



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**5<sup>TH</sup> MARIANAS COFFEE TRAIL RUN: PHILIPPINE SEA TO PEAK**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run returns to the Northern Marianas on Jan. 28, 2012, to take participants from the Philippine seaside to the top of Mt. Tapochau, the peak of a mountain range originating in the Marianas Trench, the deepest point on the face of the earth.

The event will feature a 10K short course and a longer course through some of Saipan's most challenging and scenic terrain. The island is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the eastern coast and the Philippine Sea on the west. Beginning and finishing at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park, the race rises 1,500 feet above sea level following twists and turns through the mountaintop before returning to the finish line.

“Not many people can boast of running the mountain range that originates in the Marianas Trench, but runners in the Marianas Coffee Trail Run can,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We welcome runners and walkers to take the challenge later this month.

The course takes runners through wild coffee plantations planted in the Japanese-colonial

era of the island and through the young coffee groves of sponsor Marianas Coffee Co. Competitors will also be rewarded with sweeping panoramas of the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea.

Registration made by this Thursday (Jan. 19) will be \$15 for ages 12 and under and \$30 for ages 13 and above. Registration after Jan. 19, 2012, will be an additional \$10. All participants will receive a finisher's t-shirt, certificate of participation, and free entry to the awards banquet. The banquet will be held at Micro Beach at 11:30 a.m. on race day.

Awards, including Marianas Coffee giveaways, will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in the male and female divisions. Walkers for the 10K are also welcomed.

The event is also sponsored by KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Registration forms are now available at the MVA office in Oleai. For more information, contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com) or 1.670.664.3210.

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](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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