

# Spectacular World Trade Center Observatory Hits A High Note



**Mark Lennihan/AP**

**That view**

What a view to behold. The vistas from the 102nd story pinnacle of One World Trade Center are glorious and the emotion of standing atop a tower risen from ashes is powerful.

The observatory of a building once known as the Freedom Tower opens to the public Friday, marking a fresh milestone in Ground Zero's recovery. A preview sparked awe and reverence.

The elevator trip up envelops riders in half a millennium of New York's development in a 47-second swoop of true-to-life renderings. The trip back down spirals in a delightful digital flight.

Step off on 102 and watch a curtain rise on the most inspiring show in town, New York City itself. Far below, running with water, are the black squares of emptiness where the twin towers once hit bedrock, the voids dramatically revealed.

Leaving the 102nd-floor viewing area, visitors will be directed to the 100th-floor main observatory space, a 360-degree wall of windows over the glories of the world's greatest city.

The Brooklyn Bridge. The Empire State. The Statue of Liberty. Midtown's rising super-tall spires for the super-rich. Rivers and parks and a cacophony of architecture new and old. New Jersey, too. Bravo.

Operated by Legends Hospitality under contract with the Port Authority, the observatory also includes event spaces and restaurants ranging from quick eats to an expensive steakhouse.

Because it's in our DNA, some New Yorkers will groan at touches designed for tourists, like perky guides who burble about the wonders of the city below. Let them burble.

Visitors from around the world may well outnumber New Yorkers here, and that is just fine. Because this is a too-long-awaited addition to the skyline.