



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## **CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS PARADE/HEALTH WALK ON DEC. 20**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Catch the holiday spirit at this Saturday's (Dec. 20) Christmas Health Walk and Christmas Parade in Garapan, all part of the ongoing 13th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in the Northern Marianas.

Festivities kick off with a 5K Christmas Health Walk, starting at Paseo de Marianas and traversing south along the Saipan Beach Pathway to Gold Beach Hotel. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m., participation is free, and registrants will receive a free t-shirt while supplies last. The event is led by Marianas Walking Association. Santa Claus is also scheduled to take a break from his pre-Christmas preparations to join the event.

The revelry will continue with the Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. from Garapan Fishing Base north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park intersection, then left to Coral Tree Ave., where floats will remain on display after the parade for picture taking. Participating schools will be: Koblerville, Kagman, and Northern Marianas International at the elementary school level; Tanapag, Northern Marianas International, San Antonio, and Cha Cha Oceanview at the middle school level; and Saipan Southern and Kagman at the high school level. Other floats will include: Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, Stellar

Marianas and Miss Marianas Teen Giana Camacho, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Matua Riders.

A Christmas Costume show will also be held featuring the best costumes from local schools on the catwalk at Paseo de Marianas. Food and vendor sales, including local artwork and crafts, will continue throughout the event until 9 p.m.

“The enthusiastic participation of our local schools is really what makes Christmas in the Marianas such a success each year,” Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “If you want to catch the holiday spirit, we invite you to join us for a festive time at Paseo de Marianas on Saturday evening.”

The annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration is sponsored by the MVA, Team PDI, PDM Promoters, Inc. and other travel partners. Dec. 27, a traditional Japanese Mochitsuki Festival will be held and the winner of the Christmas Tree Decorating Competition, Christmas Caroling Competition, and Float Competition will be announced. Christmas trees are illuminated each evening throughout the rest of December at Paseo de Marianas for the enjoyment of visitors and residents.

Christmas in the Marianas sponsors and supporters also include: T Galleria, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, DOCOMO Pacific, Kinpachi Restaurant, CNMI Public School System, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Country House Restaurant, RNV Construction, MISA Ent., Power 99, Moby Dick Restaurant, KKMP, Magic 100FM, KCNM, Teach PDI, Chamolinian Cultural Village, and Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.



Christmas in the Marianas is held each Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.



The Christmas Wish Tree towers over Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan, where Christmas in the Marianas is celebrated each Saturday evening in December from 5-9 p.m.



Decorations made from natural and recyclable materials adorn trees at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan, Saipan. Christmas in the Marianas is celebrated each Saturday evening in December from 5-9 p.m. at the site.



Christmas carolers share the nativity story at Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 13, 2014, in Saipan. Christmas in the Marianas is held each Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.



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Students of Tanapag Middle School prepare for the Christmas Caroling Competition at Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 13, 2014, in Saipan. Christmas in the Marianas is held each Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.



Santa's helpers join the Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 13, 2014, in Saipan. Christmas in the Marianas is held each Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.



Young people tie their wishes to the Christmas Wish Tree on Dec. 13, 2014, in Saipan. Christmas in the Marianas is held each Saturday evening from 5-9 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.

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. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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