



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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SAIPAN-DA WELCOMES VISITORS CHRISTMAS DAY

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Saipan-da, the panda-rhinoceros mascot of this beach resort destination, will be almost as busy as Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, welcoming visitors at the Saipan International Airport.

Saipan-da, to be joined by local island beauties, will greet an estimated 6,000 travelers arriving to spend the holidays in Saipan. Each child ages 11 and under will also receive a 2011 Saipan-da backpack as a souvenir of their visit.

“The holiday season is a great time to put a smile on the faces of visiting children with a gift from the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the people of the Northern Marianas,” said MVA Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. “The kids love them and take them home to be seen by other children there.”

The MVA expects to distribute over 2,000 backpacks over the 2-day period. The MVA also invites visitors and the community to celebrate Christmas in the Marianas in Garapan on Saturday (Dec. 17).



The 2011 Saipan-da backpack will be distributed by the Marianas Visitors Authority to approximately 2,000 children arriving in the Northern Mariana Islands on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. Fly Guam/Fly Marianas provides direct flights from Hong Kong and Nagoya, Japan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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