

Jewish Genealogical Resources in Latin America

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Introduction

The first Jews came to Latin America when Christopher Columbus "discovered" the New World on August 3, 1492; after the expulsion of Spain. His date of departure was also the day on which the Catholic Monarchs Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon decreed that the Jews of Spain either had to convert to Catholicism, depart from the country, or face death for defiance of the Monarch.

There were at least seven Jews who sailed with Columbus in his first voyage including Rodrigo de Triana, who was the first to sight land, Maestre Bernal, who served as the expedition's physician, and Luis De Torres, the interpreter, who spoke Hebrew and Arabic. Others were simply escaping from the jail and the inquisition.

Jews settled in the new Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Caribbean, where they believed that they would be safe from the Inquisition. Some took part in the conquest of the "New World". Bernal Díaz del Castillo describes a number of executions of soldiers in Hernán Cortés's forces during the conquest of Mexico because they were Jews.

When the Dutch and English started to navigate to the Caribbean Island, many Jews decided to take the adventure and came to the islands. Several Jewish communities in the Caribbean, Central, and South America flourished under Dutch and English control. By the XVI century, fully functioning Jewish communities had organized in Brazil, Suriname, Barbados, Jamaica, and Curacao where they found the first Synagogue in the Caribbean. There were unorganized communities of Jews in the Spanish and Portuguese territories, where the Inquisition was active, including Cuba and Mexico; however, these Jews generally concealed their identity from the authorities.¹

By the mid-seventeenth century, the largest Jewish communities in the Western Hemisphere were located in Suriname and Brazil. Before and after the WWII, Latin America (especially Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela) became safe port for many Jews escaping from the Holocaust. Many countries received them, as Jews or as "fake" Christians with pre-established quotas.

Today, Latin American Jews number more than 500,000 people completely integrated into society, with major roles in economic, political, cultural and professional fields although the latest anti-semitic movements raising in the region. In every country, they have created schools, clubs, synagogue, cemeteries, newspapers, genealogical societies, where they conduct social and religious activities.

Each institution keeps various types of records (Birth, Bar/Bat-Mitzvah, weddings and burials), and each government has records of all national matters, where information is available thru the Internet or mail, covering civil, naturalization, arrival, cemeteries, electoral, telephone, etc.)

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Latin_America

What to look for?

A person may leave different traces during his life while doing all the day to day regular activities. Genealogical research consists of trying to find out those traces to obtain as much information as possible about this person and the life of his family. These traces are usually made up of registrations in public offices, publications of social events and activities in the community. Some common documents you must try to obtain are the following:

- Birth / Marriage / Death records
- Immigration records
- Voter lists
- Inheritance successions
- Publications in telephone directories
- Obituaries
- Tombstones (Cemeteries records)

What to look for on Internet?

Internet is today one of the fastest, easiest and abundant sources of information. There are many websites with list of people and all kind of records, but we have also other type, like regular websites where we can get information from them. When you are visiting a website we need to look for:

- Classifieds
- Links
- Collaborators
- Obituaries
- Directories
- Events
- Contact-us / Forums

Spanish - Portuguese 101

One of the biggest problems you may encounter when trying to research Latin America sources may be the language. Besides Brazil where they speak Portuguese, and some islands of the Caribbean where they speak Dutch, Papiamentu (a mix of languages with Dutch and French base) and other very local languages, in all other countries the official language is Spanish.

Although we are speaking here of a general "Spanish" you must remember that every country has their own slang's and specific words to designate same things in different countries.

A very useful tool is also Google translator (http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en) where you can simply type or paste a text to be translated, or copy the complete URL of the site and you will be able to navigate it in English with no problem. Another tool you have is the automatic translation site imTranslator (<http://translation.imtranslator.net>) where you can paste a text and get a pretty decent translation.

Most of websites today are translated in English and Spanish, but just in case, here is a list of the most basic words you may need in your research:

English	Spanish	Portuguese
First Name	Nombre	Nome
Last Name	Apellido	Sobrenome
ID Number	Cédula	Número de identidad
Address	Dirección	Endereço
Telephone	Teléfono	Telefone

Search
Archive
Contact us

Consultar, Buscar
Archivo
Contactenos

Pesquisa
Arquivo
Fale conosco

Sources and Resources

There are many websites that keep records from different countries in Latina America. You can find lists of people by country or by any specific criteria in the most uncommon places. Almost every country has their own genealogy society and many of them have history societies according to the place where the people emigrate from; like the Italian, Jewish or German genealogy societies.

Some of them you can find very easy by going to Google (<http://www.google.com>) and searching for the name of the country + "Genealogy society" or the variant in Spanish "sociedad de genealogia".

Every country has Newspapers online as well as phone directories, but you have to go beyond the basics and try to find the small communities and local resources in every country as well as the official and governmental records.

If a site is no longer active you can always try to retrieve it with The Wayback Machine <http://www.archive.org/web/web.php>

Argentina

Amia www.amia.org.ar - www.amia.org.ar/register/sepelio.aspx?sid=128

Hashomer Hatzair www.hashomerhatzair.com.ar

Israel Hatzeirá www.israelhatzeira.com.ar (off-air)

SefarAires: www.sefaraire.com.ar

Nueva Sion: www.nuevasion.com.ar

Lamroth Hakol: www.lamroth.org

CidicSef -Centro de Investigación y Difusión de la Cultura Sefardí: www.cidicsef.org.ar

Centro Comunitario Chalom: www.chalom.org.ar

Argentinean Jewish genealogical society: www.agja.org.ar (off-air)

Jewish Genealogy in Argentina - 1950 Telephone directory

www.jewishgenealogy.com.ar/guia1950/ancestors-phone-1.html

Phone guide (www.telexplorer.com) Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Spain

Cordoba Genealogical Society (www.genealogia.8m.com/00-Centro.htm)

Hotel de Inmigrantes -1911 y 1953- www.youtube.com/watch?v=HedY8Bk8wX0 - ([Play](#))

Ministry of interior & Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, 3.700.000 registries of ships immigrants 1882 - 1927 (www.migraciones.gov.ar) – (www.cemla.com/busqueda.html)

Instituto Argentino de Ciencias Genealogía (www.genealogia.org.ar)

Archivo General de la Nación (www.archivo.gov.ar)

Correos de Genealogía Argentina (ar.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArgenGen)

Apellidos Italianos (www.apellidositalianos.com.ar)

Immigration records (www.immigration-records.com.ar)

Birth / Marriage / Death records (www.buenosaires.gov.ar/areas/registrocivil/Tramites/partidas/)

Fundación Agnelli Database - Ship to Argentina (1882-1920)

(www.gensearch.info/Fundacion_Agnelli_search.html)

Bolivia

Bolivia Genealogía es.groups.yahoo.com/group/BoliviaGenealogia/

Brazil

Macabi Rio (www.macabirio.com.br)

Associação David Frischman de Cultura e Recreação (www.adaf.org.br)
A Hebraica de São Paulo (www.hebraica.org.br)
Centro Adolpho Bloch (RJ)
Clube Macabi (SP) (www.macabi.com.br)
Associação Cultural Scholem Aleichem (RJ) (www.asa.org.br)
Clube Israelita Brasileiro - RJ (www.cibrj.com.br) Off-air
CBM - Confederação Brasileira Macabi (www.portalcbm.org.br)
Clube Campestre (POA) (www.clubcampestre.com.br)
Hebraica do Rio Grande do Sul (www.hebraicars.com.br)
Clube Monte Sinai (RJ) (www.clubemontesinai.com.br)
CONIB - Confederação Israelita do Brasil (www.conib.org.br)
SIC - Sociedade Israelita do Ceará (www.sic-ce.org.br)
FISEMG - Federação Israelita do Estado de Minas Gerais (www.fisemg.com.br)
FIRGS - Federação Israelita do Rio Grande do Sul (www.firgs.org.br)
CIAM - Comitê Israelita do Amazonas (www.comiteisraelita.com.br)
FIERJ - Federação Israelita do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (www.fierj.org.br)
FIPE - Federação Israelita de Pernambuco (www.fipeonline.com.br)
FISESP - Federação Israelita do Estado de São Paulo (www.fisesp.org.br)
Centro Israelita de Pernambuco - R. Jose Holanda, 792 Recife, Pernambuco CEP 50.710-140
cimc@netpe.com.br Fax: 81-445-1185/227-0418
Jornal ALEF - O jornal da comunidade judaica do Rio de Janeiro (www.jornalalef.com.br)
Shalom Brasil (www.shalombrasil.com.br)
Revista Shalom (www.comshalom.com.br)
Jornal Tribuna Judaica (www.tribunajudaica.com.br)
PLETZ.com (www.pletz.com)
Net Judaica (www.netjudaica.com.br)
Revista Menorah (menorah@openlink.com.br)
[Gazeta Sefarad](http://www.stbnet.com.br/hpf/sefarad/) (www.stbnet.com.br/hpf/sefarad/)
[Hineini](http://www.shalom.org.br/hineini/) Revista online da comunidade Shalom. (www.shalom.org.br/hineini/)
Jornal Israelita do Paraná (www.shalombr.com/ji/)
Judaísmo e Cultura (www.editorial.com.br/judaismoecultura/)
Morashá.com - (www.morasha.com)
Rio de Janeiro: (www.chevrakadisha.com.br)
Sao Paulo (www.chevrakadisha.org.br)
Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores de História e Genealogia (www.asbrap.org.br)
Associação Portuguesa de Genealogia (www.genealogia-pt.com)
Colégio Brasileiro de Genealogia (www.cbg.org.br)
Geneall (www.geneall.net) Spain, Italy, France, Great Brittan, Portugal, Germany
People and Maps (www.telelistas.net)
Memorial do Imigrante (www.memorialdoimigrante.sp.gov.br)
genealogias.org
Sociedade Mineira de Genealogia e História Regional gen-minas.vilabol.uol.com.br

Chile

www.jabadchile.com
www.cis.cl
www.bneisrael.cl
www.cjch.cl (off-air)
sefard.tripod.com
www.hashomerhatzair.cl
www.lapalabraisraelita.cl
www.shalom.cl
www.genealog.cl
www.genealogia.cl

Colombia

Hamercaz (www.centroisraelitadebogota.org/hamerkaz/)
Revista Salomón-Kito Schwartz (www.revistasalomon.com) (off-air)
Centro Israelita de Bogota, (www.centroisraelitadebogota.org) (off-air)
Asociación Israelita Montefiore (<http://aimbogota.blogspot.com>)
Bnai Brith orhbog@impsat.net.co
Colegio Colombo Hebreo de Bogota (www.colegiocolombohebreo.edu.co)
Comunidad Hebrea Sefaradí sefaradi@unete.com
Macabi Colombia macacol@impsat.net.co
Sinagoga Netzer Israel (Sephardic) Calle 68-64-24, Tel: 3443301.
Casa Lubavitch-Baranquilla, CRA. 57 # 79 -304, Tel: 05-358-5268
Bnai Brith cif@metrotel.net.co
Centro Israelita Filantrópico cif@metrotel.net.co
Colegio Hebreo Unión chebreo@barranquilla.cetcol.net.co
Comunidad Judía de Cali, PoBox 8918, Tel. 601 930
Union Cultural Israelita, gami@andinet.com.co PoBox 5552 Tel: 02-668-9830
Centro Israelita de Beneficiencia, Calle 44a. 5a Norte Esquina Tel: 02-664-1379
Sociedad Hebrea de Socoros, sohesoc@emcali.net.co Av. 9a Norte #10-15
Colegio Hebreo Jorge Isaacs (1945) (www.hebreo-cali.edu.co) chji@telesat.com.co
Colegio Hebreo Teodoro Hertzl teodoro@epm.net.co
Unión Israelita de Beneficiencia unionisraelita@tutopia.com
Mapfre (www.mapfre.com/fundacion/es/centrodocs/colombia.shtml)
Fundación Genealógica Colombiana (www.genealcol.org)

Costa Rica

Centro Israelita Sionista www.centroisraelita.com - cisdcr@centroisraelita.com
Instituto Jaim Weizmann www.weizman.ed.cr
Museo de la Comunidad Judía www.geocities.com/museojudiodecostarica/ (off-air)
Rabinato de Costa Rica (Rab. Gershon Miletski) gersh975@centroisraelita.com
Jabad Lubavitch www.chabadcostarica.com
B'nai Israel Congregation www.bnei-israel.org

Cuba

www.jewishcuba.org
www.thecajm.org
www.chcuba.org/inicio.htm
www.cubagenweb.org
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~utcubangs/
paginasblancas.cuba.cu
www.cubangenclub.org/index.htm

Curaçao

Library: www.madurolibrary.org
Sinagog: www.snoa.com
Akevoth www.dutchjewry.org
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uszBhn6lljE
candoo.com/genresources/
Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy (www.nljewgen.org)
Caribbean Genealogy Research candoo.com/genresources/

Dominican Republic

www.mjhnyc.org/documents/sosua2.pdf
Instituto Dominicano de Genealogía (www.idg.org.do)
Academia de Genealogía (www.acadomgenher.org and www.acadomgenher.blogspot.com)

Genealogía Dominicana (genealogiadominicana.com)

Ecuador

espanol.groups.yahoo.com/group/EcuadorGenealogia/
groups.msn.com/EcuadorGenealogia/
www.ecuadorgenealogia.com
E-mail the Jewish Community of Quito - aiq@cje-ec.com

Jamaica

United Congregation of Israelites (1921) www.ucija.org
Hunt's Bay Cemetery (6th April, 1672) <http://picasaweb.google.com/alonigi/HuntSBayCemetery>
Hillel Academy www.hilleljm.com
www.sephardim.org/jamgen/
<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=244252835091348784>
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jamwgw/index.htm
<http://users.pullman.com/mitchelm/jamaica.htm>
www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com
<http://discoverjamaica.com/shop/genealogy.html>

Mexico

The Comite Central Israelita (www.tribuna.org.mx) represents almost all the groups.
Centro Deportivo Israelita (CDI) (www.cdi.org.mx)
Ashkenazi Community (www.ashkenazi.org.mx)
Bet El Community (www.comunidad-betel.org)
Maguen David Community (www.maguendavid.com)
Atid School (<http://atid.edu.mx>)
Colegio Maguén David (www.maguén-david.net)
Colegio Hebreo Sefaradi (www.sefaradi.org.mx)
Colegio Hebreo Monte Sinaí (www.chms.edu.mx)
Colegio Hebreo Tarbut (www.tarbut.edu.mx)
Yavne (www.yavne.edu.mx)
Instituto Cultural México Israel (www.mexico-israel.org)
Universidad Hebraica (www.universidadhebraica.edu.mx)
Nuevo Colegio Israelita (www.nci.edu.mx)
Colegio Israelita de México (www.idishe.com.mex) (off-air)
Generations – Yearbooks (www.idishe.com)
Dance company (www.anajnuveatem.com) members list
Keshet publishing (www.keshet.org.mx)
<http://serjudio.com/lugares/mexico.htm>
Jewish Family History Research Guide (www.cjh.org/pdfs/Mexico.pdf)
mx.geocities.com/genealogiademexico/
www.genealogia.org.mx
genealogiaorgmx.spaces.live.com
www.kindredtrails.com/mexico.html
genealogiaorgmxnorte.blogspot.com

Panama

Consejo Central Comunitario Hebreo de Panama (www.bethelpanama.com)
www.bethelpanama.com/Yiddishkaitpost/
Escuela Isaac Rabin (cirabin.digitalbrain.com)

Peru

León Pinelo School (www.lp.edu.pe)
wikimapia.org/#lat=-12.101935&lon=-77.053246&z=17&l=18&m=a&v=2

Hebraica Peru (www.hebraicaperu.com) (off-air)
www.salamon.net
Cementerio Israelita de Lima www.salamon.net/jp_cementerio.htm
Genealogy www.genealogiaperu.org
Peru National Library genealogia.perucultural.org.pe

Puerto Rico

Temple Beth Shalom (1967) (www.tbspr.org)
Chabad Puerto Rico (www.chabadpuertorico.com)
Centro Hasidico Puertorriqueno Toiras Jesed (www.toirapr.zor.org)
Jewish Community Center (www.jccpr.org) (off-air)
La Genealogía de Puerto Rico (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~prwgw/)
The Puerto Rican Hispanic Genealogical Society (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~prhgs/)
Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Genealogía (www.genealogiapr.com)
Puerto Rico en breve (www.preb.com/documentos/tablas.html)
Garner (www.sgarner349.com/Puerto_Rico/)
My Ancestors and Their Descendants (freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~prraices/)
Pasajeros a Nueva York (www.gensearch.info/Pasajeros_a_Nueva_York_search.html)

Uruguay

Comunidad Israelita del Uruguay www.kehila.org.uy
Nueva Congregación Israelita de Montevideo (www.nci.org.uy)
Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay (1940) (www.cciu.org.uy)
Escuela Integral Hebreo Uruguay (www.eihu-iahu.edu.uy) (www.escuelaintegral.edu.uy)
Jai (www.jai.com.uy)
Organización Sionista del Uruguay (www.osu.org.uy)
Instituto Ariel Hebreo Uruguayo (www.institutoariel.edu.uy) (off-air)
Instituto Yavne (www.yavne.edu.uy)
Federación Juvenil Sionista NATIV (www.nativ.org.uy)
Derej (www.nativ.org.uy/derej.htm)
Betar (www.betaruruguay.com) (off-air)
Habonim Dror (www.habonimdror.nativo.com)
Hashomer Hatzair (www.hashomerhatzair.net/uruguay)
Jazit Hanoar (www.jazithanoar.com) (off-air)
Keren Kayemeth Leisrael (KKL) (www.kkluruguay.com.uy)

Salvador

Comunidad Israelita de El Salvador www.comunidadisraelitadeelsalvador.org
El Salvador GenWeb Project www.worldgenweb.org/~slvwgw/

Saint Tomas

The Congregation Beracha Veshalom Vegmiluth Hasidim (www.onepaper.com/synagogue/)
Weibel Museum 15 Crystal Gade Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas Tel: 340-774-4312

Venezuela

CAIV www.caiv.org
Unión Israelita de Caracas www.uic.org.ve
Asociación Israelita de Venezuela www.aiv.org.ve
Club Social, Cultural y Deportivo Hebraica www.hebraica.com.ve
SEC Moral y Luces Hertz- Bialik www.secmyl.com
Centro de Estudios Sefardíes de Caracas www.centroestudiossefardies.org.ve
Museo Sefardí de Caracas Morris E. Curiel www.museosefardi.org
Bnei Akiva de Venezuela www.bneiakiva.com.ve
Nuevo Mundo Israelita Newspaper www.nmidigital.com

Ex-students organization www.alumnisec.com.ve (must register)
Avoda (social help) www.avoda.com.ve
Congregation Or Shalom uscj.org/world/caracas
ORT www.ort.org.ve
Yad Vashem Venezuelan Comity www.yadvashem.org.ve
Editorial Boker www.editorialboker.com
Torah studies www.torahenfamilia.com
Jabad Lubabitch www.jabadve.com
People www.laguia.com.ve/#personas
Business <http://paginasamarillas.infoquia.net>
UCV www.sicht.ucv.ve:8080/bvirtual/egresados.jsp
UCAB www.aeucab.net.ve (need registration)
UNE www.une.edu.ve/egresados/ (www.gensearch.info/UNE_search.html)
CNE <http://cne.gob.ve> (www.gensearch.info/CNE100anossearch.html)
CNU www.opsu.gob.ve
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~venezuela/
www.mapfre.com/fundacion/es/centrodocs/venezuela.shtml
www.libdex.com/country/Venezuela.html
www.cnti.gob.ve
Governments on the WWW: Venezuela www.gksoft.com/govt/en/ve.html
www.eluniversal.com (Obituaries)
Genealogia Italiana en Venezuela www.italven.org
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~venezuela/
Genealogía de Familias Venezolanas www.venezuelagenealogia.org
Italian -Venezuela www.ivgenealogia.org (off air)