

From the Andes to the World: Cyclists from Qatar, Chile, and Argentina Embark on a Journey of Cultural Exchange

09 October 2025 – Doha, Qatar: Eighteen cyclists from Qatar, Chile, and Argentina set off today on **CultureRide 2025**, a binational journey under the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture — an initiative that brings together sport, culture, and people-to-people diplomacy to strengthen ties between the three nations through shared adventure and cultural exchange.

Created by Qatari adventurer and television presenter Ali Bin Towar Al Kuwari, the route covers more than 500 kilometers, starting from Puerto Varas and continuing through Pucón, across the Andes Mountains, and into Argentina’s Patagonia, ending in Villa La Angostura and San Martín de los Andes. Over eight days, participants will ride through lakes, volcanoes, and mountain towns, meeting local communities and athletes along the way.

“We are here because we believe that sport can build bridges between nations,” said Ali Bin Towar, leader of the Qatari team. “We’re excited to ride across the Andes, through the beautiful lakes and the cultures of Chile and Argentina. We have big hearts to explore and to understand the differences — the beautiful differences — between our nations. In the end, we may be different, but we are deeply connected by our humanity.”

Joining the expedition as local ambassador, Chilean journalist and explorer Luis Andaur highlighted the significance of showcasing southern Chile’s natural beauty and welcoming spirit:

“Puerto Varas is the tourism capital of southern Chile, an ideal gateway to show the beauty of our country to the world,” he said. “This expedition is not a competition — it’s about the union of peoples. The Qatari cyclists come here to meet local communities, and I’m sure they’ll take home the warmth and kindness of the Chilean and Argentine people.”

More than a sporting challenge, CultureRide 2025 is a cultural journey that encourages understanding and dialogue between nations. Each edition of the program connects Qatari cyclists with local communities in partner countries, using sport as a universal language to promote respect, friendship, and collaboration.

The journey is part of the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture program, which includes a series of artistic, environmental, and community initiatives throughout the year — including the Volunteer Trip in Matanzas, the *Jedariart* mural program in Valdivia, and the *Made in Qatar* film showcase in Santiago.

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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 heart, Years of Culture celebrates the power of cultural exchange, which enriches Qatar’s ties with partner countries beyond the dedicated year.

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 with a focus on cultural heritage, creative industries, social and economic development, and innovation.

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, and Qatar-Morocco 2024.

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