

Year of Culture Legacy Trek Connects Qatar with Argentina and Chile Through the Andes

15 February 2026 - Doha, Qatar: A binational trekking expedition across the Andes has concluded as a legacy initiative of the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture, bringing participants together for an eight-day crossing from Argentina into Chile along a historic mountain route as part of *CultuHike*, Years of Culture’s flagship people-to-people engagement programme.

The expedition followed the historic Cochamó Pass, a route long used by early travellers crossing the Andes between the Atlantic and Pacific regions of South America. The journey began in Bariloche, Argentina, before continuing through remote valleys, river crossings, alpine terrain, and ancient Alerce forests. The route concluded in Chile’s Cochamó Valley, offering participants an immersive experience shaped by the region’s natural landscapes and cultural heritage. Throughout the expedition, trekkers camped in remote locations, shared meals hosted by local communities, and navigated challenging terrain under the guidance of professional expedition leaders and local experts.

Designed to promote cultural understanding through shared physical experience, *CultuHike* encourages dialogue, reflection, and meaningful exchange in environments where connection happens organically. The programme forms part of the long-term legacy of the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture, extending its focus on sustained people-to-people exchange beyond the official calendar year.

Speaking about the initiative, Ali bin Towar Al-Kuwari, Years of Culture Sports Lead and Creator of *CultuHike* and *CultuRide*, said, “*CultuHike* was created to bring people together through shared experience and exploration. When you step outside your comfort zone and move through a place together, conversations happen naturally and connections form in an honest way. The real legacy of Years of Culture is found in these lived moments like relationships built step by step, long after the official events have ended.”

Conceived as a long-term legacy project, the Andes expedition translates the values of the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture into lived experience, reinforcing connections between communities in Qatar, Argentina, and Chile through collaboration, exploration, and sustained engagement.

The expedition joins a growing portfolio of legacy initiatives that continue to strengthen cultural ties between partner nations, demonstrating how experiential exchange contributes to the broader objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

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About Years of Culture

The Years of Culture initiative, chaired by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together, nurturing connections, encouraging dialogue, and deepening understanding. At its core, Years of Culture is a portal for making connections across various sectors, including cultural heritage, creative industries, social and economic development, and innovation, which enriches Qatar’s ties with partner countries beyond the dedicated year.



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Each year is organised with support from Qatar and partner countries' cultural institutions, ministries, foundations, and private and public sector partners, with assistance from Embassies in Qatar and abroad. Programmes are tailored to explore the unique nature of each partner country.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-MENASA 2022, Qatar-Indonesia 2023, Qatar-Morocco 2024, and Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025.

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