



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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For Immediate Release-November 26, 2014

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MTEC: WHERE DO MOST OF OUR VISITORS COME FROM?

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – What country do most of our visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) come from? On average, visitors from which country stay the longest and spend the most? What is the #1 reason visitors come to the islands?

Local elementary schools students are answering those tourism industry questions and more with resounding success, thanks to the continuing education presentations being made by the MTEC (Marianas Tourism Education Council). So far this school year, MTEC has visited eight schools in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

“Our message remains ‘Tourism is Everybody’s Business,’ and the students are starting to catch on,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente. “For the elementary level, our secondary message is the importance of being friendly and keeping our islands clean and beautiful through MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club activities and Beautify My Marianas.”

MTEC also uses the opportunity to get students thinking about jobs in the tourism industry, such as wait staff, culinary, transportation, administrative, tour guides, and more. MTEC aims to

visit all public schools this school year.

So, what country do most of the visitors to the NMI come from? China. On average, visitors from which country stay the longest and spend the most, on average? Russia. What is the #1 reason visitors come to the islands? Nature.



Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Rota Acting Manager Sandra Atalig, left, and Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) Chairwoman Vicky Benavente, right, with students of Dr. Rita S. Inos Jr./Sr. High on Nov. 19, 2014. MTEC and the MVA visited the school to share about the importance of tourism.



Students Dr. Rita S. Inos Jr./Sr. High won Saipan-da backpacks as part of the presentation "Tourism is Everybody's Business" by Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 19, 2014.



Students of Oleai Elementary School celebrate a correct answer during a quiz about tourism following a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 12, 2014.



Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Assistant Ryan Calvo explains to students of Oleai Elementary how tourism promotions work on Nov. 12, 2014, as part of a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council.



Marianas Tourism Education Council Member Catherine Perry quizzes students at Koblerville Elementary following the presentation "Tourism is Everybody's Business" on Nov. 13, 2014.



Students of Koblerville Elementary School won Saipan-da backpacks and a PIC Saipan waterpark pass and lunch for two for correctly answering questions about tourism during the Nov. 17, 2014, presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council.



Students of W.S. Reyes Elementary took notes to help them prepare for questions by Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Assistant Ryan Calvo as part of a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 13, 2014.



For correctly identifying “Beautify My Marianas” as the Marianas Visitors Authority program offering cash for island cleanups, Jacob Mareham of W.S.Reyes Elementary won a Saipan-da backpack as part of a presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 7, 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 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.
