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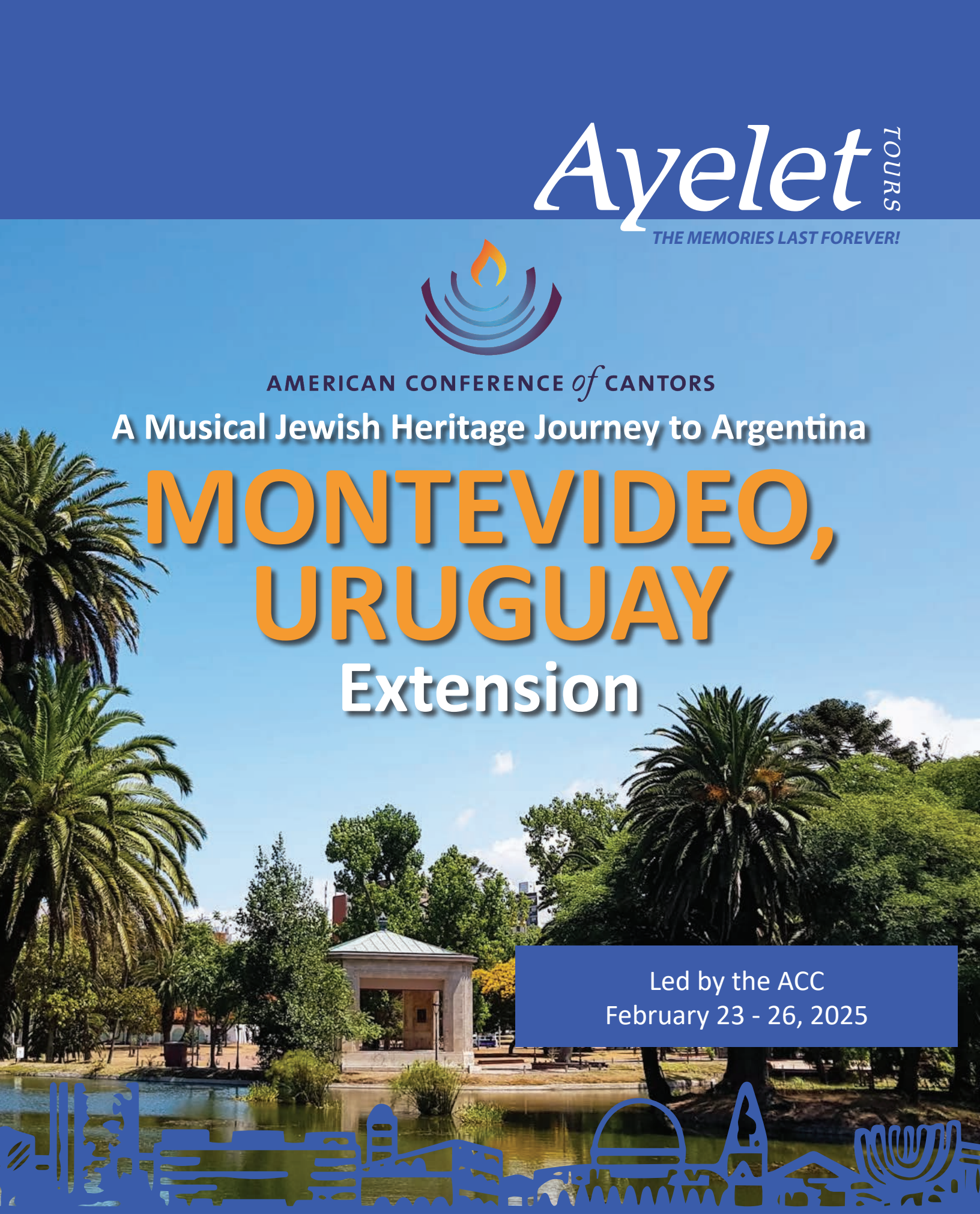
THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS

A Musical Jewish Heritage Journey to Argentina

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Extension



Led by the ACC
February 23 - 26, 2025

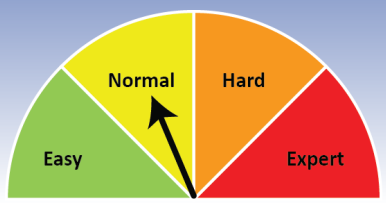
800.237.1517 | www.ayelet.com | ayelet@ayelet.com

as of 5/1/2024

Uruguay, South America's smallest country, is home to the third largest Jewish community in South America, approximately 16,000 individuals (1% of the population). While a Jewish presence can be traced to the 1600s, today's Jews mostly are descendants of late-19thcentury Sephardi/Mizrachi immigrants from Syria, Morocco Egypt, Greece, and Turkey who wandered through the area on their way to or from Brazil and Argentina, and mid-20th century refugees from Germany, Hungary, and the Ottoman and Tsarist Empires. Despite divergences in religious observance and Jewish customs and practices, the immigrants were unified in building vibrant Jewish communities replete with synagogues, schools, libraries, community centers, newspapers, and cemeteries.

Today, the majority of Uruguayan Jews live in Montevideo, the capital city. Located on the northeastern bank of the Río de la Plata, Montevideo presents a lively European flair. In addition to enjoying the city's appealing culture, vibrant nightlife, and beach vibe, our journey will connect us in meaningful and memorable ways to the Jewish community, past and present.

Physical Activity Scale



DAY 1

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025
BEGIN EXTENSION

- We return to our hotels following the farewell concert and dinner for and overnight stay.

Overnight Buenos Aires

DAY 2

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025
ARRIVAL IN MONTEVIDEO

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Buenos Aires on the **"Buquebus" ferry** and cross the Río de la Plata (the widest river in the world!) to Montevideo.
- 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**.
- 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**. We also see the **Old Synagogue**.
- We check into our hotel to refresh.
- This evening is ours to explore Montevideo and enjoy dinner on our own.

Overnight in Montevideo

DAY 3

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
EXPLORING MONTEVIDEO

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins in **Pocitos**, one of Montevideo's affluent neighborhoods. Translating as "small holes in the ground," the area is named for the women who, during the colonial period, went to the river to wash clothes in small holes in the ground. We see how old, renovated houses coexist with the city's tallest towers and enjoy the area's promenade and beachfront.
- Passing the **Jewish schools** in this seaside resort area, we stop at the **Holocaust Memorial**, a national monument and the first of its kind in South America. Inspired by Jerusalem's Western Wall, the memorial has a noticeable blemish - a deliberate and symbolic crack, representing the devastating rupture in the lives of Europe's Jews as a result of the Holocaust.
- Back in the old town, we visit the **Gurvich Museum** to view the works of Uruguay's famous painter, José Gurvich, who immigrated to Uruguay from Lithuania in 1933.
- Afterwards, we visit the **Kehila Community Center** to meet with community leaders and learn about the local Jewish community. We also view the Center's **Shoah Museum**.
- Our city tour continues past the **Batlle and Ordoñez Park**, the **Obelisk**, and the **Centenario Soccer Stadium** that was built for the first World Cup in 1930. We see the **Plaza Virgilio** and the residential area of **Carrasco**, taking in the stunning views of the city before driving along the coast and its beaches.
- Our included farewell dinner is at **El Milongón,** located in the heart of Montevideo. We enjoy a lively performance of traditional **Uruguayan music and dance**, including candombe, tango, and milonga.

Overnight in Montevideo

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025
FRIDAY IN BUENOS AIRES

- After breakfast at our hotel, we check out and transfer to **Carrasco International Airport** for our return flight to the USA, arriving the same day.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

***Itinerary subject to change**

