

1 World Trade Center's Incredible, Haunting Timelapse Through NYC History



Image: Mark Lennihan/Associated Press

By Samantha Murphy Kelly

Visitors to the observation deck of 1 World Trade Center will be treated to a breathtaking but haunting timelapse video superimposed onto the sides of the elevator to the top, revealing an intimate look at New York City history along the way.

When the three-story observatory opens to the public in late May, five elevators will shuttle visitors 102 flights up, while its panels play a 47-second video of Manhattan from the vantage point of the building.

As captured in a video posted by the New York Times, the images show New York City built from the ground up, dating back to its grassy beginnings in the early 1500s. The buildings climb, and then one tower disappears from the skyline. It's chilling.

“The event is certainly a key part of history,” David W. Checketts, chairman and CEO of Legends Hospital, which built the observatory, told the Times. “We did not think you could ignore it. Having it appear in the year it did and disappear in the year it did was the respectful way of addressing the fact that it was part of the landscape.”

The video is projected on nine 75-inch HD monitors and displayed in a way that looks like a glass-encased elevator. The elevators travel about 2,000 feet per minute, at a speed of 23 mph.

The observation deck, which will cost \$32 to visit, rises 1,268 feet in the air, making it the second highest observatory in the United States behind the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower in Chicago, which sits at 1,354 feet. However, 1 World Trade Center, also known as the Freedom Tower, is the tallest skyscraper in the country, with its spire reaching a very patriotic 1,776 feet.