



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), PDM Promoters, Inc. and other travel partners will celebrate “Christmas in the Marianas” every Saturday in December, offering weekly holiday entertainment for visitors and residents, alike.

“Due to popular demand, we will again spread the ‘Christmas in the Marianas’ events across four Saturday in December to prolong the celebration and allow more visitors and residents to participate,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We hope the community will make ‘Christmas in the Marianas’ part of their weekend plans in December, as we share the holiday spirit with our visitors.”

The celebration will kick off on Dec. 7 with the annual school-wide Christmas Tree Decoration Competition at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan. The trees, decorated with recyclable material, will remain on display at the pedestrian mall in Saipan’s main tourist district throughout the month. On Dec. 14, students will sing their hearts out at the annual Christmas Caroling Competition on-stage at Paseo de Marianas. On Dec. 21, the Parade of Floats will be held around sunset from the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan along Beach Road to American Memorial Park.

Festivities for the month culminate in the annual Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 28, organized in collaboration with the Japanese Society. The festival marks the season preparation of *mochi* – a dough-like substance of glutinous rice – for the Japanese New Year.

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. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Russia is served via Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. 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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