



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**NMI June 2012 Visitor Arrivals Up 25%**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – June 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) were up 25 percent compared to June 2011.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 29,402 visitors in June compared to 23,604 in June 2011. Overall, visitor arrivals are up 14 percent so far this fiscal year to 286,300 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan reached 9,051 visitors in June, 5 percent higher than June last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize. Limited airlift continues to be the key barrier to increasing arrivals out of the Japan market. Delta Air Lines, however, launched an additional four weekly flights from Narita on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday beginning on July 14 and continuing through Sept. 24. Asiana Airlines began operating daily flights from Osaka on July 16 and continuing through Sept. 3. These additional flights are expected to significantly boost the number of Japanese visitors to the Northern Marianas during the peak summer season versus last year.

Arrivals from Korea posted a fifth consecutive month of double-digit increases, leaping 47 percent to 10,369 visitors. Asiana Airlines re-launched a second weekly service from Busan to Saipan on June 13 which had been suspended since June of last year due to lack of available aircraft. Meanwhile, eight charters from Incheon to Saipan operated in August 2012 using an

Airbus 321 with 171 seats.

Arrivals from China have shown consistent growth each month this year compared to last year, jumping 50 percent to 6,814 visitors in June. So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 83 percent more visitors from China as the same period last year due to additional flights, which include six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou. Continuous significant growth in Chinese arrivals is projected through October thanks to China's summer and National Day holidays, as well as major media and travel agent promotions launched by the MVA's new China office.

Meanwhile, arrivals were also up 15 percent from Russia to 639 in June. Arrivals from Russia have increased 15 percent so far this fiscal year, compared to last.

Arrivals were also up in June from the United States (up 16 percent to 666), Guam (up 2 percent to 1,388), the Philippines (up 22 percent to 55), and Other Areas (up 71 percent to 371). Arrivals from Hong Kong were down 92 percent to 49 visitors.

### **Japan and Korea Economic Highlights**

According to the Japan Cabinet Office's monthly economic report, Japan remains on a path to moderate recovery. In May 2012, the yen slightly weakened against the U.S. dollar, closing the month at 79.53 yen. The Japan National Tourism Organization announced that a preliminary total of 1,414,000 Japanese traveled overseas in May, marking the fourth straight month of historical record highs.

The Korean economy is showing signs of slight improvement after the downward trend observed in the previous month, but external uncertainties arising from the fiscal crisis in Europe still remain. Korea's population hit the landmark figure of 50 million, according to Statistics Korea. The population increase is significant in that Korea became the seventh country with a population of over 50 million. The won/dollar exchange rate fell 20.98 from previous month to finish at 1,156.74. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in May was 1,096,950, an increase of 8.1 percent compared to the same month in 2011.

The 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 Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served regularly from Shanghai, Guangzhou and seasonally from Beijing. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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