



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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### **NMI October 2012 Visitor Arrivals Up 8%**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – October 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) were up 8 percent compared to October 2011, marking a full year of consistent monthly growth in visitors to the islands. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 26,630 visitors in October compared to 24,693 in October 2011.

Arrivals from Japan reached 9,496 visitors in October, 9 percent higher than October last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize. Without the benefit of charter flights supplementing airlift out of Japan, the increase was due primarily due to strong travel agency sales with their new brochures issued in October.

Arrivals from Korea rose 3 percent percent to 8,103 visitors. The supply of air seats to the NMI out of the Korea market is projected to continue to increase in the final quarter of the year, with Asiana Airlines boosting its Busan-Saipan service from two to four flights a week beginning Nov. 20 and ensuring continued strong growth in Korean arrivals through the end of the year.

Arrivals from China continued a consistent double-digit increase, jumping another 34 percent in October to 6,886 visitors due to China's "Super Golden Week" in October. Chinese tourists had more time to travel abroad due to the combination of the Mid-Autumn Festival and

China National Day, which created an eight-day holiday in October. In addition to six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou, three weekly flights from Beijing launched Nov. 15, which will ensure continued extraordinary growth out of the China market for the remainder of the year.

Meanwhile, arrivals were down 4 percent from Russia to 468 in August. Bi-weekly charter flights by AviaCharter DV commenced from Vladivostok on Oct. 26 and will have a significant positive impact on arrivals from the Russia market over the next several months.

### **Japan, Korea and China Economic Highlights**

The Japanese Cabinet Office lowered its economic assessment, as industrial production and exports decreased. The Cabinet points out Japan's economic growth should resume as overseas economies improve. In October, the Japanese currency finally began to decline against the U.S. dollar, closing the month at 80.02 yen, the lowest level since July. Over 1.9-million Japanese traveled overseas in August: the highest monthly total of all time.

South Korea's economy remained sluggish during the third quarter of this year in the face of many downside risks surrounding the country. The Bank of Korea announced that the country's gross domestic product grew 0.2 percent during the July-September period from three months earlier, marking the slowest on-quarter growth since the last quarter of 2009. The won/dollar exchange rate declined 13.64 from the previous month to finish at 1,091.9. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the total number of Korean outbound travelers from January to September was 10,294,714 up 6.5 percent from the same period in 2011.

China's National Bureau of Statistics indicated the economy grew 7.4 percent year-on-year in the third quarter. The China Tourism Academy predicts the nation's tourism revenues will reach \$412.7-billion in 2012, up 16.6 percent year-on-year. China's Foreign Exchange Trading System said the Chinese currency strengthen to 6.3021 against the U.S. dollar.

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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