



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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VLADIVOSTOK-SAIPAN CHARTER FLIGHTS BEGIN

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The first biweekly charter flight from Vladivostok to Saipan arrived in this western Pacific destination today (Oct. 26), bringing 150 Russians escaping the winter cold to enjoy the sun, sea, and surf of this U.S. beach resort destination.

Passengers were greeted in the wee hours of the morning by indigenous dancers and received shell leis and Carolinian *mwar* (flower head leis). In addition to arriving tourists, the flight held 54 media representatives and travel agents making their first FAMiliarization visit to the islands. VIPs on the flight were led by Irina Sednina, Vice Governor of the Primorsky Region, and Vladimir Shchur, Deputy Director of International Relations and Tourism.

“Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are pleased to welcome visitors from the Primorsky region to our islands for a vacation in paradise,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “We encourage the community to continue to extend our island hospitality by making these and all visitors feel welcomed.”

The flights, operated by AviaCharter DV via Airbus A320 aircraft with 150-passenger seating, are now scheduled to run 19 biweekly flights through March 2013. However, if demand is strong, they may continue beyond that. Passengers have the option to stay two, four, or six weeks.

VIPs will join Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Chairman of

the House Committee on Commerce & Tourism, at a welcome dinner tonight at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Media representatives and travel agents on the flight are scheduled to tour Saipan, Tinian and Rota. FAM tour hotel accommodations and tour support are being provided by DFS Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, World Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Mariana Resort and Spa, Tasi Tours, Sand Castle Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Stars and Stripes, Marianas Trekking, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Star Marianas Air, Rota Resort & Country Club, PDI and Good Tour Company.

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. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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