



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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JEJU AIR LAUNCHES SEOUL-SAIPAN FLIGHTS

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Jeju Air, Korea's largest low-cost carrier (LCC) airline, launched direct daily flights from Seoul to Saipan yesterday (Oct. 1).

Jeju Air's 7C3402 took off on its inaugural flight from Incheon International Airport to Saipan at 9:30 a.m. and achieved a load factor of over 96 percent with 179 passengers on board, including Jeju Air CEO Ken Choi.

“Jeju Air is the first LCC to service the Northern Mariana Islands, and we are excited about the opportunities this opens up in terms of arrivals from Korea and, to a lesser extent, from Russia via Korea,” said Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “We are very grateful to Jeju Air for commencing this partnership with us, and we look forward to building a long and lasting relationship.”

As of the latest available statistics through August 2014, the Northern Marianas had received 101,521 visitors from Korea, comprising 30 percent of total visitor arrivals.

Passengers were greeted by flight attendants with the island greeting “*hafa adai*” and received a discount voucher to T-Galleria. This special offer will be provided on the plane until the end of this year. Upon their arrival in Saipan, passengers were welcomed with shell leis bestowed by local young ladies in traditional costume.

A welcome reception hosted by Marianas Visitors Authority was held at Hyatt Regency

Saipan in the evening, celebrating Jeju Air's inaugural flights with the attendance of VIPS from the government, the private sector, and Jeju Air. A brief ceremony and ribbon cutting with CNMI Governor Eloy S. Inos was also held at Saipan International Airport today (Oct. 2) for the airline's inaugural flight from Saipan to Seoul.

Jeju Air will operate daily flights to Saipan with Boeing 737-800 aircraft departing at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday and on Saturday. The flight on Friday and Sunday are scheduled at 8 a.m. from Incheon International Airport. Flying from Saipan International Airport to Incheon, the flight is scheduled to depart at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Saturday, while the flight leaves at 2:40 p.m. on Friday and Sunday.

In conjunction with the launch, Jeju Air has organized a Saipan Task Force Team until Nov. 30, 2014, and has plans to introduce the indigenous culture of the Northern Marianas through various entertainments on the flights.



The inaugural flight of Jeju Air from Seoul to Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands is greeted with a traditional water salute upon landing at the Saipan International Airport on Oct. 1, 2014.



Jeju Air, Korea's largest low-cost carrier, commenced direct flights from Seoul to Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on Oct. 1, 2014.



Jeju Air, Korea's largest low-cost carrier, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Saipan International Airport on Oct. 2, 2014, to mark the airline's inaugural flight from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, back to Seoul. Pictured from left are MVA Korea Rep Irene Lee, Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Governor Eloy S. Inos, Jeju Air CEO Ken Choi, and Jeju Saipan Station Manager Yu Seok Kim.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Governor Eloy S. Inos, left, and Jeju Air CEO Ken Choi cut a celebratory cake at the Saipan International Airport to mark the airline's inaugural flight from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, back to Seoul on Oct. 2, 2014.

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 and Jeju Air from Seoul. 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.

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