

ULTIMATE ADDRESS: YOUR GUIDE TO LUXURY HOMES

Life at the Trump

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Spectacular. Breathtaking. Incomparable. If you ask a resident of Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago what it's like to live there, you're likely to get a flood of superlatives. And they're not just talking about the views.

That gleaming 92-story luxury high rise is living up to its gold-plated name with its stellar riverside location, over-the-top amenities, award-winning restaurants, white glove service – even a top-rated hotel. It's no surprise that life in a world-class building in a world-class city can be pretty great.

"What attracted me to Trump Tower, was that he has the reputation for developing the most luxurious buildings all over the world," says Chezi Rafaeli, a real estate broker and former New Yorker who was one of the first buyers at Trump. "This building in Chicago is actually five times better than Trump's New York buildings."

Rafaeli likes the building's height, the floor-to-ceiling windows, and the soundproofing one would expect from the world's tallest concrete building. "The views are beyond imagination," he says.

The Rafaeli's friends and relatives appreciate the services just as much as he does, such as room service to his condo. "If I have friends visiting from overseas and they cannot sleep, they can have room service 24 hours a day," he says.

Rafaeli, who lives with his wife and two young children, says the building is not just for empty nesters and high-powered executives. "There are many children in the building, and it's very international," he says. "It's fun for them to be in the building, especially in the winter. The hotel has lots of programs for children too."

Michael Berman and his wife decided to do a trial run before they moved into the Trump Tower. "When I bought my unit in 2003, I had a home in the suburbs, and I didn't know if I would live {at Trump}," he explains. "By 2008, we were empty nesters. We rented a two-bedroom suite at the hotel for two weeks, and then it ended up being two months."

He said the staff had him at "hello."

"The staff was amazing. I've visited other friends, and the doorman grunts at you. Here they greet you and they're always happy to help you."

One of the services the Bermans love is the in-room dining, which is available to residents through hotel room service. "Sometimes we invite people over for a dinner

party, and after they sit down and have a drink, they see the stove isn't on and they get kind of nervous. Then the staff walks in with white tablecloths, and a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Frank Brunacci," he says.

Two other members of the Berman household also dig the Trump: their dogs. "At other buildings we looked at, the dogs have to go down the service elevator and out the back. Here they give them dog treats," Berman says.

His pups enjoy what is perhaps, "the most expensive dog park in the world " located outside in an enclosed area with security and bags provided, of course.

Resident Libby Halperin says she wakes up every morning excited about what she'll see from her 70th floor view. "One of the great joys is looking over the lakefront and the city," she says. "You appreciate the depth and breadth of Chicago in every sense. The Stanley Cup was right below our windows. We watched them film the 'Transformers.' When the Tall Ships came through, it was just breathtaking. I feel like there is this enormous screen in front of me and all I have to do is watch."

Personal interaction has been great for her too. "The people who live in the building are delightful and always wanting to talk," she says. "The people who work here are smart and friendly. They really make it a treat."

It's no wonder residents often want more of a good thing, once they move in. Berman is thinking of moving higher up in the building, and upsizing. Rafaeli bought two additional units for an investment.

"If you haven't experienced living at the Trump, you'll never know, Rafaeli says. "There is nothing you can compare it to. I'm very, very pleased."

Homes at Trump Tower are available in every size, from studios to penthouses. Studios start at \$385,000; 1 bedrooms start at \$503,000; 2 bedrooms start at \$790,000, and 3 bedrooms start at \$2.5 million.