natural harbours in the world. This is due to constant

seismic monitoring. In the afternoon, the Expedition Team hosted a lecture on the fascinating story of the life of British Explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, and then took part in a hilarious demonstration about how volcanoes work to help our guests better understand what had taken place where we landed earlier in the day in Telefon Bay.



Crossing the Drake Passage Heading Northbound

We were promised some waves today and waves we got, however none more than 5 metres high. The sky was blue, the sea was bright and shimmering, and there were many birds and albatrosses around the ship, enjoying the thermals. We saw snowy and grey-headed albatrosses, and a special treat of six light-mantled albatrosses first thing in the morning. Guests had a busy day today, with a science

recap of Antarctica and a teatime storytelling of the remarkable art of Edward Wilson, who died with British explorer Scott on his return from the South Pole. Guests attended an amusing knot-tying session, a talk about Drake's Passage and its weather patterns, and the different climates of Antarctica. A few guests visited the Bridge and were given fascinating insight into the this complex maritime operation.



On Our Way to the Falklands

Today's behind-the-scenes visit for those interested was the engine room. The Chief Engineer explained in detail how our myriad systems operated to ensure an efficient and safe operation. The Expedition Team hosted great talks, including showing underwater drone footage from the Guest Scientists on board, as well as other lectures and

activities. Guests could learn more about the lives of big whales, the birds of the Falklands, and the history of the Falkland Islands. Later, some relaxed in a Knit & Natter session or painted some watercolour wildlife in the Art Corner.





Saunders Island

West Falkland

Falkland
Islands (Islas
Malvinas)

Falkland Islands

Stanley

Legend

— HX Expedition

20 km | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Stanley

Many braved the strong winds as we were given harbour clearance and sailed through the Narrows into the calm of Stanley Harbour. It was very exciting to see the iconic Christchurch Cathedral ahead of us in the mist and rain. However, once we docked, the weather changed and we had a glorious morning. Some went on an excursion to iconic Gypsy Cove, where they saw the final remaining Magellanic

penguins finishing their moulting before leaving for the winter. Others enjoyed the hike to Mount William in classic 'multi-season' weather conditions! Local Scientists visited the ship for the day and gave a presentation about the collaboration between HX and the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute.



Saunders Island

Due to a technical issue, the ship was delayed leaving Stanley. As the Captain and Tomski explained, although the problem turned out to be a small one and easily resolved, it took time to pinpoint it. They emphasised the priority of safety, so although we were unable to visit West Point Island, Plan B meant we had a wonderful late afternoon landing at Saunders Island. The brilliant white sand beaches were unexpected and against the back drop of the green hills, were

stunning. One of the highlights at 'The Neck' were our first king penguins and their chicks of different ages. We also saw hundreds of rockhoppers, many gentoos, Magellanic penguins, and a colony of young black-browed albatrosses. After dinner, the Expedition Team hosted a storytelling session about the most famous Antarctic cat, Mrs Chippy, from Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition of 1914-1916, and a lively singalong in the bar later.



Leaving the Falklands

Today was a busy day, including our guests cleaning and handing in their trusty rubber boots. As a reminder of Stanley, we hosted a short talk on the Falklands-related history of SS Great Britain, who's mizzen mast is on Victory Green. The Expedition Team hosted a talk on the fossils of Antarctica, a navigation workshop, a Knit & Natter session, and our daily wildlife watch. We also shared the moving story of how

the residents of Saunders Island cleaned oil-contaminated king penguins. One of the Activity Guides shared the story of how she became an Expedition Team member. In the evening, the Expedition Team and guests had a rousing traditional sea shanty singalong, including a snippet of interesting information about the origins of the songs.

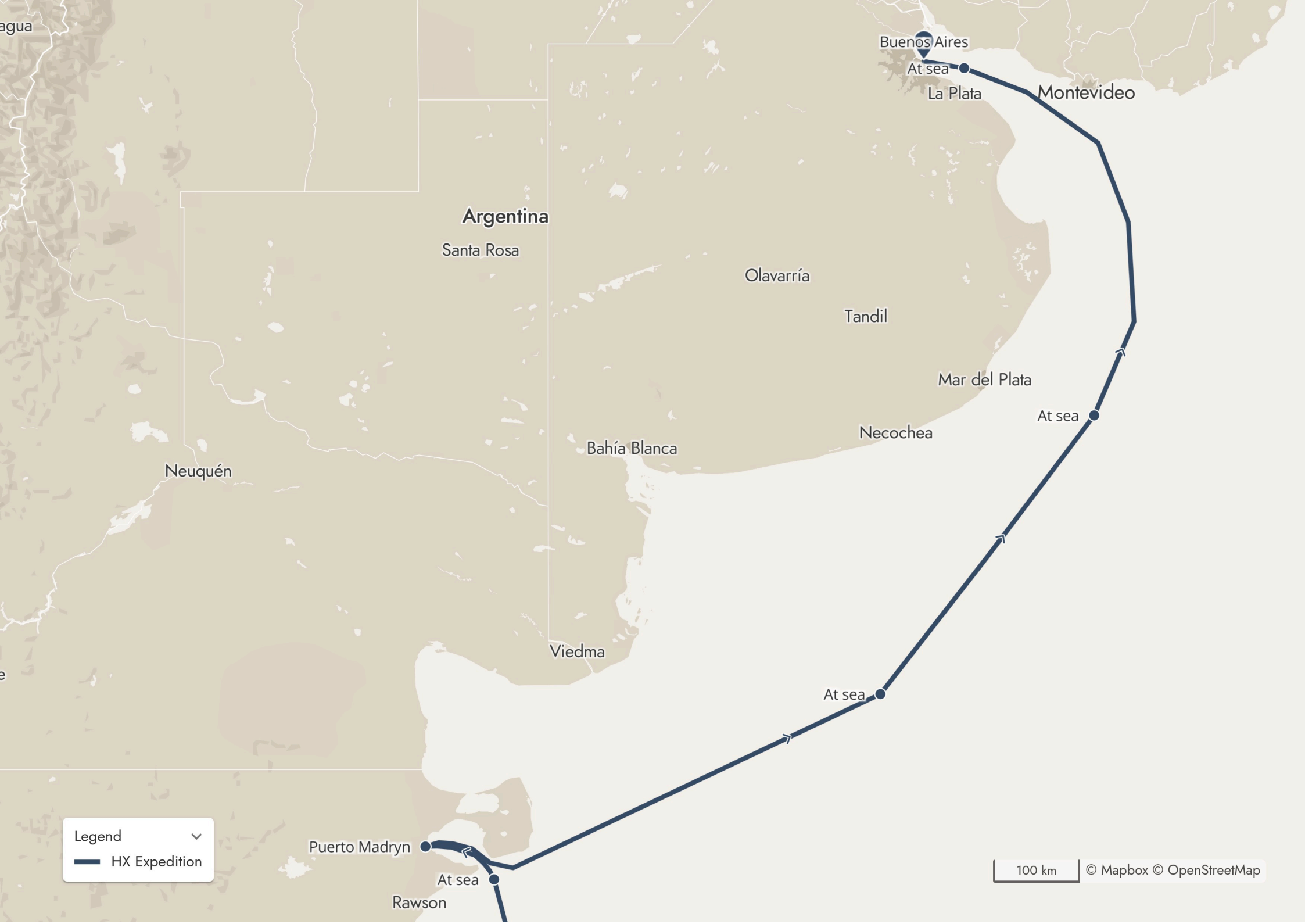


Heading to South America

We had smooth seas and lovely weather as we sailed towards the coast of Argentina, and we hosted a number of interesting talks and activities. The Science Team shared methods of tracking penguin movements and hosted a talk about underwater forests. On deck we held the Citizen Science NASA GLOBE Cloud Observer session along with the wildlife watch. For the creative, there was a hilarious origami session with some incredible talent on display, Knit & Natter,

brilliant towel animal training from our Housekeeping Team, and a chance to create your own Antarctic diorama. Lastly, we had a lecture about the French Explorer Jean Baptiste Charcot, whose voyages in some ways mimicked our own expedition. On this night, the sunset and night stars were exceptional and a fair few came out on deck to enjoy and contemplate their beauty.





Legend

— HX Expedition

100 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Puerto Madryn

We arrived at Puerto Madryn in the early morning darkness, but the sun came up in a spectacular sunrise to welcome our day ashore. Many joined the walking tour here, learning about the history of the city and region. Others went out for a whole day trip to the Valdés Peninsula to experience wonderful wildlife, including Magellanic

penguins, an armadillo, and many guanacos. The sun was brilliant all day and the temperature was warm for us to wear our lighter garments. It was a warm evening too, as we sailed away with some dusky dolphins playing outside the harbour and later, the faint tones of karaoke floating down from the Explorer Lounge.



Along the Argentinian Coast

Many began the day with a stretching session in the Science Centre. Then the Expedition Team hosted various talks, including the evolution of marine mammals, a workshop on feathers, another on cetacean teeth, and another outside in the sunshine about the actual size of whales. Taking care of our guests' creative side was another Knit & Natter session and a Scientific Drawing Art Corner session. At

lunchtime, with common dolphins riding the bow waves, we had a barbecue lunch on Deck 7. Later, humorously planned to be just before dinner, we had a talk on the 'Horrible History of Scurvy'! Another starlight night drew a few out on deck to contemplate the awe of the stunning Milky Way.



At sea

Today we returned passports to our guests, a bittersweet moment that served as a reminder that we have only one more day left together on this remarkable voyage. The Guest Scientists delivered a fascinating talk on the Southern Ocean food chain, followed by a lively Q&A session on whales and dolphins. As if perfectly timed, the session was accompanied by an exciting wildlife encounter, with Atlantic spotted

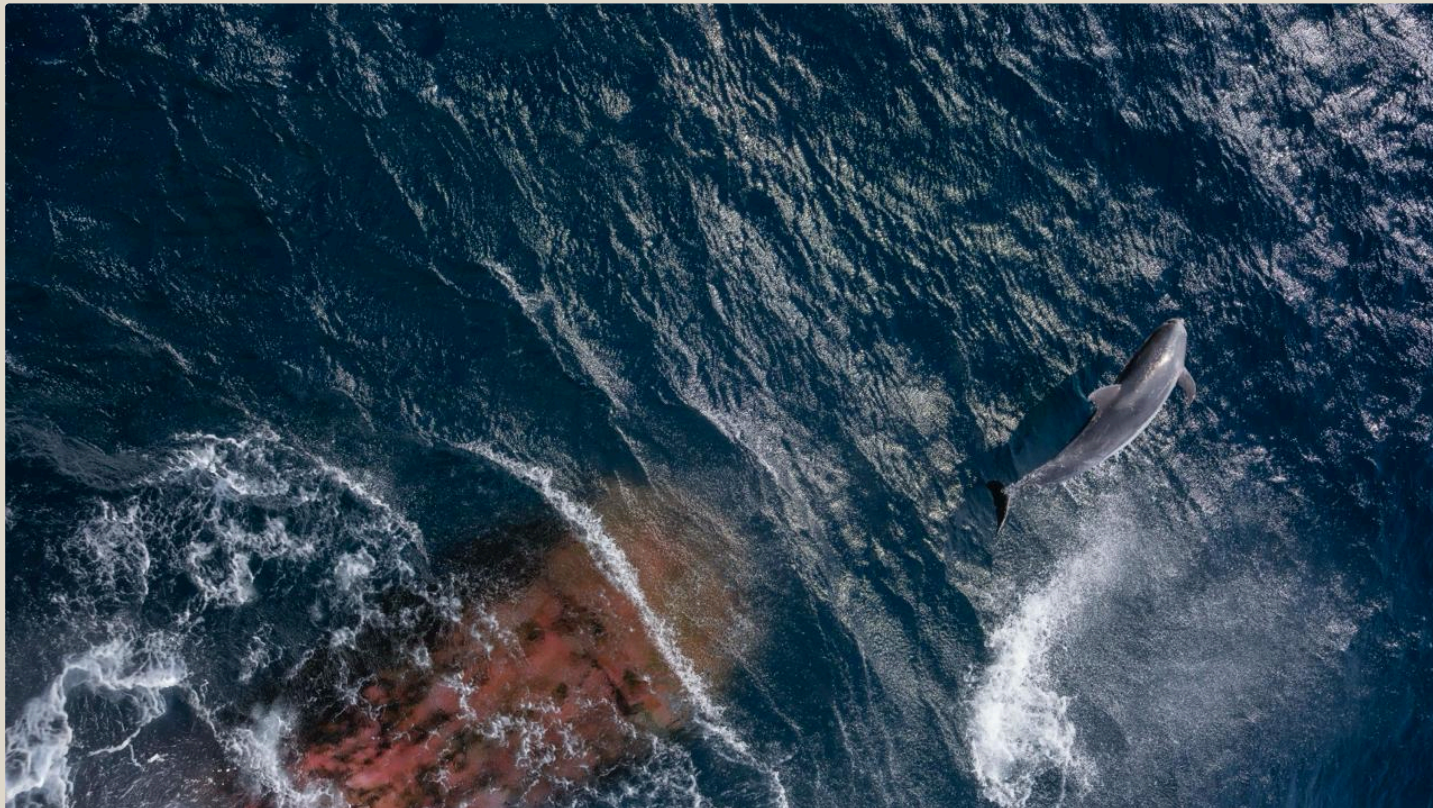
dolphins bow riding alongside the ship. In the afternoon, guests enjoyed a Q&A with the Captain and Officers, and after dinner the Expedition Team hosted an entertaining quiz. The day concluded with an insightful video offering a glimpse into our ship photographer's life in Svalbard.



Reaching Buenos Aires

We started with a morning stretch and after breakfast, an amusing quiz about the underwater soundscape. Some guests joined part two of a talk about the peoples of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. Emotions about reaching the end of our voyage grew after a warm and sincere farewell from the Captain, Crew, and Expedition Team.

However the biggest emotions were kept for the superb video diary of our voyage from Jan, our photographer. There were visible tears on the cheeks of several guests. Bedtime was preceded by final packing and placing of bags by the lift for collection.





Disembarkation in Buenos Aires

We docked early in Buenos Aires, where our guests disembarked and waved farewell to the ship that had safely and comfortably carried them to some of the most remote places on Earth. Saying goodbye to the crew and Expedition Team was an emotional moment for many,

especially for those for whom this journey had been the trip of a lifetime. We are grateful to have shared this voyage with you and to have helped create memories that will last a lifetime.





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