PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVAL & FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF BUENOS AIRES

Fri. Feb 12, 2027

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive this morning in Buenos Aires, where European elegance, Latin American energy, and Jewish communal life intertwine in dynamic and meaningful ways.
- Gather at the hotel to meet your J² Expert Educator and local guide, who will accompany you throughout this immersive journey.
- Begin with an introduction tour of Buenos Aires, including:
  - Stroll along Avenida de Mayo toward the historic Plaza de Mayo, exploring the political and cultural forces that shaped modern Argentina and influenced generations of immigrants who built new lives here.
  - Discover the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Cabildo, landmarks that reflect the country's colonial heritage, evolving national identity, and multicultural development.
  - View the impressive Congress Building, symbolizing Argentina's democratic aspirations and ongoing commitment to pluralism and civic life.
- As you explore the city, consider how Argentina became home to one of the world's largest Jewish communities, shaped by waves of immigration, opportunity, discrimination, creativity, and resilience.
- Settle into your hotel and take time to unpack, relax, and recharge after your travels.

- Come together at the hotel to welcome Shabbat and mark the beginning of your shared Argentina experience together as a community.
- Festive welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Buenos Aires Meals: Dinner

DAY 2

SHABBAT IN TIGRE: NATURE & COMMUNITY

Sat. Feb 13, 2027

- Travel to Tigre, a beloved weekend retreat on the outskirts of Buenos Aires and a popular gathering place for the city's Jewish community. The Tigre Delta's winding waterways, green islands, and peaceful scenery offer a refreshing contrast to urban life.
- Participate in Shacharit services at Judaica Norte, experiencing Shabbat in a unique and welcoming communal setting.
- Connect with members of Club Hacoaj, one of Argentina's most important Jewish social and cultural institutions, where sports, culture, Zionism, and community life have flourished across generations.
- Savor a traditional Argentine BBQ lunch while enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and hospitality of the region.
- Cruise through the scenic Paraná Delta, taking in the tranquil waterways, island homes, and distinctive ecosystem that make this area one of Argentina's natural treasures.
- Conclude Shabbat with a meaningful Havdalah ceremony, marking the transition into a new week together as a learning community.

Overnight: Buenos Aires Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

IMMIGRATION, MEMORY & CULTURAL IDENTITY

Sun. Feb 14, 2027

- Start the day in the colorful La Boca neighborhood, where Buenos Aires' immigrant roots come vividly to life. Originally settled by Genoese immigrants working in the nearby port, La Boca became a symbol of resilience, cultural identity, and pluralism as generations of newcomers transformed hardship into a thriving community rich in art, music, and tradition.
- Stroll along Caminito, taking in the vibrant street art, tango performers, artisan markets, and brightly painted conventillos that reflect the neighborhood's multicultural spirit and enduring pride. The lively atmosphere of this historic district offers a window into the diverse influences that helped shape Argentina's national identity.
- Stroll through Puerto Madero, reflecting on Buenos Aires as a city constantly reinventing itself while balancing modernity, history, and collective memory.
- Enjoy free time for lunch at the famous San Telmo Market, where local flavors, music, antiques, and bustling food stalls capture the essence of Buenos Aires' historic San Telmo neighborhood.
- Discover the celebrated MALBA Museum (Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires), home to an extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary Latin American masterpieces. Through works shaped by political upheaval, immigration, memory, and resilience, explore how artists across Latin America grappled with questions of belonging, pluralism, and national identity, offering meaningful context for understanding Argentina's broader cultural experience.

- Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore Palermo Soho, enjoy dinner on your own, or relax at the hotel following a full day of cultural immersion.

Overnight: Buenos Aires Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4

ARGENTINE JEWISH LIFE: RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP & THE FUTURE

Mon. Feb 15, 2027

- Throughout the day, engage in conversations about contemporary challenges and opportunities facing Argentine Jewry, including identity, pluralism, Israel-Diaspora relations, and the future of Jewish community life.
- Explore the Once District, home to many of Buenos Aires' major Jewish institutions, including synagogues, schools, rabbinical seminaries, Jewish theaters, and the Hebraica JCC, offering a vivid window into everyday Jewish life in the city.
- Visit the AMIA building, headquarters of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina and site of the devastating 1994 terrorist bombing. Learn about the resilience of the Jewish community while viewing the memorial dedicated to the 89 victims.
- Continue to the Jewish Museum at the Libertad Synagogue, housed within Buenos Aires' historic Grand Synagogue, where exhibits and stories trace the development, struggles, achievements, and evolving identity of Argentine Jewry.
- Reflect at the Holocaust Museum of Buenos Aires, exploring how Holocaust memory shaped Jewish communal consciousness, global

Jewish responsibility, and conversations around identity, antisemitism, and resilience in Argentina and beyond.

- Engage in a meaningful Tikkun Olam encounter with a representative of the Tzedaka Foundation, whose impactful social programs have improved the lives of thousands of vulnerable and at-risk Argentinians across the country.
- Return to the hotel for reflection after a powerful day of learning and community encounters.

Overnight: Buenos Aires Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5

BARILOCHE-BOUND

Tue. Feb 16, 2027

- Check out of the hotel.
- Meet with Miguel Steuermann, an interfaith leader, journalist, educator, and prominent voice within Argentine Jewish life, for a thought-provoking conversation exploring religious freedom, Zionism, interfaith dialogue, and the evolving challenges facing Jewish communities in Argentina and around the world. Drawing on his leadership across civic, cultural, and humanitarian spheres, Miguel offers a unique perspective on resilience, pluralism, Jewish peoplehood, and the relationship between Argentina, Israel, and broader global society.
- Stop at the Memorial Park for Victims of State Terrorism, honoring those who were disappeared and murdered between 1969 and 1983.
- Transfer to the airport for your direct flight to Bariloche.
- Welcome to Patagonia, where majestic landscapes invite awe, reflection, spirituality, and renewal.

- Transfer to your hotel for check-in and time to settle in.
- Surrounded by Patagonia's grandeur, pause for reflection and learning with Rabbi Daniel Gropper and your J² Expert Educator, considering themes of wonder, spirituality, and renewal.
- Leisure time in Bariloche: Spend the afternoon exploring, wandering through artisan markets, visiting local museums, or simply relaxing by the lake.
- Indulge in a traditional Argentine BBQ dinner at a local parrilla, sampling delicious grilled meats and accompanying dishes.

Overnight: Bariloche Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

JOURNEY THROUGH PATAGONIA'S VOLCANIC WILDERNESS

Wed. Feb 17, 2027

- **Activity Level:** Today is one of the most active days of the journey. Participants should be comfortable hiking a total of approximately 5–8 miles over the course of the day on natural, uneven terrain that includes rocky paths, loose volcanic surfaces, and occasional moderate ascents and descents. While no technical hiking experience is required, a good level of fitness, sturdy walking shoes, and confidence on uneven trails are recommended.
- Depart early for a full day of exploration through the spectacular volcanic landscapes of Valle Encantado, one of Northern Patagonia's most dramatic natural environments.
- Travel northeast as the scenery transforms from sweeping Patagonian steppe to deep river canyons and rugged volcanic formations, setting the stage for an active day immersed in nature.

- Cross the Limay River by boat, leaving civilization behind as you enter a secluded wilderness accessible only by water - a fitting beginning to today's adventure.
- Set out on a series of scenic hikes through the Enchanted Valley, following trails that wind among towering basalt cliffs, natural caves, ancient lava formations, and remarkable geological landscapes sculpted over millions of years by wind, water, and volcanic activity. Along the way, enjoy panoramic overlooks of the turquoise Limay River and the vast Patagonian wilderness stretching to the horizon.
- Boxed lunch, en route.
- Throughout the day's hikes, pause to reflect on Patagonia's extraordinary landscape as a setting for mindfulness, renewal, and meaningful connection with one another.
- Gather in the heart of this remarkable wilderness for a learning session led by Rabbi Daniel Gropper, exploring Jewish teachings on awe, gratitude, and our relationship with the natural world. Consider how physical challenge, shared exploration, and encounters with extraordinary landscapes can deepen spiritual awareness and strengthen community.
- Return to Bariloche in the late afternoon after an invigorating day on the trails.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Bariloche Meals: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch

DAY 7

HIKING PATAGONIA: FORESTS, ISLANDS & DISCOVERY

Thu. Feb 18, 2027

- **Activity Level:** Today features another full day of active exploration, with multiple hikes spread throughout the day. Participants should be comfortable walking approximately 4–7 miles over varied natural terrain, including forest trails, lakeside paths, and occasional uneven or rocky sections with moderate elevation changes. The pace is leisurely with frequent scenic and interpretive stops, but a good level of fitness and comfort walking for extended periods are recommended.
- Embark on another active day exploring the pristine landscapes of Nahuel Huapi National Park, combining scenic cruising with rewarding hikes through some of Patagonia's most beautiful forests and island landscapes.
- Transfer to Puerto Pañuelo, located on the picturesque Llao Llao Peninsula, where you'll board a catamaran for a cruise across the crystal-clear waters of Nahuel Huapi Lake. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks and ancient forests, arrive ready to spend the day exploring on foot.
- Disembark in Los Arrayanes National Park and enjoy an invigorating hike through one of the world's only natural forests of rare cinnamon-colored Arrayán trees. As the trail winds through this unique ecosystem, reflect on the beauty of uniqueness, resilience, and the enduring spirit that connects the natural world with the timeless story of Jewish life.
- Boxed lunch, en route.
- Continue to Victoria Island, where additional hiking trails lead through pristine forests, secluded beaches, and spectacular viewpoints overlooking Nahuel Huapi Lake. The island's peaceful landscapes provide opportunities for meaningful conversations, personal reflection, and shared experiences as you continue exploring Patagonia on foot.

- Complete the day's adventure with a hike to Playa del Toro, where a scenic trail leads to ancient cave paintings created by the region's earliest inhabitants. Walk along the island's distinctive black volcanic sand beaches while reflecting on humanity's enduring connection to the land, the importance of preserving memory, and the ways identity is shaped across generations.
- Return to Bariloche after a rewarding day of hiking, exploration, and discovery in the heart of Patagonia.

Overnight: Bariloche Meals: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch

DAY 8

A REFORM SHABBAT OF PEOPLEHOOD, COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

Fri. Feb 19, 2027

- Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your return flight to Buenos Aires.
- Arrive back in the capital and reconnect with the vibrant rhythm and elegance of city life.
- Visit the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory, a former clandestine detention center during Argentina's dictatorship. Through the lens of the Jewish experience, examine themes of human rights, memory, moral courage, and communal responsibility.
- Check into your Buenos Aires hotel and enjoy time to refresh and prepare for Shabbat.
- This evening, join members of NCI–Emanu El, Argentina's historic Reform Jewish community, for a meaningful and participatory Kabbalat Shabbat service. Experience the warmth, music, spirituality, and unique

character of Reform Jewish life in Buenos Aires while celebrating the enduring bonds that connect Jewish communities across continents.

- Following services, share a festive communal Shabbat dinner with congregational leaders and members. Through conversation, storytelling, and relationship-building, deepen your understanding of Argentine Jewish life while strengthening a sense of global Jewish peoplehood and connection.
- Conclude the evening with reflections led by Rabbi Daniel Gropper, considering the journey's themes of immigration, resilience, identity, Zionism, pluralism, and community as Shabbat begins.

Overnight: Buenos Aires Meals: Breakfast, Shabbat Dinner

DAY 9

SHABBAT, REFLECTION & JOURNEY HOME

Sat. Feb 20, 2027

- Check out of the hotel.
- Gather with Rabbi Daniel Gropper for Torah study, discussion, and reflection, creating space to process the experiences, relationships, and insights gained throughout the journey. Drawing on encounters throughout Argentina, explore themes of Jewish peoplehood, responsibility, memory, resilience, and wonder.
- Experience a shared visit of the renowned Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires' magnificent opera house, celebrated worldwide for its extraordinary acoustics and considered among the finest concert venues on the globe.
- Visit El Ateneo Grand Splendid, one of the world's most beautiful bookstores, celebrating learning, storytelling, and intellectual life.

- Enjoy a farewell lunch together, sharing personal reflections and celebrating the relationships formed throughout the journey.
- Transfer as a group to Buenos Aires International Airport for your return flight home.

Overnight: Flight Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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