

# Can Panama trump Florida?

By Ruth Brindle, This is Travel

Is Panama the new Florida?

The two rising stars of the Trump Organisation, eldest son Donald Jr and his sister Ivanka would certainly have you think so.

And the entrepreneurial siblings are putting the company's money where their mouths are by spearheading a \$220 million project to build a 65-storey condominium hotel complex in a prime sea-front location on Contadora Island, Panama.

In an exclusive interview for This is Travel, 29-year-old Donald Jr said: 'This will be an incredible building in an incredible location with the only 24-hour marina in Panama. As far as the American baby-boomers are concerned it's the new Florida, a hot market right now. It has a favourable tax structure with great cost of living and leisure facilities and superb medical systems in place.'

Donald Jr and his younger sister Ivanka will be staking their claim on one of the 500 condominium units in the luxurious, sail-like Trump Ocean Club.

It's certain that they will have their pick of the best units, but lesser mortals will not lose out as all condos have sea views. Donald Jr has confirmed that he intends to make full use of the 24-hour marina and superb deep sea fishing off the coast.

The 855ft tall building is built on reclaimed land and will house 300 hotel condominium units, a casino, a private beach club, a yacht club and pier, spa, gym, pool deck, business centre and shops.

Ivanka, 24, says she helped to 'scout' the prime location on the Punta Pacifica peninsula and personally recommends Panama as a tropical paradise.

She added that the hotel itself is entirely unique: 'The building might be reminiscent of The Burge in Dubai, but it is different and better. South America won't have seen anything like this before. All our hotels are unique and special to their particular location. People are going back to that, as they are tired of hotels that all look the same.'

Ivanka said she intends to use her Panama condo retreat as a place to chill out and relax. However, many Brits see travelling to South America as more of an adventure with many possible dangers.

Ivanka assured us: 'Panama is incredibly safe with none of the problems of its neighbours, because of its proximity to the US. There are no seasonal swings and less catastrophic weather.'

The Trump Ocean Club is set to open in 2009. Find out more on

[www.trumpoceanclub.com](http://www.trumpoceanclub.com)

### **Why Panama?**

- It's bounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
- There are 1,500 exotic islands off its coast.
- Excellent beaches and water sports.
- A safe, modern city.
- Far from the hurricane corridor.
- Rich in history and atmosphere.
- The canal is undergoing an \$8billion upgrade to increase its capacity.
- The airport has been recently renovated.
- Local currency is the US dollar.