Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS

A Musical Jewish Heritage Journey to ARGENTINA



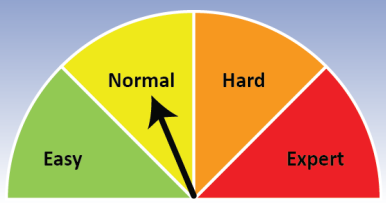
Led by the Cantors of the ACC
February 15 - 24, 2025

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Join the ACC and participants from across North America as we discover the sights, scents, spirit and song of Jewish life in Argentina! 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. This will be a journey to remember!

Physical Activity Scale



DAY 1

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025
DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to **Buenos Aires**.

DAY 2

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025
WELCOME TO ARGENTINA!

- Arrivals throughout the day in **Buenos Aires**, Argentina, the land of tango. This is the country's capital as well as its political, economic and intellectual center. Transfers will be provided for all arrivals on this day from BUE airport (transfer times TBD based on flight list).
- Upon landing, we stop for lunch (on own) at a local restaurant near **La Boca**, known for its lively contemporary art galleries housed in colorful zinc shacks reminiscent of the area's immigrant days.
- **ACC OPENING PROGRAM**: We join with the voices of the ACC and the local Jewish community for our **opening ceremony and concert sing-along** at the impressive **Arlene Fern School** and adjacent **NCI-Emanuel El Synagogue**, followed by a **welcome dinner** together on site.
- We transfer back to our hotels. The remainder of the evening is at leisure to explore Buenos Aires and settle in.

Overnight in Buenos Aires





DAY 3

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025
HISTORY IN BUENOS AIRES

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, we pay a visit to the **Israeli Embassy Square & Memorial**, dedicated to the community members that perished in the terrorist attack, where we remember and learn about the people involved.
- We continue to 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 continue to the only **Rabbinic Seminary** in South America, **Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer**. Here, we engage in a discussion on co-existence led by a local scholar.
- We stop for lunch on our own.
- Next, we visit **Palermo**, a district with beautiful parks and artificial lakes. We enjoy some free time to visit the trendy neighborhoods of **Palermo Soho** and **Palermo Hollywood**, to shop in the designer boutiques.
- We return to our hotels and enjoy dinner on our own tonight.

Overnight in Buenos Aires

DAY 4

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025
WELCOME TO IGUAZU FALLS

- Early breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- This morning, 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 Falls are wider than Victoria Falls, higher than Niagara Falls and more beautiful than both!
- We take a break and enjoy lunch on our own.
- We transfer to our hotel to check in, refresh and enjoy our lovely hotel facilities and the natural beauty all around us.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** and an encounter with the **music of the indigenous Guaraní** people. The Guarani have a rich and distinctive musical tradition that reflects their deep connection to nature, spirituality and community. Their music serves not only as a form of artistic expression but also as an important element of their rituals, celebrations and storytelling.

Overnight in Iguazu Falls

DAY 5

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025
ARGENTINEAN IGUAZU

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We continue our discovery of Iguazu by **viewing the falls from the Argentinean side**. We arrive by gas propelled train to tour the "**Upper Circuit**" 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.
- We return to our hotel to relax, refresh and have a bite to eat before 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.
- This evening, we have dinner on our own. Our staff will be available to assist with reservations at our hotel or nearby restaurants.

Overnight in Iguazu Falls



DAY 6

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025
BEAUTY & COMMUNITY

- Breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- This morning, we board our flight back to **Buenos Aires**.
- Upon landing, we stop by **Plaza de Mayo**, scene of countless political demonstrations throughout the years. We hear the story of the Madres, who gather here every Thursday afternoon. The 'Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo' led a peaceful resistance movement against military dictatorship and repression in Argentina in response to the forced disappearance and torture of political opponents. Time permitting, we also visit the **Metropolitan Cathedral** to appreciate its towering ceiling, striking stained glass, marble columns and paintings.
- This afternoon, we participate in one of several intensive **tikkun olam projects** coordinated through the **World Union for Progressive Judaism**. Possible programs include refurbishing bikes for children, visiting a home for the elderly to share music and volunteering at a food bank.
- Tonight, we enjoy dinner on our own.
- **CULTURAL OPTION (OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL COST):** We complete our day with a sampling of Argentina's best cuisine and culture. Sip on a **celebratory cocktail** 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 try different Malbec wines from boutique wineries in Mendoza. For dessert, we'll **make our own alfajores**, Argentina's traditional pastries. We'll also learn about and **prepare "mate"**, the country's national drink, integral to the culture.

Overnight in Buenos Aires

DAY 7

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025
CULTURE, HISTORY & ART

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We begin with a visit in **La Recoleta**, one of the city's most glamorous neighborhoods, where our hotels are located. Along Alvear Avenue, we see countless upscale stores, restaurants, cafes and boutiques, as well as the **Recoleta Cultural Center**, the **National Museum of Fine Arts** and the **Palais de Glace**, which are all important parts of the city's culture.
- We walk the short distance to the **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.
- As we leave Recoleta, we pass by many beautiful parks and see the **Floralis Generica at United Nations Park** on our way to the **Once area**, a neighborhood where many of the city's Jewish institutions are located. Here, we will pass by the **Hebraica JCC, 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. We also see the **Yaakov Agam designed sculpture memorial**, dedicated to the 85 people who lost their lives. During our visit at AMIA, we hear from a survivor of the bombing, including introduction to her work, "From Shards to One".
- We stop for lunch on our own.
- We partake in an immersive cultural experience at the **Instituto Judío de Investigaciones (IWO)**, Argentina's leading institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Jewish history, culture and heritage. IWO is renowned for its extensive collections, including an impressive archive of Jewish musical manuscripts, recordings and resources. We'll delve into the rich musical traditions of Argentina's Jewish community, including rare recordings and sheet music that reflect the diverse sounds of Jewish life—from traditional Ashkenazi melodies to Sephardic tunes and contemporary compositions. We'll explore the strong Jewish connection to Tango's early days!
- We return to our hotels for a chance to refresh before our evening out.
- **ACC PROGRAM**: As the sun begins to set, we join together for **candle lighting** and **Kabbalat Shabbat services** with the local community, featuring the voices of the **ACC**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at **Libertad**.

Overnight in Buenos Aires



DAY 8

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
JOINING TOGETHER IN SONG/
THE TIGRE DELTA

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- **ACC PROGRAM**: Morning **Shabbat services** led by the ACC cantors and joined by members of the local community.
- This morning, we will be joined by a **local scholar** for additional learning together (TBD).
- We take time for lunch on our own.
- Next, we set out on a docent-led tour of the **Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes**, home to works of art by famed artists such as Goya, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Rodin, Manet, Chagall and many more.
- **ACC PROGRAM**: We join for a **tango lesson**, celebrating the Jewish Klezmer influence.
- We stop in **Parque de la Memoria (Memory Park)** to view the **Monument for the Disappeared**, a poignant memorial dedicated to the victims of Argentina's "Dirty War" standing as a symbol of Argentina's commitment to remembering the atrocities of the past, honoring the victims and ensuring that such events are never repeated.
- This afternoon, we depart for the outskirts of the city. **Tigre** is a popular weekend getaway for many "porteños" and boasts many summer homes as well as yacht and rowing clubs. The **Tigre Delta** is one of the most attractive areas for visitors due to its rivers, streams and numerous green islands. We enjoy a **short cruise** along the channels of the **Parana-Delta** to see islands covered with lush vegetation. We mark the end of Shabbat together with **Havdallah** in a lovely location.
- Dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Buenos Aires

DAY 9

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- This morning, we visit the **San Telmo** neighborhood, one of the oldest in the city, including the colorful and eclectic **San Telmo Sunday Fair**.
- We have lunch on our own.
- We drive along "**9 de Julio**", the widest avenue in the world, arriving at 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 the imposing architecture and ornate decorations that create an elegant atmosphere. Cantors are sure to check the delightful acoustics!
- We enjoy our festive **farewell concert** with the voices of the American Conference of Cantors and local accompaniment, followed by an **early cocktail reception and farewell dinner** as we recount our incredible experiences together.
- We transfer to the airport (for those not joining our optional extensions).

DAY 10

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025
WELCOME HOME

- We land in the United States.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

****Itinerary subject to change***

*** Each bus will visit the sites listed, but not necessarily in the order or on the day listed. To provide the best possible experience, each bus has a program customized so all busses do not travel in lock step. Full group will come together for major events - concerts, services and certain included meals.**



AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS

About the American Conference of Cantors (ACC):

The ACC, through its support for and cultivation of excellence among cantors, strengthens Reform Jewish life in North America. ACC cantors are equipped to be attentive to the joys and challenges that members within a congregation face over the course of their lives, using both their unique calling to music and prayer and their shared responsibilities for offering spiritual leadership to congregations. ACC members also can help lead their congregations and by extension, the Reform Jewish movement in North America, to a bright future.

The ACC maintains rigorous standards for ordination/certification, offers deep support for the professional needs of cantors, advocates with passion for the evolving role of the cantorial vocation, and cultivates ever-increasing professional excellence among its members.