



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS: AN ESCAPE FROM WINTER**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Tropical charm was the key to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas that wrapped up this week in Saipan.

Dancers in grass skirts, young musicians strumming ukuleles, and Christmas floats adorned with leaves and flowers were among the highlights of this year's festivities.

Winners of this year's three competitions were announced on Dec. 28, 2013, during the evening's celebration at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.

Topping the Caroling Competition among elementary schools was Garapan Elementary, followed by Koblerville Elementary and Mt. Carmel Elementary. In the high school division, Kagman High garnered first place for a second year, followed by Mt. Carmel High.

In the Christmas Float Competition, first place honors went to Koblerville Elementary, followed by Kagman Elementary and San Vicente Elementary.

The annual Christmas in the Marianas is held each December in Saipan. The number of visitors from Japan, Korea, China, Russia, and other winter-bound countries to the Northern Mariana Islands increases significantly during this time of the year, including those travelling to celebrate the upcoming Russian Christmas Day and Lunar New Year in January, as well.



Ukelele instructor Larry Lee, left, leads Ukelele Jammers on Dec. 27, 2013, during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in Saipan.



Students of Koblerville Elementary liven up the crowd with a selection of Christmas carols on Dec. 27, 2013, during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration in Saipan.



Tanapag Sinsler dancers spread holiday cheers during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration on Dec. 29, 2013, in Saipan.

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 to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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