



JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND ARGENTINA & URUGUAY 2026



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland



WHO WE ARE

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

For over a century, since 1920, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has served as a vital support system for the Jewish journey, nourishing Jewish life, enriching the community, and strengthening Jewish culture both locally and globally; we are your direct connection to impactful services, fostering connection, learning, and acts of good, while honoring tradition and ensuring the building and strengthening of the Jewish community in accordance with Jewish values.

Gil Travel

The Gil Travel Group has been a respected travel management company since 1974. Based in Philadelphia, with offices in New York and Israel, Gil's offerings expanded over the years – from tourism to Israel – to specializing in group travel experiences worldwide. Gil's expertise lies in understanding clients' needs, creating innovative custom programming, and managing logistics – all while offering competitive pricing.

The Gil Travel team has traveled the world. Members understand and can navigate the cultures of numerous destinations. They speak Hebrew, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, Croatian, Hindi, Kahmer, and Albanian. Close and trusted partnerships have been formed with onsite agents and operators in Argentina, Berlin, Croatia, Cuba, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Russia, and Spain. With the help of professional and educated local guides, this enables the creation of immersive experiences with local Jewish communities and others. Regardless of the country, Gil ensures that clients travel with extreme care and satisfaction.

When you travel with Jewish Federation you will....

Experience unique adventures and make personal connections with Jewish communities around the world.

Discover how the Jewish Federation responds to the global Jewish challenges around the world.

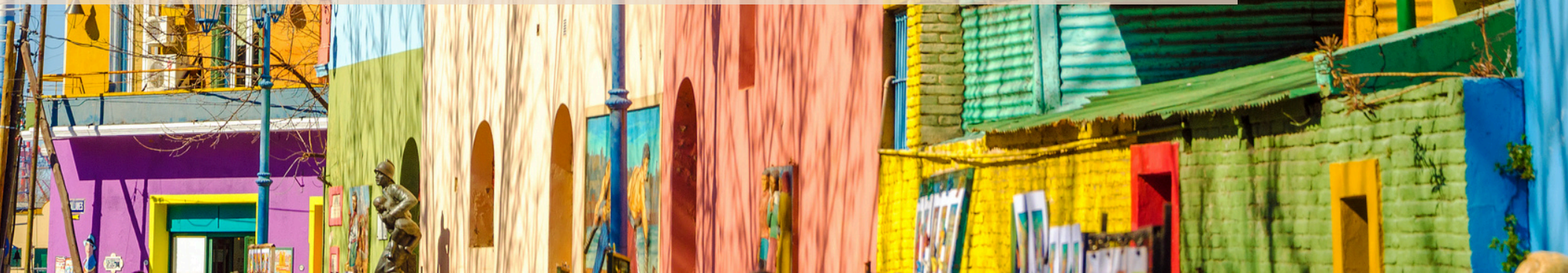
See first-hand the impact of the work, we and our partners accomplish around the world.

Deepen your connection to our global Jewish family and witness our collective impact.

Be an active participant – engaging your mind, body, and soul while learning about Jewish Communities around the world.

Argentina & Uruguay

Argentina and Uruguay, cradled in the southern cone of South America, possess a captivating history marked by waves of immigration, including a significant Jewish presence. These nations became safe havens, particularly during the turbulent 20th century, fostering vibrant Jewish communities that have deeply enriched the cultural landscapes. In Argentina, the echoes of Jewish life resonate through institutions and neighborhoods, reflecting both the integration and the preservation of Jewish traditions. Notably, the "Once" neighborhood in Buenos Aires stands as a vibrant hub of Jewish life, home to numerous synagogues, schools, and cultural centers, with the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) serving as a central pillar of the community. Uruguay, too, holds a history of welcoming Jewish immigrants, creating a community that has contributed significantly to the nation's social and cultural fabric. In Montevideo, the Holocaust Memorial stands as a poignant reminder of history, and the Hebraica-Maccabi Sports Centre serves as an important community hub. Both countries bear the marks of Jewish resilience, where synagogues stand as testaments to faith and community, and cultural centers serve as hubs for preserving heritage. These communities have navigated the complexities of assimilation and identity, creating unique expressions of Jewish life within the broader Argentine and Uruguayan societies.



ARGENTINA & URUGUAY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience Buenos Aires' historical core, where iconic landmarks tell the city's story.
- Engage with the "Once" neighborhood and discover a vibrant center of Jewish life and culture.
- Connect with Jewish Agency program participants at the AMIA.
- Immerse yourself in the artistry of Tango, with lessons and a captivating performance.
- Discover Montevideo's rich Jewish heritage, from poignant memorials to thriving community hubs.
- Savor the charm of Colonia del Sacramento, a historical town with scenic beauty and fine wines.
- Participate in an Argentine cooking class in La Boca and San Telmo, amidst a lively cultural scene.
- Observe Shabbat at Templo Libertad, a site of historical and spiritual significance.
- Explore the elegance of Recoleta and the artistic treasures of the MALBA museum.
- Witness the awe-inspiring power and beauty of Iguazu Falls, a natural wonder.



Your Itinerary

MONDAY, DAY 1

Welcome to Buenos Aires!

Arrive in the morning after your overnight flight

Arrival transfer to the city

Visit the first avenue that the city of Buenos Aires had, Avenida de Mayo, the **Plaza De Mayo**, surrounded by the **Casa Rosada** (Government House), the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Cabildo (the first City Hall)

Walk to the Cathedral, where **Pope Francis** celebrated services when he was Cardinal of Buenos Aires

Lunch at a local restaurant

Proceed to the hotel.

Check in and refresh before your opening dinner.

Walk to your opening dinner at **Club Frances**

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires



Your Itinerary

TUESDAY, DAY 2

Depart Hotel.

Drive through the “**Once**” neighborhood.

You will find the largest Jewish population in the city and most of the Jewish institutions like Hebraica JCC, synagogues, schools, and the only kosher McDonald’s outside of Israel.

Tour **AMIA**, the main Jewish institution in Buenos Aires. AMIA’s goal is to strengthen educational environments to guarantee continuity and reflect the diversity of the Jewish-Argentine community. The institution works in many ways, all leading to dignified quality of life for Jewish individuals and families throughout the country, especially those at social risk. AMIA has deep ties with Israel and other Jewish worldwide communities; they also encourage the observance of Jewish traditions and cultural heritage. The tour includes a visit to the memorial devoted to the 89 victims of the bombing in 1994, built by world famous artist, Yaacov Agam.

Then meet your campaign partners of **The Jewish Agency** at **AMIA** and meet with program participants including BAMA, MASA and Birthright.

Lunch at **Al Galope** (kosher steakhouse)

Visit the **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s (JDC) Le Dor v’Dor** facility for the elderly. This state-of-the art complex is home to approximately 350 Jewish seniors, and they offer a wide range of services.

Drive to the **Palermo neighborhood**, Buenos Aires’ largest barrio and one of its most walkable and trendy locations. Enjoy a bit of free time for exploring.

Return to the hotel to refresh before dinner.

Depart the hotel for an evening of **Tango**. Have a lesson, then dinner and a show. The tango experience teases the senses, combining the movement, color, sounds, and sensuality of one of the best tango shows in town.

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires



Your Itinerary

WEDNESDAY, DAY 3

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the **Port – Ferry to Montevideo** (passport is needed)

This excursion gives you an informative and fascinating overview of the history of the Jewish people as part of Montevideo’s diverse community. The journey will first take visitors back in time to the **Old Town**, where Jewish immigrants first settled at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Visitors will get to see various historic sites like **Constitution Square**, the **Cathedral** and **Colonial Town Hall**, the Solis Theatre, and Jewish sites such as the **Hebraica-Maccabi Sports Centre** and the **Golda Meir Square**.

The visit includes **Independence Square** at the center of which stands the monument dedicated to national hero, General José Artigas. Facing the square is the former **Government House** (Museum of the Presidents). The main commercial avenue “18 de Julio” lined with shops, cafés and office buildings starts here.

Drive by Batlle y Ordoñez Park, the Obelisk, “La Carreta” (Covered Wagon) monument and Centennial Stadium. On the way to our destination we will drive through the **Pocitos residential area** past some Jewish schools, allowing a glimpse of present-day Jewish life.

The journey will switch toward more recent times with a visit to the **Holocaust Memorial**, the only one of its kind in South America. Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle, Uruguay’s former President, inaugurated it on November 10th, 1994. Inspired by Jerusalem’s Wailing Wall, the memorial is a wall with a noticeable defect: a deliberate and symbolic fracture, which represents the rupture the Holocaust caused in the existence of Europe’s Jews. Yet despite the crack, the wall still stands, as does the Jewish community here and around the world.

OVERNIGHT: Montevideo



Your Itinerary

THURSDAY, DAY 4

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart for **Colonia del Sacramento**

Free time in this must-visit historical town with charming centers, cute shops, beautiful marina and wonderful food and wine.

Lunch and wine tasting at **Las Liebres**

Depart for **Ferry** to Return to Buenos Aires (Passport is Required)

Arrival and drive to the hotel in Buenos Aires

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires

FRIDAY, DAY 5

Breakfast at the hotel

Drive to **La Boca**, a colorful area with the famous Caminito Street. The famous **Boca Stadium** is in this area (Boca Juniors is one of the most important soccer teams in South America and known around the world). Stop for a walking tour on Caminito Street, full of local painters offering their Tango pictures and tango dancers. Time for shopping or tour **Boca Juniors' Museum/stadium**.

Proceed to **San Telmo**, the best kept historic neighborhood and oldest district of Buenos Aires.

Enjoy a group **cooking class** where you will make typical Argentinean dishes followed by lunch

Visit **Templo Libertad**. The first synagogue built in Buenos Aires and a National Historical Monument; it also houses the city's **Jewish Museum**.

Return to the hotel and refresh before Kabbalat Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Shabbat Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires



Your Itinerary

SATURDAY, DAY 6

Breakfast at the hotel

Explore **Recoleta**, the most affluent neighborhood in Buenos Aires. Tour **Recoleta Cemetery**, founded in 1822, the oldest in Buenos Aires, where you will find the grave of Eva Duarte de Perón (**Evita**). The cemetery's mausoleums and pantheons reflect the architectural diversity that emerged from the different cultures Argentina incorporated in its formation as a nation.

After lunch, a private tour of **MALBA** museum

Refresh back at the hotel followed by a reflection session before departing for your farewell dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires

SUNDAY, DAY 7

Breakfast, check out, and drive to the airport either for your departure back to the USA or participate in a post mission to Iguazu.

Flight to **Iguazu**

Arrival and transfer to Brazilian Falls.

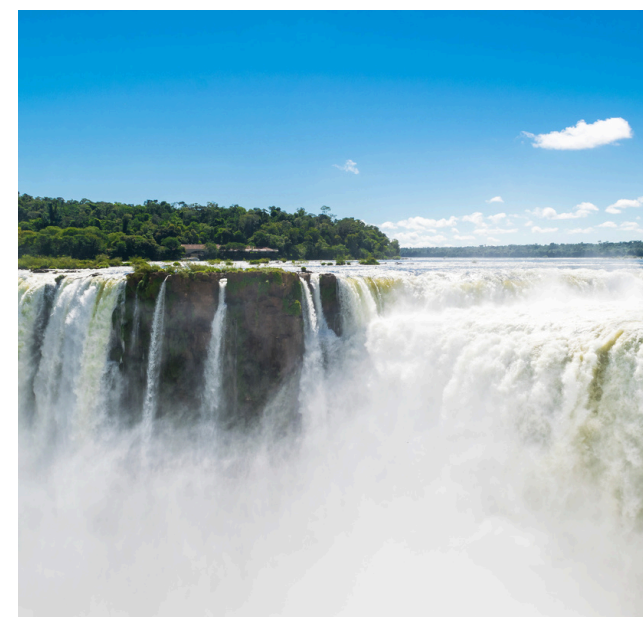
Once we cross the Tancredo Neves Bridge into Brazil, our journey takes us into the **Iguazu National Park in Brazil**. We'll pause at the start of the catwalks, offering an initial glimpse of the falls from the Argentinian side. The promenade unfolds, providing a comprehensive and breathtaking view of the falls in all their splendor. Words simply fall short in capturing the sheer magnificence and unparalleled beauty of this natural wonder.

Enjoy the best view of the **Devil's gorge** from Brazilian side

Return to the Argentinean side. Transfer to the Hotel and check in.

Dinner on own.

OVERNIGHT: Iguazu



Your Itinerary

MONDAY, DAY 8

After breakfast, depart the hotel.

We'll enjoy a scenic ride on the **Ecological Train**, to enter the National Park

Lower Circuit: It is a walking path that has a longitude of 1700 meters. During the walk you will be able to see very close several water falls. You will see the main falls, including Garganta del Diablo, the San Martin and the Bozzetti Falls.

This circuit is very interesting as it offers the visitor the possibility of an intense contact with the falls, walking along deep vegetation, therefore having a close experience with the landscape.

The **Great Adventure** is a unique experience, that combines jungle, rapids and cascades. In all terrain trucks the group will go through the jungle, following the Yacaratiá path to reach Puerto Macuco. After boarding speed semi-rigid boats, the group will navigate on the lower Iguazú river, crossing 2 miles of rapids. At the End, the boat gets into the Devil's Gorge Canyon approaching the water falls The tour ends at the bottom of the Lower Circuit and after touring the catwalks passengers will return to the hotel.

This experience makes one feel that the falls can be watched from the quiet paths or felt from the inside.

Lunch at local restaurant

Upper Circuit: along the paths of this circuit you will experience a fantastic panoramic view of the falls. This circuit has a full longitude of 1200 meters and 6 wide viewpoints.

The circuit includes, among other Falls, the fall Dos Hermanas, Chico, Ramírez, Bossetti, Adán & Eve, Bernabé, Méndez and ends at the fall Mbiguá

Depart to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires

Final dinner at a local restaurant in BA.

OVERNIGHT: Buenos Aires

TUESDAY, DAY 9 - Enjoy a day at leisure in Buenos Aires before transferring to the airport for the flight back home



Argentina & Uruguay November 4-12, 2026

Estimated Land Cost per person - \$6,000

Single Supplement - \$1,200

Airfare is not included in this price.

