

Argentina and Chile to Join Qatar's Years of Culture Initiative for a Yearlong Creative Exchange in 2025

Major exhibitions, design exchanges and photography journeys to return for diverse programme

4 February 2025 – Doha, Qatar – Qatar's Years of Culture initiative has announced the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile as its partner countries for 2025, two nations enriched by Arab heritage through centuries of migration and cultural exchange as well as a shared enthusiasm for sport. The 2025 partnerships will showcase shared influences – from cuisine to language – while establishing new collaborations across the initiative's core focus areas of cultural preservation, creative industries, social development, and innovation.

This annual global exchange was launched 13 years ago by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to strengthen connections between Qatar and other nations through long-term cultural partnerships rooted in mutual respect and understanding. Programmes to be featured this year include performances, exhibitions, sporting and culinary events, photography projects, residency schemes, volunteer trips, and more.

Past partner countries include Morocco (2024), Indonesia (2023), and the MENASA region, which was celebrated during the initiative's 10th anniversary and the Arab world's first-ever FIFA World Cup in 2022. In 2025, the spotlight shifts to Argentina and Chile.

Years of Culture Chairperson Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani said: "We founded Years of Culture in 2012 to promote respect and understanding between Qatar and other nations, nurturing connections among people and encouraging dialogue through bilateral cultural exchange. Now, building on a foundation of success, we are elevating the initiative to a new level by forming Years of Culture partnerships with two nations within a region of the globe. We welcome Argentina and Chile as the first partners in this new era for the 2025 Years of Culture."

His Excellency Argentinian Ambassador Guillermo Nicolás said: "For five decades, diplomatic relations between Qatar and Argentina have been characterised by mutual respect, expanding trade, and complementary economies. This Year of Culture offers a unique platform to deepen these ties by celebrating our artistic heritage and forging new creative partnerships. We look forward to sharing Argentina's culture and traditions while discovering Qatar's diverse offerings."

His Excellency Chilean Ambassador Patricio Díaz Broughton remarked: "Chile's innovative spirit has resonated globally, from architectural collaborations such as the upcoming Art Mill Museum in Qatar, designed by Chile's Alejandro Aravena, to partnerships in sustainable energy. Joining Qatar's Year of Culture underscores our shared commitment to creativity and sustainability. We are eager to exchange ideas and traditions that highlight the friendship between our nations."

As in previous years, 2025 will feature volunteer trips organised in collaboration with Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) and Qatar Museums, enabling students and professionals to participate in community projects in Argentina and Chile. Participants from all three nations will engage in meaningful cultural exchanges, including outdoor activities such as a collaborative cycling tour.

The flagship Photography Journey will return in 2025 to focus on documenting and preserving intangible cultural heritage in Qatar, Argentina, and Chile. Participants will work together to capture the essence of traditional practices and shared histories.

Further events and community celebrations will be announced throughout the year. For updates, follow Years of Culture on social media or visit the website at yearsofculture.qa.

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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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PRESS CONTACT

Regional media:

Anya Kotova

Brown Lloyd James

anyak@bljworldwide.com

International media:

Julia Esposito

Polskin Arts

Julia.esposito@finnpartners.com