

## Donald Trump Biography

Donald Trump is a well-known American entrepreneur, television personality and author. This biography provides detailed information about his profile, childhood, life, achievements, works & timeline.

### Quick Facts

Also Known As	Donald John Trump
Nationality	American
Religion	Presbyterian
Born on	14 June 1946 AD
Zodiac Sign	Gemini
Born in	Queens
Father	Fred Trump
Mother	Mary Anne
Siblings	Fred Jr., Robert S. Trump, Maryanne Trump Barry, Elizabeth
Spouses	Melania Trump (m. 2005), Marla Maples (m. 1993–1999), Ivana Trump (m. 1977–1992)
Children	Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump, Tiffany Trump, Eric Trump, Barron Trump

## Quick Facts

Education	University of Pennsylvania, New York Military Academy, Fordham University, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, The Kew-Forest School
Net worth	\$4 billion



Donald John Trump is one of America's best-known business and television personalities whose business interests include real estate, gaming, sports and entertainment. Even though he has made his share of mistakes and is generally perceived as an average manager, he is an excellent example of a charismatic leader. Many people view Trump as larger than life because of his energizing capability, his ability to envision the future and support others while inculcating confidence in them. At a young age, he became involved with some of the largest profitable building projects in Manhattan and also opened the Grand Hyatt, earning much fame as the city's best known developer. Trump is a power oriented business leader and celebrity, possessing an autocratic leadership style. His extravagant lifestyle and outspoken manner have earned him a celebrity status which is amplified by the success of his NBC reality show, 'The Apprentice' which also became an offshoot for 'The Celebrity Apprentice'. He was on the fourteenth position on the Forbes celebrity 100 list and is claimed to have net worth of \$3.2 Billion according to Forbes in 2013.

## **Childhood & Early Life**

- He was born in New York City, to a builder and real estate developer Frederick Trump and his wife Mary McLeod. He was one of the five children.
- He had his initial schooling in the Kew Forest School, Forest hills, New York. At the age of 13, his parents sent him to New York Military Academy (NYMA) in Upstate New York where he performed well, both socially and academically; emerging as a star athlete and student leader by the time he graduated in 1964.
- He was at Fordham University for two years before joining the Wharton School of Finance at the University Of Pennsylvania, from where he graduated in economics in 1968.

## **Career**

- He joined his father's company, 'Elizabeth Trump and Son', while still in college. The company focused on middle-class rental housing in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. He became deeply involved in the project and with a \$500,000 investment, turned the 1200 unit apartment complex in Cincinnati with a 66 percent vacancy rate to 100 percent occupancy within two years.
- In 1971, he moved to Studio apartment in Manhattan, New York and became involved with larger building projects. In the following year, he finalized first multi-million dollar real estate transaction with the sale of Swifton village in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- In 1985, he bought Mar-a-lago estate in Palm beach, Florida and renovated the Barbizon hotel and 100 Central Park South.
- In 1988, he bought the Plaza Hotel in New York City.
- In 1989, he bought a fleet of Boeing 727 airplanes to form Trump air shuttle service. Unfortunately a helicopter crash killed three Trump casino executives which lead to big issue.

- By 1989, poor business decisions left him unable to meet loan payments but he somehow financed the construction of his third casino, the \$1 million Taj Mahal, with high-interest junk bonds. The increasing debt soon brought him to business bankruptcy.
- In 1990, he regained his previous stable financial position and fame and opened the Trump Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City. Soon he gained approval for Riverside south development of West Side rail yards.
- In 1996, he got the ownership of Miss Universe Organization which produces the Miss Universe, Miss USA, and Miss Teen USA pageants.
- In 2003, he became joint partner with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) where he became the executive producer and host of the NBC reality show, 'The Apprentice' which became a huge success. Following its success, he co-produced a show, 'The Celebrity Apprentice' along with British TV producer Mark Burnett.
- On October 21, 2004, Trump Hotels and Casino & Resorts declared a restructuring of its debt which led to a reduction in his individual ownership from 56 percent to 27 percent. The company applied for Chapter 11 Protection in November and soon the company re-emerged from bankruptcy as 'Trump Entertainment Resorts Holdings'.
- He marketed the Trump name on large number of products, including 'Trump Financial', 'Trump Sales and Leasing', 'Trump Entrepreneur initiative', 'Trump Restaurants', 'Go TRUMP', 'Donald J. Trump signature collection', etc. Moreover, he also received \$1.5 million for every one-hour presentation he did for 'The Learning Annex'. He also has a business simulation game called 'Donald Trump's Real Estate Tycoon'.
- In the 2000 elections he expressed his wish to run as a third-party candidate for the US presidency. For 2004 and 2008, he speculated about running for president in the Republican Party and in between in 2006, he considered

running for governor of New York as a representative of the party. He again registered as a Republican in 2009 after having registered with the Democratic Party in 2001 and campaigned for it.

- In 2010-2012, his involvement in politics returned when he publicly announced his consideration of candidature for presidency again. However, his association with the 'Birther issue', a group that firmly believed Barack Obama was not born in the US, disparaged his political reputation. But, he continued to be against Obama on various political issues.
- In January 2013, he endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the Israeli elections. He was also a featured speaker at the 2013 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

### **Major works**

- In 1974, he obtained the option to buy two rail yards in New York City and after few years with the help of 40-year tax abatement from the government, he bought and turned the bankrupt Commodore Hotel into the Grand Hyatt and also created the 'Trump organization'.
- In 1980, he undertook the project of constructing the Wollman Rink in Central Park and completed it in six months using \$750,000 of the remaining \$3 million budget. In the same year, he renovated the Trump tower in New York City and Atlantic City casino business which led to huge debt.
- In 2001, he completed the Trump world tower, which was a 72-storey residential tower across the UN headquarters. He also began construction on Trump plaza along the Hudson River.
- In 2006, he bought the Menie estate in Balmadie, Aberdeen shire, Scotland to create the best golf course in the world on a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) but it was met with criticism from environmentalists and by local landowners. But the battle became more difficult this

year when the Scottish government approved the construction of a wind farm nearby.

- He has hosted many wrestle mania events in Trump Plaza and has been an active participant in several of the shows. On June 15, 2009 he bought the WWE RAW show from WWE owner Vince McMohan.
- He wrote many books which became famous worldwide for their entrepreneurial guidance. It includes, 'Trump: The Art of the Deal', 'Think big: Make it happen in Business and Life', 'Think like a champion: An Informal Education in Business and Life', 'Trump 101: The Way to Success', 'Trump: How to Get Rich', 'Trump: Surviving at the Top', etc.

### **Awards & Achievements**

- In 2005, he again got nominated for Primetime Emmy for 'The Apprentice' under the aforesaid category.
- In 2007, he earned the Star on Walk of Fame for his contribution to Television.
- In 2013, he was inducted in to the celebrity wing of the WWE hall of fame at Madison Square Garden due to his contributions to the promotion of several WWE shows.

### **Personal Life**

- In 1977, he married Ivana Zelnickova and had three children from her, Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric. The couple called off their marriage in 1992 when Ivana discovered his extra-marital love affair with an American actress Marla Maples.
- In 1993, he married Marla Maples and they had one child Tiffany two months before their marriage. In 1997, he filed for a highly publicized divorce with Maples which was finalized in June 1999. The divorce agreement allotted \$2 million to Maples.
- On January 22, 2005, he married Melania Knauss at Bethesda by the Sea Episcopal Church, on the island of Palm Beach, Florida, after proposing to her the previous

year. They have a son together named Barron William Trump.

- In 2011, he claimed in an interview to be a Presbyterian within the Protestant group after gaining the membership of New York City's 'Marble Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church'.

### **Trivia**

- He is a golfer and a member of the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, and plays regularly at the other courses he owns and operates.
- At one time, he acted as a financial advisor to Mike Tyson and hosted Tyson's fight against Michael Spinks in Atlantic City.