



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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8TH TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 18-19, 2012

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Need a stay-cation? Book your Presidents' Day weekend in Tinian for the 8th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2012.

The annual celebration held in honor of donni sali, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island, offers the perfect blend of island partying at the festival grounds and quiet escape at isolated beaches and backroads.

Activities at Tachogna Beach will include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances. and Hapi the clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the donni sali eating competition, itself.

“As always, the community is ready to welcome all visitors to this year’s Tinian Hot Pepper Festival,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “The festival is a great opportunity to meet up with old family members, make new friends, and just enjoy a good weekend at the beach, island style. The holiday weekend makes it the perfect time to visit.”

The historical treasures of Tinian include ancient Chamorro limestone pillars called Taga

stones (within walking distance of the festival), to relics from the Japanese era of administration of the islands, to WWII ruins.

Tinian is accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com.

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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