

Ayelet TOURS
THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Temple Sinai
Jewish Cultural Journey to

ARGENTINA
Including Montevideo, Uruguay



Led by Cantor Emerita Laura Croen
March 23 - April 2, 2025

Argentina's Jewish history dates to 1492, linked to the expulsion of Jews from Spain. Conversos or "secret Jews" settled in Argentina, making efforts to blend in with the general population. From the mid-19th century on, Jews continued to make Argentina their home due to the country's open-door immigration policy. Today, Jews are an active part of Argentine society, and many are prominent figures in the arts, film, music and journalism.

DAY 1

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025
DEPARTURE

- We depart the USA on our overnight flight to Montevideo.

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025
WELCOME TO URUGUAY!

- **Bienvenidos - welcome to Montevideo, Uruguay!** We arrive early this morning in the country's capital as well as its political, economic and intellectual center.
- Our full-day excursion in Montevideo includes a **Jewish heritage tour**. In the **Old City**, we pass by **Golda Meir Square** and the **Hebraica Maccabi Sports Center**.
- Next, we visit the **Great Sephardic Synagogue (Comunidad Israelita Sefaradí)**, one of the most beautiful synagogues in South America. The congregation obtained a tax exemption to import wood from Yugoslavia and marble from Italy for its construction, which was completed in 1954.
- At the **Jewish Museum**, we learn about Jewish immigration to Uruguay beginning in the 1600s, and the significant influx from Turkey in the 1900s.
- We continue to **Independence Square**, where we see a **monument dedicated to José Gervasio Artigas**, a national hero regarded as the leader of independence in Uruguay.
- Lunch is on our own at **Mercado del Puerto**, an old market now filled with grill restaurants.
- At **Mercado de los Artesanos**, we enjoy shopping for crafts handmade by local artists.
- Afterwards, we drive along the lively **18 de Julio Avenue** to the **Legislative Palace**, an impressive building constructed at the beginning of the 20th century.
- We continue to the **Goes area** to view the colorful housing projects built in the early 1920s by real estate developer Emilio Reus and also see the **Old Synagogue**.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner and a show**. We depart our hotel and drive to **El Milongón**, located in the heart of Montevideo. A sample of the Uruguayan tradition can be experienced with an important display of music and choreography of candombe (a typical dance with African influence), tango, milonga and folk music. Visitors will enjoy the performance of around 35 singers, musicians and dancers. Dinner is included during the show.

Overnight in Montevideo (D)



DAY 3

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
MONTEVIDEO TO BUENOS AIRES

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we catch a glimpse of present-day life in the **Pocitos** residential area, passing by Jewish schools and stopping at the **Holocaust memorial**, the only one of its kind in South America.
- Back in the city, we stop at **Gurvich Museum** to study the works of Uruguay's famous painter, José Gurvich. Born in Lithuania, Gurvich immigrated to Uruguay in 1933. All his paintings register elements of Jewish religious iconography.
- We transfer to the port and **depart by boat** across the world's widest river, **Rio de la Plata**, to **Buenos Aires**, the capital of Argentina.
- We arrive in Buenos Aires and transfer to our hotel for check in and dinner on own.

Overnight in Buenos Aires (B)

DAY 4

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
BEAUTIFUL BUENOS AIRES

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we begin with the neighborhood where many of the city's Jewish institutions are located, including **synagogues, Jewish theaters and schools**, as well as **rabbinical seminaries**. We will also drive through the **Mea Shearim of Bam**, where the Orthodox Jews live.

- We stop for a visit at the **site where the AMIA was bombed** in 1994, then visit the **current AMIA community center** for an update. The center offers different programs for education, employment, culture and arts. Here, we see the **Yaakov Agam designed sculpture memorial**, dedicated to the 85 people who lost their lives.
- Next, we stop at the **IWO Institute for Yiddish Culture in Argentina**, where we will hear about how Jewish immigrants brought the culture with them to Argentina and connected with the local culture ultimately creating an everlasting connection such as Jewish Tango.
- We stop for **lunch** at a local restaurant.
- We continue our tour at the **Jewish Museum**, where we learn about Argentine-Jewish culture and history. The museum is inside the **Libertad Synagogue**, founded in 1862 and the first synagogue in Argentina. It was declared a Historical National Monument in 2000.
- We return to our hotel for a chance to freshen up.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for **candle lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat services** with the local community at the **Libertad Synagogue**, followed by **Shabbat dinner**.

Overnight in Buenos Aires (B, L, D)



DAY 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
THE GAUCHOS

- Early breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we take a drive 110km (69mi.) to **San Antonio de Areco**, the heart of the “gaucho” traditions in the “pampas” region. Upon arrival, we walk around the small village’s cobblestoned streets and appreciate its quaint historical center. Also known as the “**Cradle of Tradition**,” the colonial town was founded over 280 years ago and is filled with old bars (“pulperías”) and artisan shops with over 30 silver smiths. Known as “**platería criolla**,” the traditional Argentinean silver works include knives, jewelry and other traditional items.
- Next, we visit the **Draghi’s Silversmith Workshop & Museum** and meet with an artisan who will tell us about their trade and the family’s fascinating story.
- The nearby ranches that have kept the “gaucho” lifestyle and customs alive mainly breed cattle and horses and cultivate soy, corn and wheat. The “gauchos” perform their tasks in the old fashioned way, over their well-groomed horses; “mate” and beef are part of their daily diet. See them wearing berets or wide-brimmed hats, knotted scarves and their traditional loose trousers with ornate belts. We **interact with locals** while enjoying the small town.
- We complete our visit at **La Florita**, a local ranch, and enjoy a unique **barbecue lunch** with great vegetarian options while listening to folkloric music and seeing feats of cowboy skill!
- We return to **Buenos Aires** for a leisure evening and dinner on own.

Overnight in Buenos Aires (B, L)



DAY 6

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
LA RECOLETA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin the day with a visit to **La Recoleta**, one of the city's most glamorous neighborhoods. Along **Alvear Avenue**, we see countless upscale stores, restaurants, cafes and boutiques, as well as the **Recoleta Cultural Center** and the **National Museum of Fine Arts**, which are all important parts of the city's culture.
- We drive by many beautiful parks and see the **Floralis Generica at United Nations Park**, in addition to **Libertador and Figueroa Alcorta Avenues** on our way to **Recoleta Cemetery**. Founded in 1822, it is one of the most prominent cemeteries in the world. We stroll through to view the ornate mausoleums, sculptures and vaults made famous by local and international artists. Many heroes, presidents, well-known writers, scientists and artists are buried here, including Eva Peron.
- We continue to the **Israeli Embassy Square & Memorial**, dedicated to the community members that perished in the terrorist attack.
- Our next stop is “**Visha Kreplach**” the second Jewish neighborhood of Buenos Aires.
- We stop for **lunch at Club Atlético Atlanta** also known as the “Jewish Soccer Club.”



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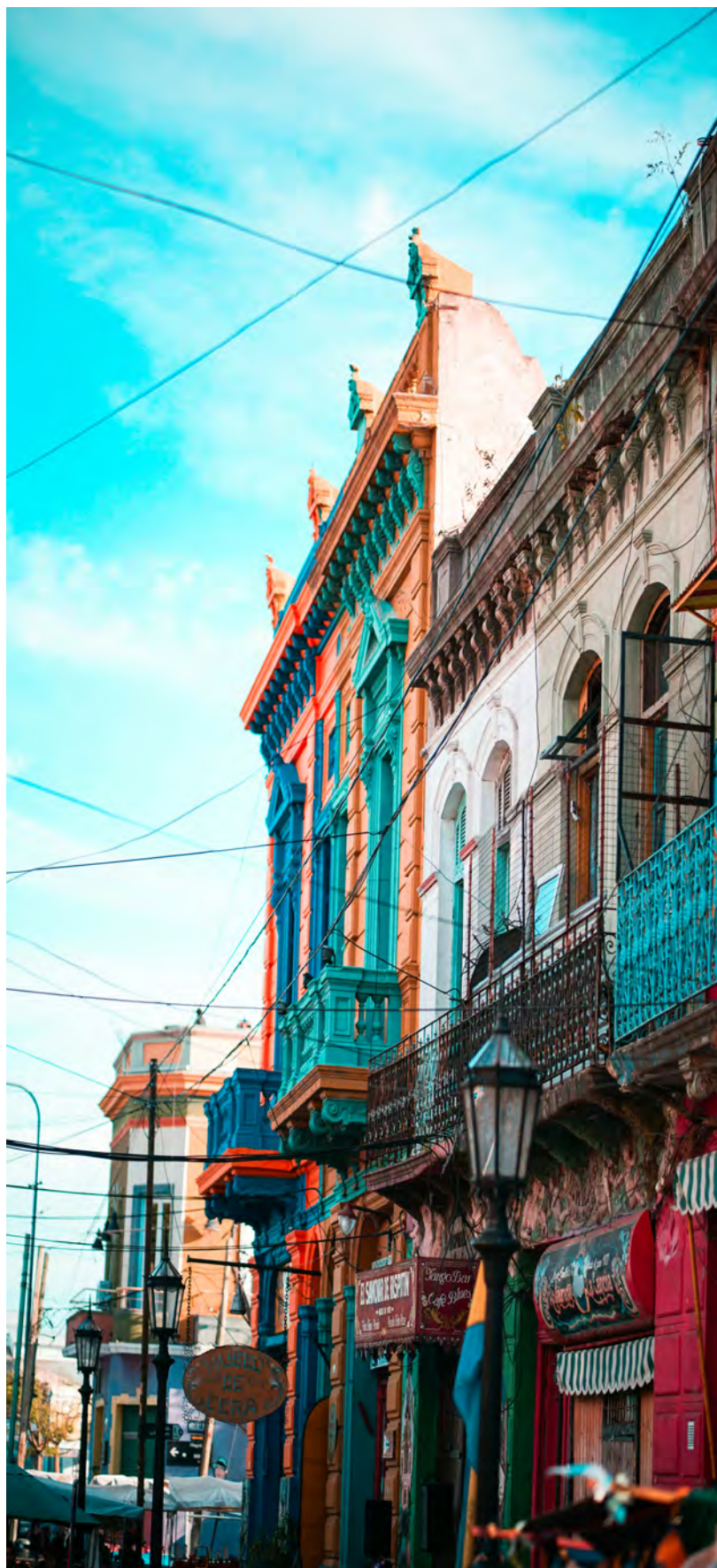
- This afternoon, we stop by the **Sholom Aleichem Jewish Community School** for an uplifting visit with students and teachers and gain a better appreciation for the school and its mission.
- We return to our hotel to rest and enjoy a quick dinner on our own before enjoying an evening **performance in the Teatro Colon**, one of the most stunning buildings and important landmarks in Buenos Aires. Occupying a whole block, the opera house was built in 1908 as the demand for opera increased. We visit the **Gold Hall** and other opulent areas to appreciate its imposing architecture and ornate decorations, creating an elegant atmosphere.

Overnight in Buenos Aires (B, L)

DAY 7

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025
A COLORFUL SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel and morning at leisure.
- This afternoon, we visit the colorful **La Boca neighborhood** with its European flair due to many of its early settlers being from Genoa, Italy. We share stories of our families' diasporic journeys as we stroll along "**Caminito**" admiring the streets filled with local artists and tango dancers and pass by the **Boca Juniors soccer stadium**. Olé!
- We enjoy lunch on our own, then continue to **Escuela de Arte Inclán** to meet with **Mirta Regina Satz**, an AMIA attack survivor who will tell us her story and how art helped her continue in life. We will learn from her how to use shards to make art and bring something back to our community with you.
- We complete our day with an introduction of Argentina's best cuisine and culture. Sip on a **welcome drink** and start our **culinary experience** with appetizers and wine, then **create our own empanadas**. Throughout the evening, we learn Argentinian hand gestures, enjoy the "best steak in Argentina" (and vegetarian option for those who would like) and try different Malbec wines from boutique wineries in Mendoza. For dessert, we'll **make our own alfajores**, Argentina's traditional pastries and learn about and **prepare "mate"**, the country's national drink, integral to the culture.



Overnight in Buenos Aires (B, D)



DAY 8

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025
SAN TELMO TO IGUAZU

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the **San Telmo neighborhood**, one of the oldest in the city, where we peruse the stalls at the **San Telmo Market Sunday Street Fair** comprised of local artisan works.
- We transfer to the domestic airport to catch our **flight to Iguazu Falls**.
- Upon arrival in **Iguazu**, we explore the beauty of this wonder from the **Brazilian Side** of the falls! The falls consists of 275 different waterways that come together and fall 250 feet in a crescendo of astounding beauty. Iguazu is wider than Victoria Falls, higher than Niagara Falls and more beautiful than both!
- We transfer to our hotel to check in and enjoy our lovely hotel facilities and the natural beauty all around us.
- Free evening for dinner on own.

Overnight in Iguazu (B)



DAY 9

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025
IGUAZU FALLS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We continue our discovery of Iguazu by viewing the falls from the **Argentinean side**. We arrive by gas propelled train to tour the **Devil's throat route**, including a visit to the famous **Devil's Throat**, the most magnificent of the falls, where we view and photograph the thundering waters falling below.
- This afternoon, we see the **"Lower Circuit."** The half-day tour to **Iguazu Falls National Park** is an exciting way to explore the hidden life of the Missionary Jungle.
- **OPTIONAL:** We depart in **four-wheel drive vehicles** towards **Yacarea Path** to the heart of the jungle until we reach **Macuco Port**. Here, we begin an unforgettable experience, sailing through the falls at high speed until we reach the point where the falls meet the riverbed. (250 steps down and 250 steps up).
- This evening, we enjoy a **farewell dinner** together at a local restaurant based on local cuisine of the native Gaurani people.

Overnight in Iguazu (B, D)

DAY 10

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and leisurely day at our hotel.
- After a late lunch on own, we transfer to the airport for our flight home by way of Buenos Aires.

(B)

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025
WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

