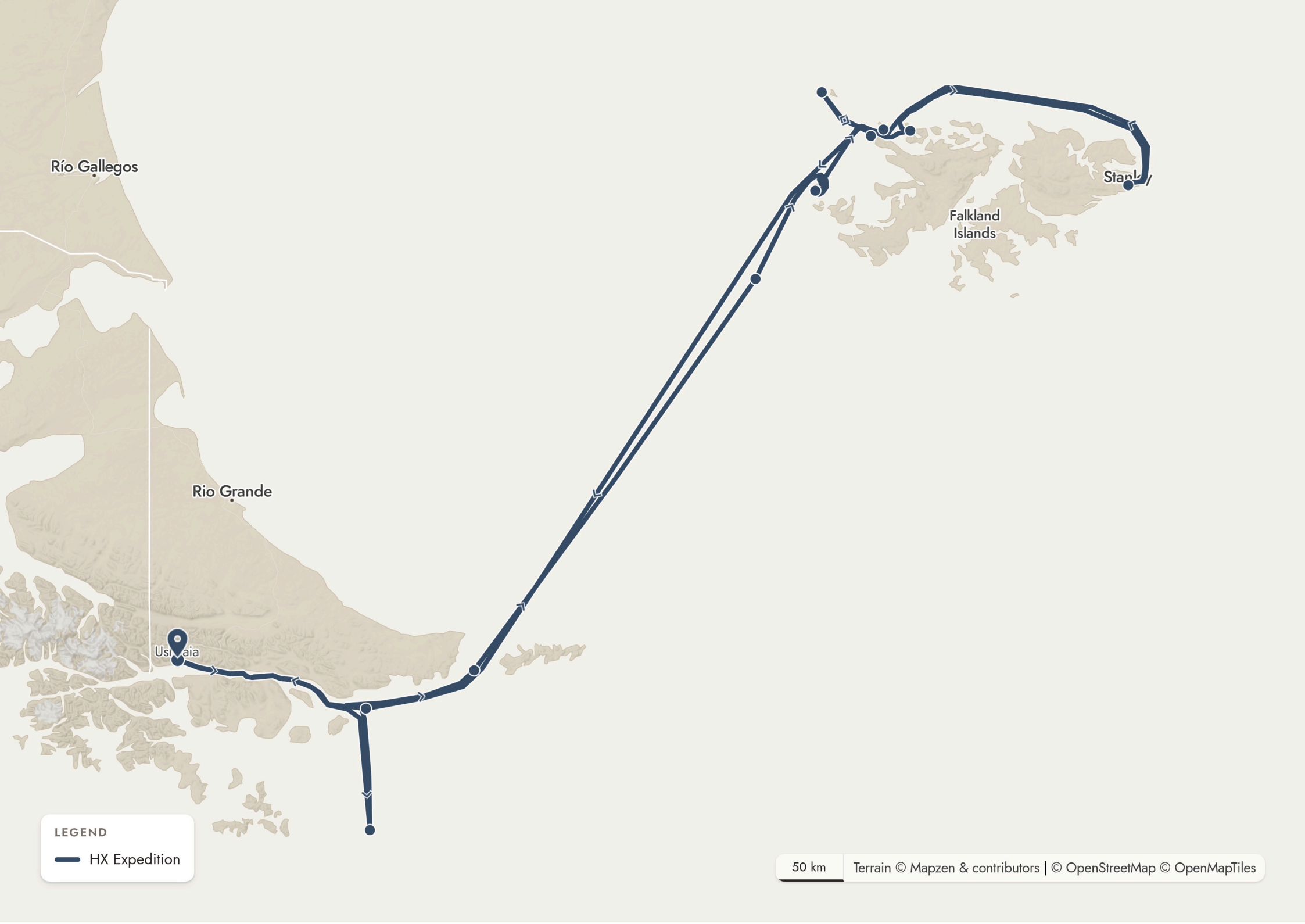


Highlights of Antarctica

MS Fridtjof Nansen, 10 – 20 November 2026


Río Gallegos
Rio Grande
Falkland
Islands
LEGEND
HX Expedition
50 km
Terrain © Mapzen & contributors | © OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

Ushuaia, Argentina - Nov 10, 2026

Day 1 — Ushuaia

We welcomed you aboard MS Fridtjof Nansen in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Anticipation and excitement filled the quayside, and the Expedition Team was on hand to greet you, answer questions, and help you settle into your cabins. Once everyone was aboard and the necessary briefings had been done, MS Fridtjof Nansen eased away from the pier and set a course into the Beagle Channel. From the outer decks, the rugged coastline of Tierra del Fuego slipped past as the ship turned south. Albatrosses and terns wheeled in the ship's wake, and the first scent of salt spray and kelp reached the deck. In the Explorer Lounge, the Expedition Team introduced itself and outlined the days ahead, and the wildlife you might meet. With our sights set southwards, the voyage towards Antarctica had begun.



At Sea, Argentina - Nov 11, 2026

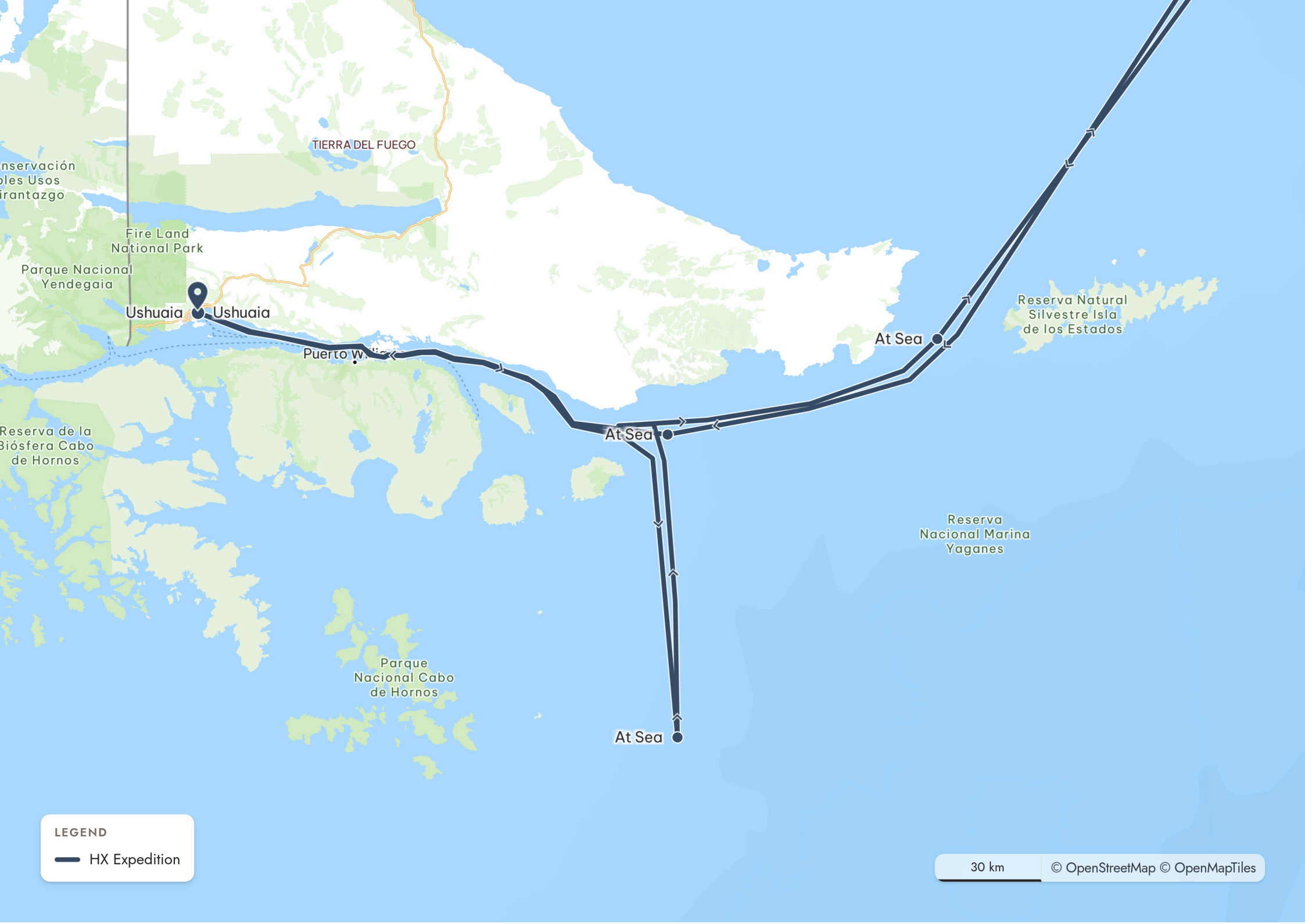
217.7 km

Day 2 – At Sea

Setting off towards Antarctica, the voyage quickly took an unexpected turn. The weather conditions in the Drake Passage forced the ship to turn and seek shelter in the Beagle Channel. The Captain assessed the conditions and decided to wait for a break in the weather before continuing south. While the ship lay sheltered, the Expedition Team put on a variety of activities through the day, from wildlife talks to hands-on workshops in the Science Center. Out on deck, those who braved the wind watched the forested shores of the channel slide by, and seabirds followed the ship through the calmer water. The galley kept everyone well fed, and the mood on board stayed relaxed despite the change of plan. Flexibility is part of every expedition, and the day showed how quickly a good plan can adapt to the Southern Ocean.






TIERRA DEL FUEGO
Fire Land
National Park
Parque Nacional
Yendegaia
Ushuaia
Ushuaia
Puerto W
At Sea
At Sea
At Sea
Reserva Natural
Silvestre Isla
de los Estados
Reserva de la
Biósfera Cabo
de Hornos
Reserva
Nacional Marina
Yaganes
Parque
Nacional Cabo
de Hornos
LEGEND
HX Expedition
30 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

At Sea - Nov 12, 2026

192.5 km

Day 3 – At Sea

As the morning dawned, it was clear that the ship would not sail across the Drake Passage. The stormy conditions had worsened, and the Captain and Expedition Team made the difficult decision not to sail for Antarctica. With the outlook no more favourable for the following days, we decided to head towards the Falkland Islands and to launch a different expedition around that archipelago. Guests received the announcement with curiosity rather than disappointment, and we quickly adapted the programme to reflect the new destination. We reworked lectures, redrew landing plans, and turned the maps in the Science Center to a new set of islands. While not the voyage that was planned, the new route promised penguins, albatrosses, and a wild coastline few expeditions visit. The wonders of the Falkland Islands awaited.



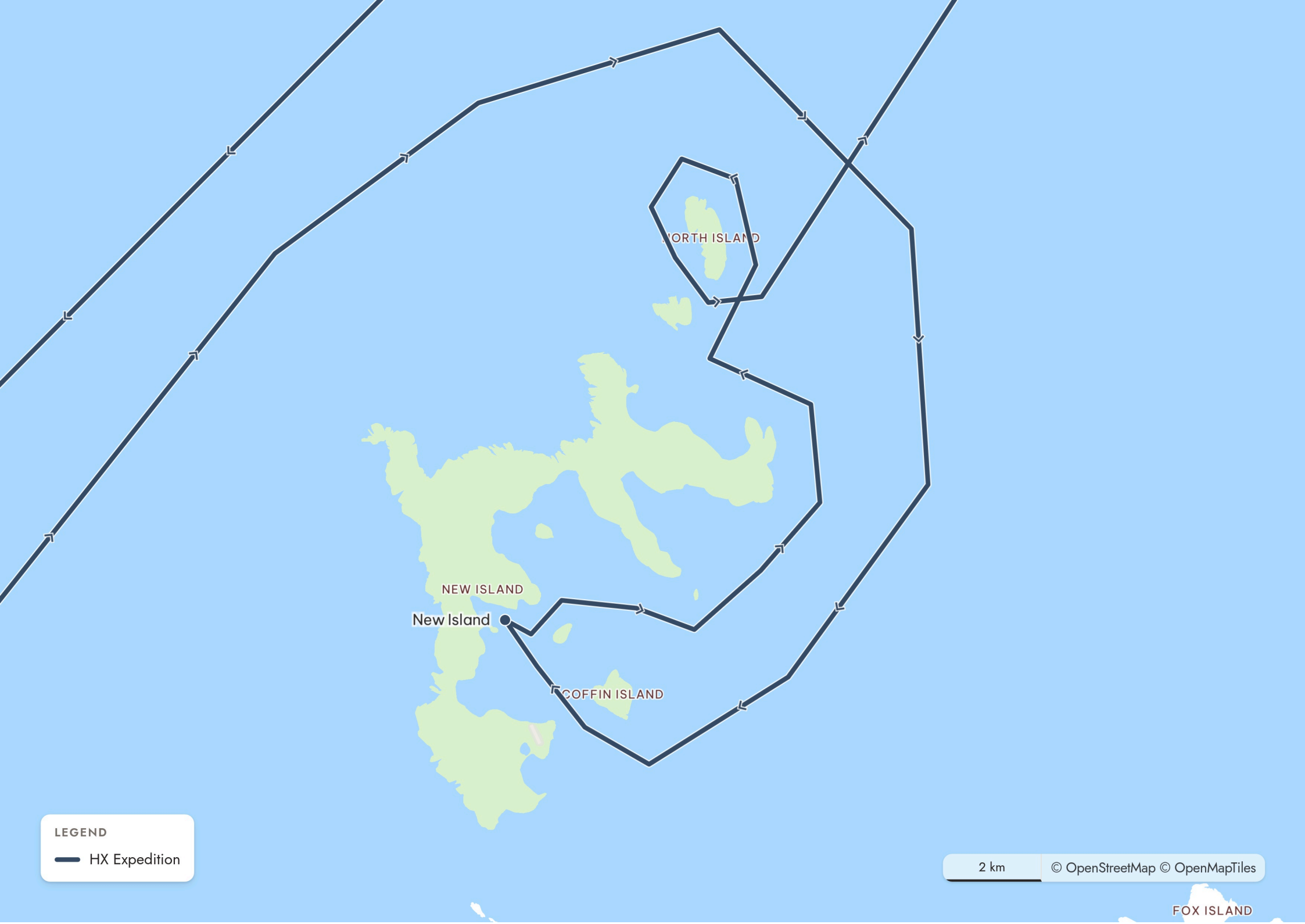


Day 4 – At Sea

As the ship sailed towards the Falkland Islands, we began the preparations for landing. We devoted the day to biosecurity and Expedition Boat safety briefings, vacuum stations for outer layers, and the last of your rubber boots to be picked up from the deck. We checked every zip, cuff, and tread, because clean gear protects the islands we were about to visit. For those braving the wind outside, there was birdlife to be seen, and even the odd dolphin alongside the ship. Seabirds wheeled in the wake as the coastline of the Falklands drew slowly closer on the horizon. After three days at sea, you were ready to arrive and start exploring the Falkland Islands.






NORTH ISLAND
NEW ISLAND
New Island
COFFIN ISLAND
LEGEND
HX Expedition
2 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles
FOX ISLAND

New Island, Falkland Islands - Nov 14, 2026

118.1 km

Day 5 – New Island

Today marked your first day on the Falkland Islands. After days at sea, everyone was eager to stretch their legs and discover what these islands offered. The managers working to rejuvenate the island's habitat welcomed you to New Island, and the museum and gift shop shed gave a brief glimpse into the island's history. The main attraction was the seabird colony found across the island. After a short walk, the incessant calls of rockhopper penguins, black-browed albatrosses, and cormorants greeted you, rising from the cliff tops in a wall of sound. The air smelled of guano and salt, and the grassy slopes were alive with birds coming and going to their nests. Hidden among the rockhopper penguins, a few macaroni penguins rewarded sharp eyes.






Saunders Island
SAUNDERS ISLAND
KEPPEL ISLAND
DUNBAR ISLAND
BURNT ISLAND
LEGEND
HX Expedition
3 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

Saunders Island, Falkland Islands - Nov 15, 2026

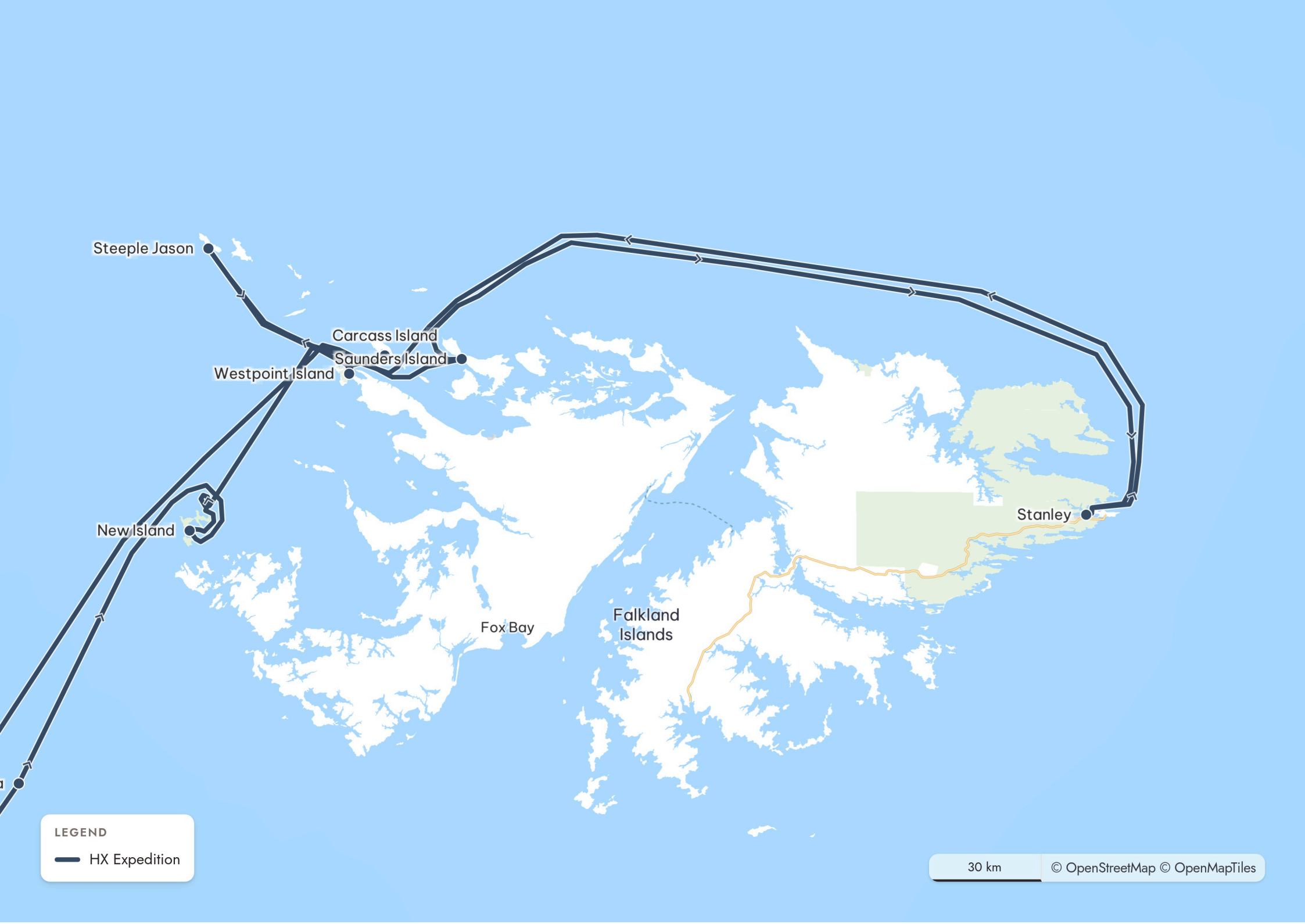
114.6 km

Day 6 — Saunders Island

Building on your day in New Island, we landed you at Saunders Island to deliver a day packed with wildlife. Half of you spent the morning on land while the other half joined onboard events, some kayaking and others heading out on a science boat. The Neck on Saunders Island was a hot spot for penguins. Magellanic, rockhopper, gentoo, and king penguins all appeared here, along the same stretch of white sand. Notable highlights included the fluffy king penguin chicks and a rare black gentoo penguin. In the water, Commerson's dolphins rode the waves, sea lions hunted penguins, and a humpback whale breached repeatedly around the ship, its full body lifting clear of the sea again and again. Few landings deliver so much life in one place.






Steeple Jason
Carcass Island
Saunders Island
Westpoint Island
New Island
Fox Bay
Falkland Islands
Stanley
LEGEND
HX Expedition
30 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

Stanley, Falkland Islands - Nov 16, 2026

256.5 km

Day 7 – Stanley

Sailing to the east coast of the Falkland Islands overnight, the ship arrived in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Having seen the wild side of the islands over the last two days, this was a day for you to experience the populated side. The museum, the church, the shops, and the cafés allowed you to learn about life in the Falkland Islands, from sheep farming and maritime history to daily life at the edge of the South Atlantic. Red phone boxes and English pubs sit oddly beside penguin signs and shipwrecks in the harbour. Some of you joined our Naturalists along the waterfront to find the abundant wildlife that thrives even in this semi-urban habitat, from dolphin gulls to Falkland steamer ducks.





Westpoint Island, Falkland Islands - Nov 17, 2026

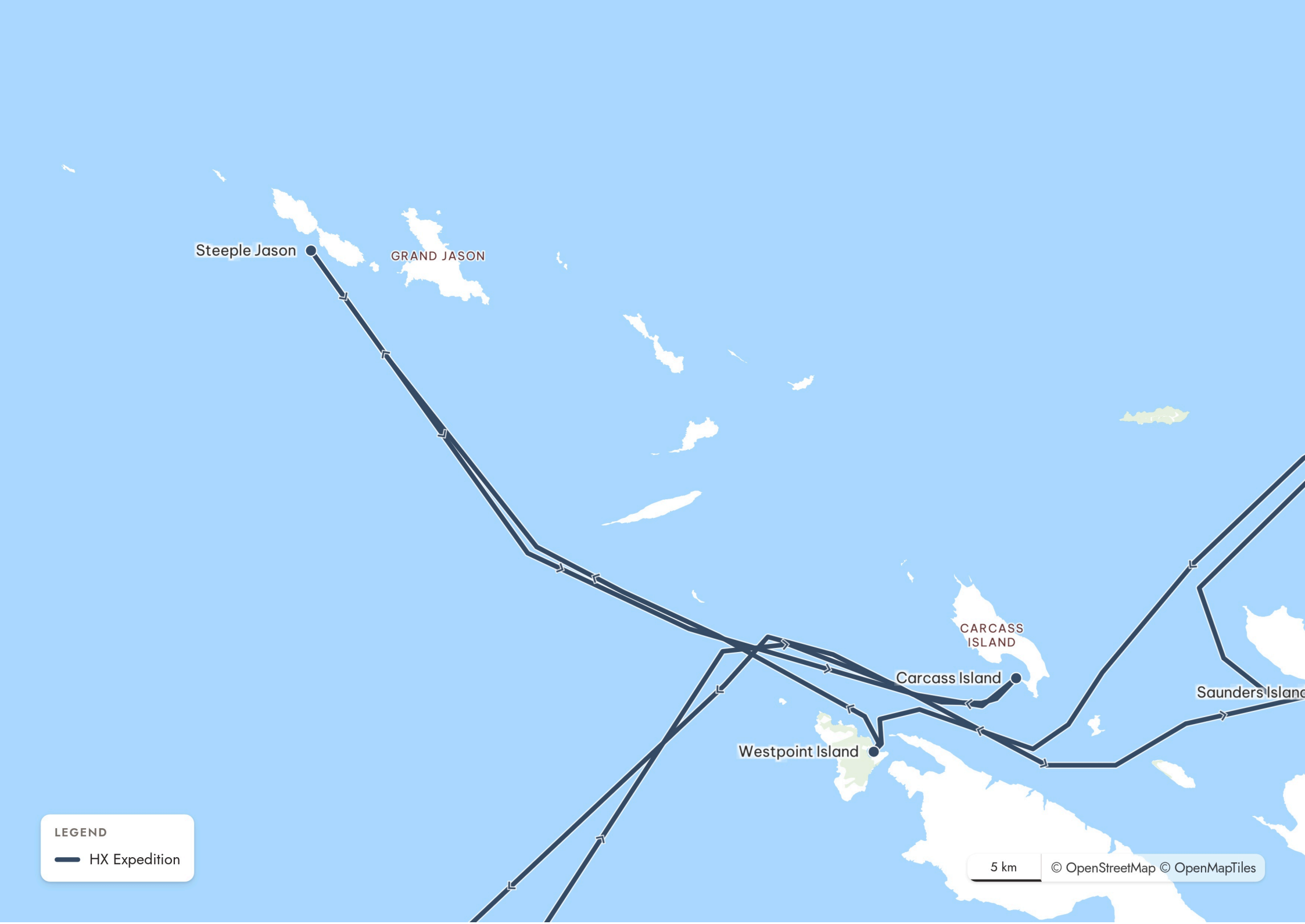
280.8 km

Day 8 – Westpoint Island (AM)

Back on the west coast of the archipelago, you landed at Westpoint Island. The wind conditions allowed the discovery kayak activity to take place, and some paddled around the bay for the morning. Then came the landing, and many of you trekked over the hill towards the colony of black-browed albatross and rockhopper penguins that have made the cliff tops their home. Many also took advantage of the local public transport, taking the bumpy 4x4 ride up to the colony. Once down the hill, you had the chance to visit the farmhouse for baked goods put out by our hosts.






Steeple Jason
GRAND JASON
CARCASS ISLAND
Carcass Island
Saunders Island
Westpoint Island
LEGEND
HX Expedition
5 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands - Nov 17, 2026

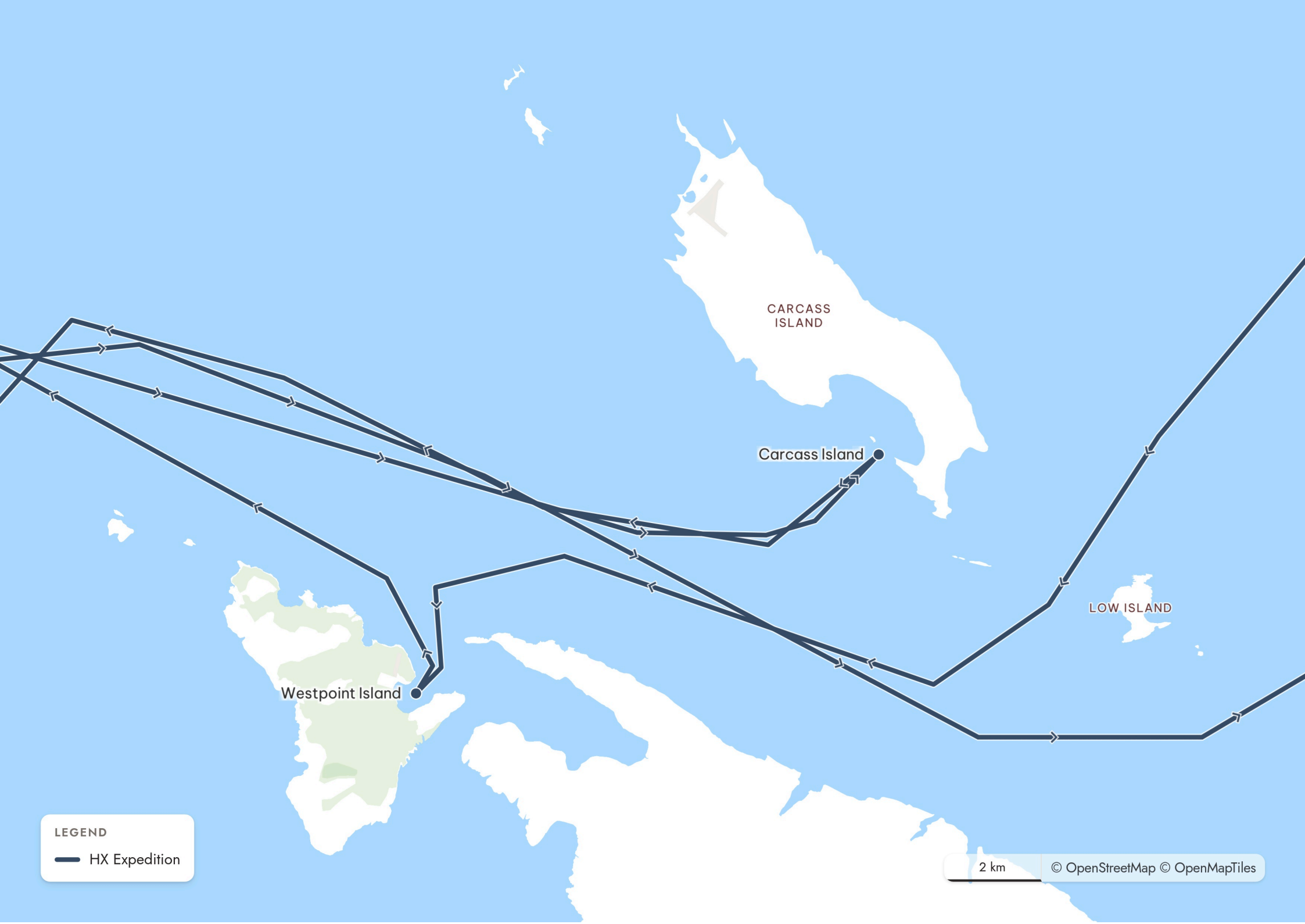
52.3 km

Day 8 – Steeple Jason (PM)

We set up a surprise expedition boat cruise in the evening, as the water around Steeple Jason was so calm. This allowed you to view the colony of fur seals living there up close, and to get a glimpse of the largest colony of black-browed albatross in the world. With the sea so still, the boats could hold position along the shore while you watched, and the calm gave you time to take in the scale of the colonies before we returned to the ship.






CARCASS ISLAND
Carcass Island
LOW ISLAND
Westpoint Island
LEGEND
HX Expedition
2 km
© OpenStreetMap © OpenMapTiles

Carcass Island, Falkland Islands - Nov 18, 2026

60 km

Day 9 – Carcass Island

The final day of our voyage in the Falkland Islands arrived, and with it the final landing. You landed at the beach on Carcass Island with the option of a long walk or to stay around the landing site. Those of you on the walk set off along the coastline towards the settlement, stretching your legs and taking in the scenery of Carcass. Those who stayed near the landing could take in the scenery and wildlife found between Dyke Bay and Leopard Beach. Gentoo penguins clustered in small rookeries, and Magellanic penguins peeked out of their burrows. Many goslings could be seen being herded by their parents around the tussac grass, while smaller songbirds called throughout the morning. To round off the landing experience, a pod of Commerson's dolphins playfully escorted our expedition boats back to the ship before we set sail back towards Ushuaia.





At Sea - Nov 19, 2026

594.3 km

Day 10 — At Sea

Having said farewell to the Falkland Islands, today was your final day at sea. Onboard activities filled the day with wildlife watches, lectures, and workshops, and the Expedition Team was on hand to answer questions and swap stories from the voyage. As we sailed into the Beagle Channel, the Captain met you all for a thank-you and farewell drink in the Explorer Lounge, raising a glass to an expedition that took its own course. Seabirds followed the ship through the calm water of the channel, and the mountains around Ushuaia came into view by evening. The ship arrived early in Ushuaia, allowing you the chance to see the town and explore before the voyage ended.





Ushuaia, Argentina - Nov 20, 2026

141.9 km

Day 11 – Farewell & Safe Travels

Today we said goodbye to you as you disembarked the ship in Ushuaia. While not the expedition any of us expected, we hope that you had a memorable experience. You discovered a new wild place that may not have been known to you, full of penguins, albatrosses, dolphins, and seal species, and you saw how an expedition adapts when the Southern Ocean decides otherwise. From the first rockhoppers at New Island to the dolphins that escorted our expedition boats at Carcass Island, the Falkland Islands gave us a voyage of our own. Thank you for your curiosity, your good humour, and your company on board. We hope to see you again soon for your next expedition voyage with us.



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