

Trump locks in Panama casino deal

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A man, a plan - and a casino. That's Panama, Donald Trump style.

The reality-show figurehead and real estate mogul announced yesterday that he's building a \$220 million high-rise project in the hometown of the Panama Canal.

The 65-story Trump Ocean Club, International Hotel and Tower will feature 800 hotel and condominium units overlooking the beach, a casino and a 24-hour yacht club in Panama City.

"I really think the time for Panama has come," Trump said at a midtown news conference. "There will be very, very few buildings that rival this one."

The announcement comes as Panama's government moves forward with expanding the famed canal to make room for the latest generation of massive cargo boats.

The Trump high-rise is expected to be completed by late 2009.

Facts about Panama:

- Panama is considered one of the premier paradises in Latin America.
- Panama is a stable, solid and growing economy, free of political conflicts.

- Panama has enjoyed an annual economic growth rate during 2004 of 4.5% and during the first trimester of 2005, growth of 6%.
- It has one of the most modern airport and telecommunications infrastructures in Latin America.
- Panama boasts the most advanced banking system in the region with 150 banks.
- It is the second most important Free Zone in the world, after Hong Kong.
- Panama was rated by the prestigious Pinkerton Intelligence Agency in the highest category for tourist safety.
- Panama boasts fascinating historic places with exuberant natural beauty and native cultures.
- Panama is world-renowned for sailing, diving and its extraordinary fishing.