



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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## **INT'L FESTIVAL OF CULTURES KICKS OFF SEPT. 13, 2014**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) kicks off its newest annual signature event, the International Festival of Cultures, on Sept. 13, 2014.

Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

“The goal of the International Festival of Cultures is to showcase the unique and diverse cultures of our islands for both visitors and our local community,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “With this in mind, we hope the International Festival of Cultures will become just as popular at the annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden staged during May Tourism Month.”

Slated for September 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014, on each night various cultural groups from the Pacific and Asia will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine, and arts and crafts. Demonstration booths will feature basket weaving, *mwar*-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Ave.

“We hope everyone will make it a point to stop by the International Festival of Cultures this year and share this opportunity with our visitors,” said Duenas.

Booths will open at 5 p.m. Performances begin at 6 p.m. and the event will run until 11 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

The MVA organizes a series of signature events each year to attract more visitors and enhance their visiting experience while in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.



MVA file photo

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 Air Lines 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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