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2024.02.25 - 2024.03.10



Legend

— HX Expedition

Day 1

Feb 25, 2024

Arriving in Ushuaia on a beautiful, calm day, we started off our voyage through the Beagle channel. Some Magellanic penguins were swimming close to

the ship and many other sea birds like albatrosses were greeting the ship or kept drifting along on the water.

📷 Ushuaia



Sailing out of Ushuaia

Day 2

Feb 26, 2024

A day on the Drake passage - sailors would have called it "Drake Lake" as it was really calm compared to many other days where the Drake is rather shaking the ships through its waves. The nearest land being Cape Horn, still far away out of sight and

lots of water underneath the ship (at noon it was 3.700 meters of water depth). Still, some seabirds like albatrosses and prions accompanying the ship once in a while.

Drake Passage



Grey-headed albatross

Day 3

Feb 27, 2024

Another calm day on the Drake Passage. Several sea birds crossing our way. Lots of onboard activities were preparing us for our arrival in Antarctica.

📷 Drake Passage



Drake Passage

Day 4

Feb 28, 2024

We arrived at the Antarctic Peninsula! More and more icebergs showing up, some whales in the distance, until we sailed through parts of the amazing Lemaire Channel, in which we turned the ship around to head back towards Port Charcot. At Port Charcot, we started cruising around icebergs

and landing at the site that hosts a Gentoo penguin colony. Lots of snow algae covered the remaining snow and Gentoo penguins kept on walking through the colony to make their way to their chicks which are almost ready to get into the water.

Port Charcot & Lemaire Channel



Gentoo penguins



Busy penguin highway

Day 5

Feb 29, 2024

In the morning we stopped shortly at Palmer station (a U.S. research station) in order to help them exchange their station leaders (we would give them a transport in between their station and Ushuaia). When we arrived at Damoy Point, we were lucky to

visit the British Damoy hut with its interior design and some stocks. The hut was used in former times as a transit hub for scientists. While walking across the island, we saw several gentoo penguin colonies.

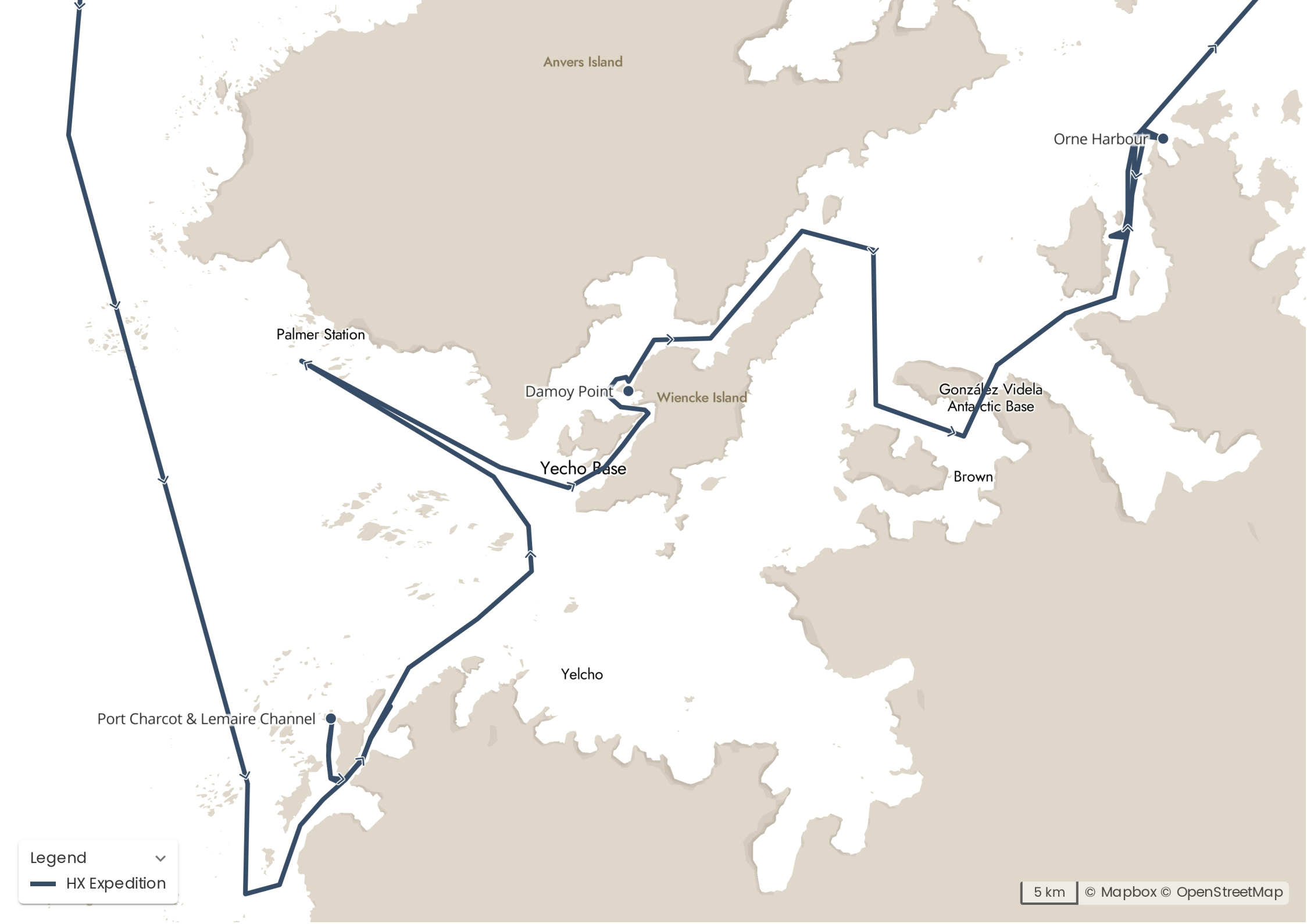
Damoy Point



Damoy hut



Iceberg



Legend
HX Expedition

5 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 6

Mar 1, 2024

We spent the morning ship cruising in Paradise Bay before we reached our destination Orne Harbour. Orne was the only time this trip where we set foot on the Antarctic mainland. Already upon arrival (and thereafter), many humpback whales were greeting

us closeup in the bay. We were quiet and listened humbly to the breathing of these noble creatures of the seas. Once on the mainland, a steep hike up the hill (a bit more than 100 m of altitude) rewarded us with an insight into a chinstrap penguin colony.

Orne Harbour



Chinstrap penguin



Humpback whale

Day 7

Mar 2, 2024

The overnight campers were picked up from their beautiful campsite at Kerr Point (Ronge Island) in the early morning. While sailing along with a wonderful sunrise and mirror-like waters, icebergs were passing by as well as wildlife (many birds, seals, humpback whales and many penguins jumping through the water). Sailing through Pampa Passage (in between Lecointe / Kaiser Island and Brabant

Island) we then arrived at Spert Island. A breathtaking cruising and kayaking took us out through narrow rocks rising steeply out of the water, accompanied by icebergs, fur seals and rock arches, one of the highlights certainly being cruising through a rock tunnel with water shimmering in the most beautiful shades of blue.

Spert Island



Rock and ice formations



Rock arch

Day 8

Mar 3, 2024

Making our way further North we arrived at Whalers Bay on Deception Island in the very early morning, one of the islands of the South Shetland Islands. The special feature: Deception Island is still an active volcano today, its crater being filled with sea water allowing us to sail into it. A former hotspot of the whaling industry, some remains are visible until today. A long stretched beach with fine, dark sand

was inviting us for a hike towards a viewpoint from which we would have a lookout onto the ocean and across Whalers Bay. During our beach walk we met several "locals" along the way: lots of fur seals playing or relaxing, gentoo and chinstrap penguins and kelp gulls. Some of us seized the last chance for an Antarctic volcanic polar plunge.

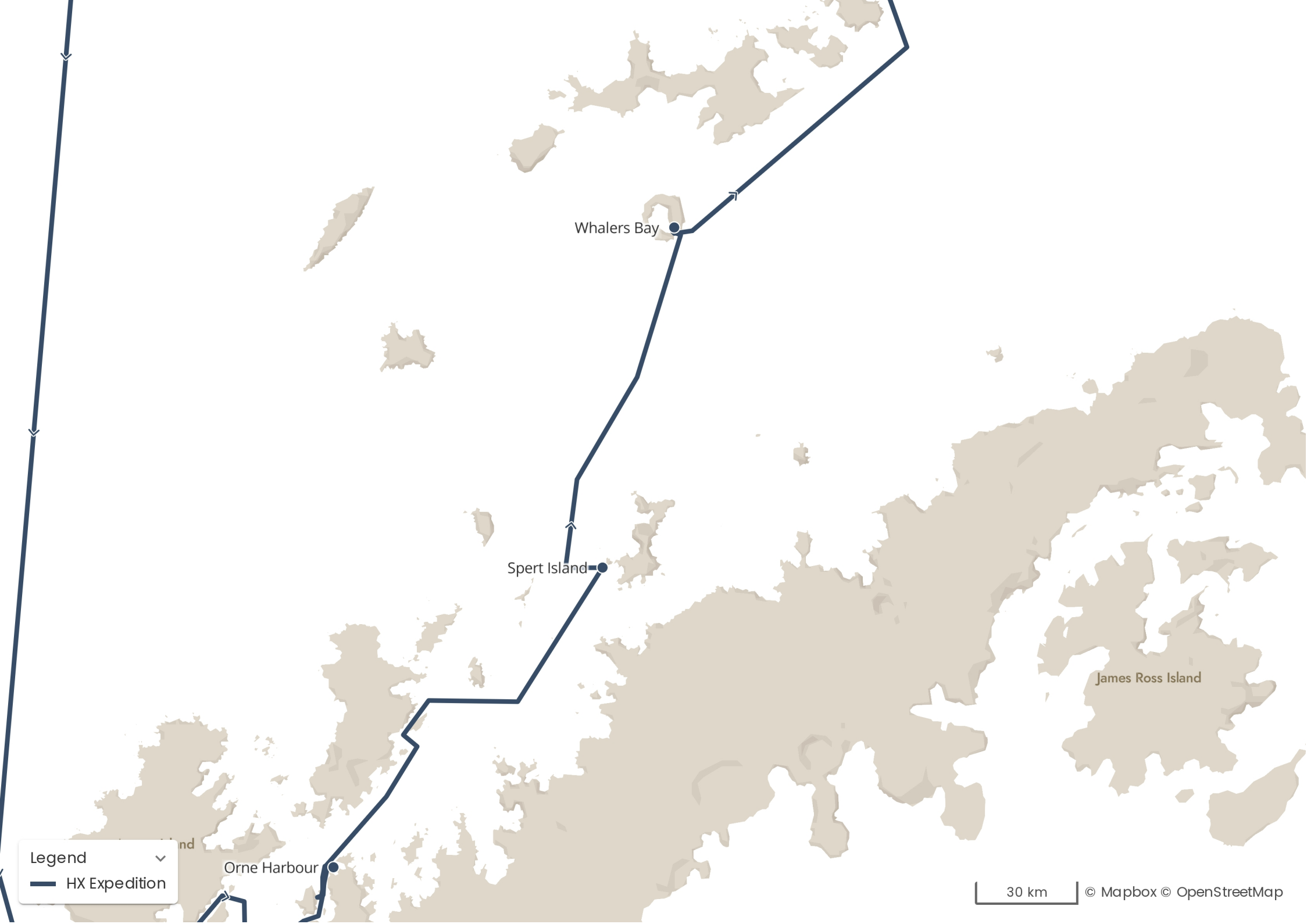
Whalers Bay



Walking inside an active volcano



Fur seal



Whalers Bay

Spert Island

James Ross Island

Orne Harbour

Legend

— HX Expedition

30 km © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 9

Mar 4, 2024

A "Drake Lake" awaited us, allowing us to sail gently through the waters of this often turbulent ocean. Many seabirds, including different kinds of albatrosses, as well as whales were sighted during

the morning. A diverse onboard program kept everyone interested busy, ranging from lectures to art sessions, microscopy, workshops and not to forget knitting and chatting together.

Drake Passage



Hourglass Dolphins



Hourglass dolphin

Day 10

Mar 5, 2024

Another sea day on the Drake Passage packed with onboard program. A few sea birds were flying around the ship like the snowy albatross, while the expedition team was preparing us for our arrival at

the Falkland islands. We learned about the history of the Falklands and about its vegetation, its birds and its geology, just to name some examples.

Drake Passage



Snowy albatross



Sunset

Day 11

Mar 6, 2024

The friendly capital of the Falkland Islands welcomed us with lots of wind. When taking part in the community walks along the main street of Stanley, we learned a lot about history and life at this remote place. Some Upland geese were grazing along the

way while we walked along the cathedral with its whalebones up to the beautifully equipped museum. Several guests went on a nature trek to observe Magellanic penguins, while others took a longer drive to Volunteer Point to visit a colony of king penguins.

Stanley



Stanley cathedral with whalebone arch



Moulting magellanic penguins

Day 12

Mar 7, 2024

Trying to land with one zodiac on Saunders Island turned out not to be a feasible option, given the wind and swell we encountered. We therefore continued sailing towards West Point, a more sheltered place, inhabited by two very friendly sheep farmers. A longer hike led us to a rocky cliff which serves as breeding ground for black browed albatrosses and rockhopper penguins. Watching the albatross chicks

shouting for food was adorable, while the rockhoppers stood stoically on the rocks watching the world go by. A different, shorter hike along the coastline led us to several geese and magellanic penguins, although most earth caves had already been abandoned due to the onset of fall. With beautiful evening sunshine, we sailed out of this enchanting place.

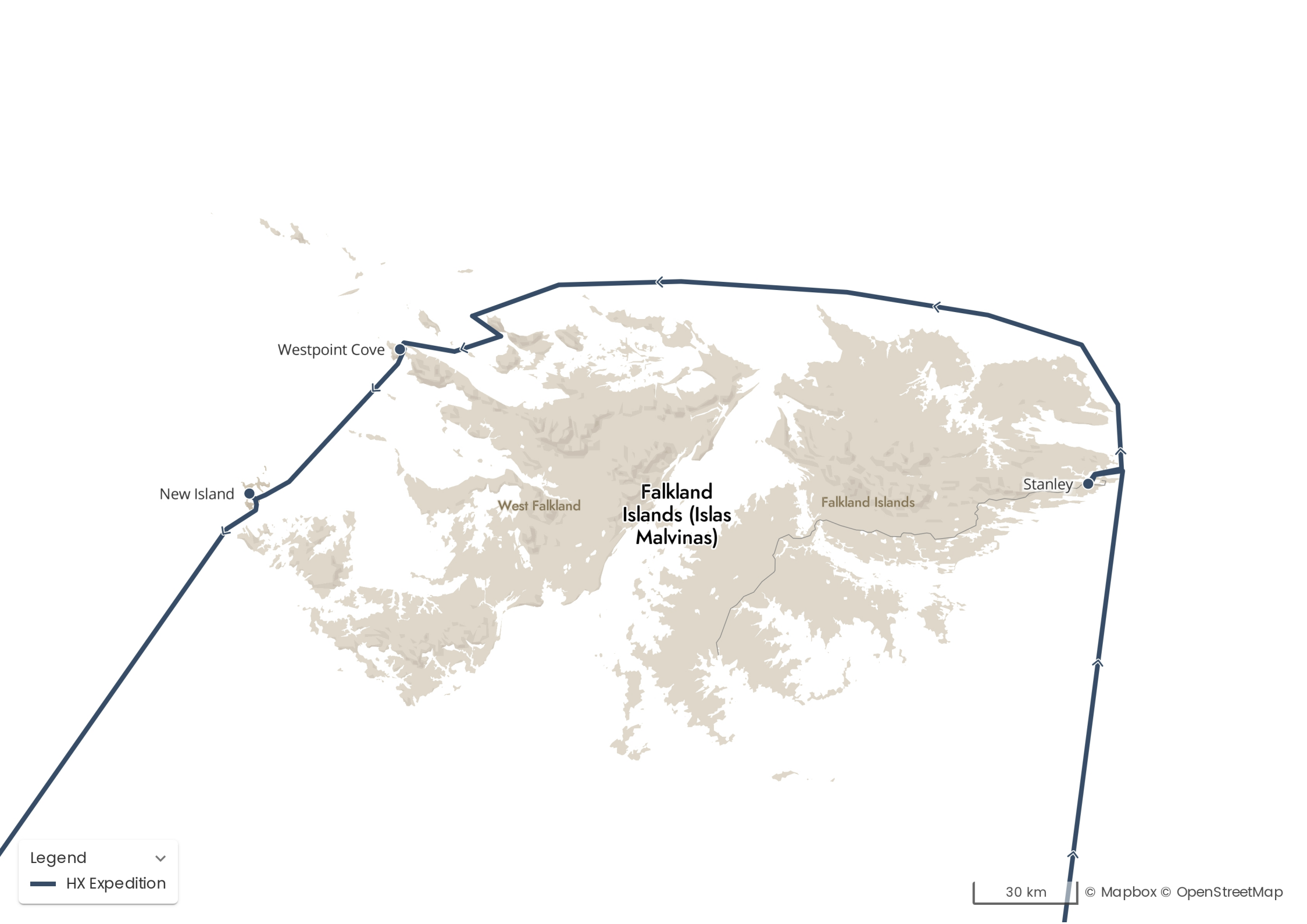
Westpoint Cove



Rockhopper penguin and albatross chicks



Black-browed albatross



Westpoint Cove

New Island

West Falkland

Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Falkland Islands

Stanley

Legend



— HX Expedition

30 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day 13

Mar 8, 2024

An early morning arrival for which it was definitely worth it getting out of bed. Landing on a beach next to an old shipwreck and a little, well-maintained museum, this island serves as nature reserve.

Walking across the island we arrived at cliffs hosting uncountable birds: imperial shags, black browed

albatross chicks, cara caras, some skuas and rockhopper penguins. With the young shags almost ready to leave, we were watching them in their sometimes stumbling flight practice. One of the albatross chicks did not survive the day, but was serving his predators, several cara caras, to survive.

New Island



Black-browed albatross



Imperial shags

Day 14

Mar 9, 2024

All voyage long the Drake Passage has been very gentle with us. Sun and clouds changing throughout the day we enjoyed the last art sessions, science and general recaps and some more workshops and lectures today, before the captain gave his farewell

speech. In the afternoon we were lucky enough to watch several sei whales close to the ship. The stunning video of the board photographer Oscar allowed us to immerse ourselves in the memories of this breathtaking voyage.

Drake Passage



Whale sighting



Whale blows

Day 15

Mar 10, 2024

We arrived in Ushuaia in the morning and say goodbye...
disembarked the ship after a last breakfast. Time to

📷 Ushuaia



Deck & Expedition Team



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