

Qatar's Years of Culture Strengthens Partnerships in Chile as Part of 2025–2026 Programme

15 October 2025 – Doha, Qatar: A delegation from Qatar's Years of Culture initiative, led by H.E. Mohammed Al Kuwari, Advisor on Latin American Affairs, completed a successful mission to Chile from 25–30 September 2025, deepening cooperation across the cultural, governmental, and creative sectors. The visit followed the delegation's engagements in Argentina and aimed to solidify Chile's participation in the Years of Culture programme, a regional partnership promoting cross-cultural dialogue and sustainable collaboration.

The delegation's itinerary included high-level meetings with Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DIRAC), Undersecretary of International Economic Relations Claudia Sanhueza, Undersecretary of Tourism Verónica Pardo, and Director of the National Cultural Heritage Service Nélida Pozo.

Talks centered on cultural diplomacy, tourism promotion, and heritage cooperation. DIRAC Director Mauricio Hurtado affirmed Chile's strong commitment to establishing a lasting cultural partnership with Qatar under the Years of Culture framework.

Cultural and Creative Engagements

The delegation visited leading cultural institutions, including the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, Centro Cultural La Moneda (CCLM), Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral (GAM), and the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino.

At the Museo de la Memoria, Executive Director Francisca Perú introduced the museum's work on human rights education and memory preservation. The delegation also viewed the Palestine exhibition, which resonated with Qatar's cultural values of empathy and intercultural understanding, and was identified as a potential exhibition for Doha.

At GAM, the delegation attended the inauguration of the Bienal de Arquitectura, alongside Minister of Housing and Urbanism Carlos Montes and GAM Director Felipe Mella, celebrating architectural innovation and sustainable urban design.

Meetings at CCLM with Executive Director Regina Rodríguez and Programming Director Felipe Bascuñán explored the potential of future exchanges and museum collaborations, while discussions at the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino with Executive Director Cecilia Puga focused on future exhibition and curatorial exchanges following the acclaimed Hats of Atacama show.

The delegation also met Chile's creative community at Vestidor Santiago, engaging with designers Guido Vera and the Munay Sisters, and at Il Posto Gallery, where Director María José Benvenuto discussed opportunities for collector and gallery collaborations.

Sport and Heritage as Bridges

Reflecting Qatar's commitment to cultural dialogue through sport, the delegation visited Club Deportivo Palestino, welcomed by President Jorge Uauy, to explore community programmes and cultural outreach within Chile's Palestinian diaspora.

Heritage cooperation was also a key theme, culminating in an agreement to hold a Heritage Workshop in Valparaíso on 26 November 2025, focusing on conservation and technical exchange between Qatari and Chilean experts.

Building Long-Term Cooperation

“This mission strengthened our shared vision for culture as a driver of understanding and sustainable growth,” said H.E. Mohammed Al Kuwari, Advisor on Latin American Affairs. “Chile’s openness to collaboration will help ensure that the legacy of this Year of Culture extends well beyond 2025.”

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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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