



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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HISTORIC SAIPAN “SUGAR KING” TRAIN RESTORED

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – A historic train engine of the Japan administration era of the Northern Mariana Islands used in the then-prosperous sugar industry has been restored.

The engine is located at Sugar King Park on Saipan, a park named for “The Sugar King” Haruji Matsue, the Japanese entrepreneur who started Nanyo Kohatsu Kaisha (South Seas Development Company) and developed a thriving sugar industry in the Marianas. The industry included a network of narrow-gauge railroad tracks to transport sugar cane to the central processing plant in Chalan Kanoa.

The restoration was commenced last month as a community relations (COMREL) project of the U.S.S. Momsen, a U.S. naval vessel visiting Saipan on R&R. On July 5, 2013, COMREL volunteers began the restoration work by cleaning the engine and replacing skeletal metal framework. The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) then hired a contractor to conduct welding, smooth sharp edges, and finish painting the engine. The Office of the Mayor of Saipan also aided the renovation.

“The project is complete, and the results are of great quality and beyond satisfaction,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Sugar King Park is one of our most popular visitor sites on island, and this is one example of several destination enhancement projects that promote the unique and rich history of our islands.”

Good Day Coordination/AA Construction also made a \$1,000 in-kind contribution to the restoration project.



A historic train engine at Sugar King Park in Saipan was restored in July 2013 by visiting U.S. Navy volunteers and the Marianas Visitors Authority. The engine was used during the Japanese administration era of the island, when Japanese entrepreneur “The Sugar King” Haruji Matsue developed a thriving sugar industry in the Marianas.

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 and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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