

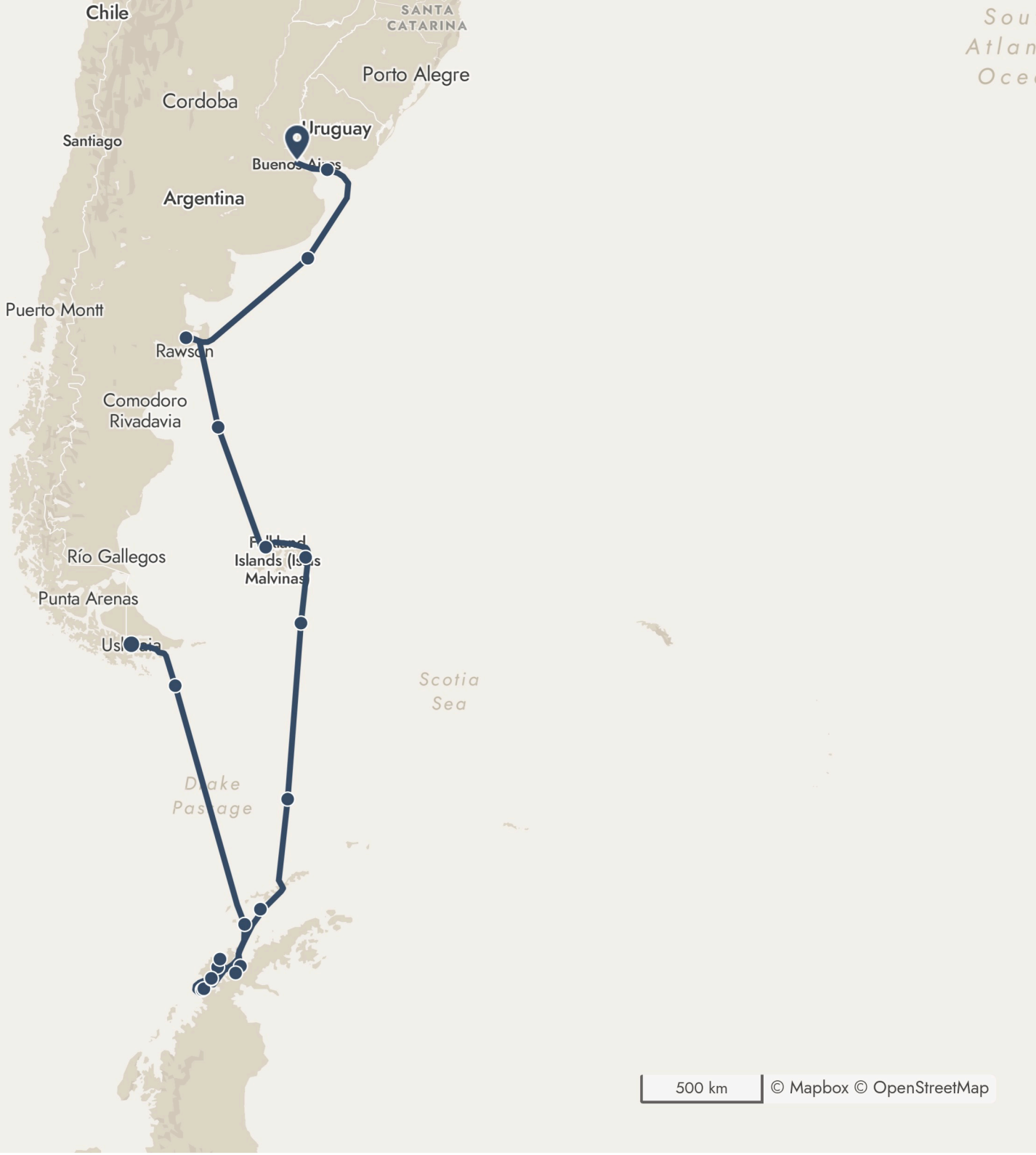


MS Fridtjof Nansen

20.3–6.4.2026

Legend

— HX Expedition



500 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

We Start Our Adventure

Our guests arrived in Ushuaia on a flight from Buenos Aires and boarded the ship, where they took some time to settle into their cabins and explore their surroundings. In the afternoon, they attended the mandatory safety briefing, which prepared them for the voyage ahead.

Then, the Expedition Leader introduced our guests to the ship, explaining its layout and outlining the plan for the journey. With everything in place, we headed out on deck as we set sail through the Beagle Channel, officially beginning our expedition.



First Day at Sea

We spent our first full day together at sea crossing the Drake Passage, with guests settling into the rhythm of life on board. In the morning, they attended presentations on the optional., add-on activities, followed by a mandatory kayak briefing for those planning to paddle in Antarctica.

During the afternoon, the science team introduced the Citizen

Science projects that HX supports and gave an overview of the onboard science programme, followed by a photography lecture. Throughout the day, we took part in wildlife watching and arranged the collection and exchange of the HX expedition jackets. In the evening, we gathered for the Captain's Welcome and the Expedition Team members were introduced.



Getting Closer to Antarctica

We continued our crossing of the Drake Passage with another full day at sea, with our guests teaming up with the Expedition Team, keeping watch for wildlife and contributing to Citizen Science projects such as eBird and NASA GLOBE cloud observations. They also attended the mandatory IAATO briefing, which prepared them for responsible visits in Antarctica.

A series of lectures informed our guests on diverse topics such as penguins, whales, and the history of the discovery of Antarctica. Guests also had time to decorate their water bottles, adding a personal touch for the days ahead. Meanwhile the crew carried out a drill as part of their ongoing safety routines.



First Day in Antarctica

We made our first landing of the expedition at Portal Point, marking our continental landing in Antarctica. From the shore, we enjoyed views of the nearby glacier and explored the remains of the historic Reclus Hut.

We spotted fur seals resting along the beach while a few penguins moved between the shoreline and the water. Some guests took part in a kayaking adventure, while others joined the science boat outing to collect water samples and contribute to fieldwork.



Cruising at Sadler Point

We hosted an unforgettable afternoon expedition boat cruise in Wilhelmina Bay near Sadler Point, surrounded by an extraordinary number of humpback whales. All around us, whales were actively feeding and calmly logging at the surface, offering countless close

and awe-inspiring encounters. The sheer abundance and proximity made it a truly rare and memorable experience that is sure to stay with all of us for a lifetime.



Fournier Bay

We hosted an exciting morning expedition boat cruise in Fournier Bay, weaving through dense brash ice and drifting ice floes that created a constantly changing landscape. Fur seals appeared

throughout the area, resting on the ice or moving effortlessly through the water, adding life and movement to the icy surroundings.



Melchiors Islands

An afternoon expedition boat cruise around the Melchiors Islands offered our guests their first sighting of chinstrap penguins. We also encountered several seals, including Weddell seals, and passed by

the Argentine Melchiors Base. As we explored the area, the weather began to shift, with winds picking up.



Pléneau Island

We had initially attempted a landing at Port Charcot, but conditions led us to change our plans and we headed to Pléneau Island instead. There, we were able to observe gentoo penguins up close, offering a rewarding and intimate wildlife experience. An expedition boat cruise

in the surrounding area revealed a striking landscape filled with large, imposing icebergs, while some guests also had the opportunity to explore the area by kayak.



Lemaire Channel

In the evening, we navigated through the Lemaire Channel, a narrow passage framed by steep, towering mountains on either side. Named by the Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache, who led the expedition that charted this area, the channel carries a sense of early Antarctic

exploration. The calm waters reflected the rugged peaks and scattered ice, adding to the striking scenery. As the light softened, this sailing became an atmospheric and memorable conclusion to the day.



Goudier Island

In the morning, we enjoyed an expedition boat cruise at Port Lockroy, exploring the sheltered harbour and its historic surroundings. The site offered a glimpse into Antarctica's past, with its well-known research

station, while penguins and seabirds were active along the shoreline and in the water.



Damoy Point

In the afternoon, we visited Dorian Bay and Damoy Point, where we explored an old hut that once served as a summer stopover for Twin Otter aircraft transporting scientists.

Many guests took the opportunity to experience kayaking in the area, gliding past ice formations and along the quiet shoreline while taking in the historical surroundings.



Whalers Bay

Today we explored Whalers Bay, a site rich with history and remnants of early Antarctic whaling and exploration. Rusting relics and the remains of old buildings offered a stark reminder of human activity in

this remote region, while the surrounding landscape of cliffs and ice provided a dramatic backdrop for our visit.



Leaving Antarctica

The first day of our two-day journey at sea towards the Falkland Islands was filled with learning and observation. Guests attended lectures and workshops, deepening their understanding of the region, while

keen eyes scanned the ocean for wildlife, spotting seabirds and marine life along the way.



Scotia Sea

On our second day at sea across the Scotia Sea en route to the Falkland Islands, many guests attended lectures and workshops, while some joined an art session, creating clay figures inspired by the

wildlife and landscapes we've experienced so far. Preparations were also underway for the change of region, with everyone getting their rubber boots ready for the upcoming landings.



Stanley

In Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, many guests joined excursions led by local guides, while others explored the town's vibrant streets, enjoying its shops, cafés, and colourful architecture.

The Anglican Christ Church Cathedral stood out as a striking presence and an architectural highlight of the town.



Saunders Island

We discovered Saunders Island, where the first British settlement in the Falklands was established. We landed on the 'Neck', a narrow isthmus where three species of penguins coexist, and explored a

nearby albatross colony. The skies cleared shortly after we began landing, though a brisk wind added movement to the scene, enhancing the dynamic beauty of the wildlife and landscape.



In the Argentine Sea

We departed the Falkland Islands ahead of approaching strong winds and began our journey towards Puerto Madryn. With two days at sea ahead, the day was spent attending lectures and workshops,

providing time to learn, reflect, and enjoy the ocean views as we sailed south.



Puerto Madryn

The day was spent at sea with lectures and workshops, continuing our journey towards Puerto Madryn. By late afternoon, we arrived at the coastal city, where guests could explore bustling streets, visit local handicraft markets, and take in the lively atmosphere. The next day

was fully dedicated to Puerto Madryn, with many guests joining organised excursions while others chose to explore the city on their own.



At Sea

We spent the day at sea on the final leg of our journey, marking the start of our last two days of sailing towards Buenos Aires and the end of our expedition. Guests attended lectures and workshops, reflecting

on the landscapes, wildlife, and experiences encountered along the way.



Concluding the Voyage

On the last day on board, the focus was on voyage recaps and final lectures, while guests also took time to enjoy the ship's amenities one last time. The day included the Captain's Farewell, packing, and

preparing for disembarkation, marking the close of an unforgettable expedition.





Disembarkation

On disembarkation day, guests said goodbye to the ship and its crew after an unforgettable journey. The morning was filled with final

preparations and heartfelt farewells, as the crew wished everyone safe travels and lasting memories.





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