



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 15-16, 2014

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2014, is offering twice the fun this year with the addition of the 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim on the same weekend.

The event will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) will also offer a boat charter for \$30/person round trip. Charter reservations may be made by calling MVA Accounting at 670.664.3200.

The celebration honors *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island. The event is also co-sponsored Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 15 and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 16.

The 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon will be held on Feb. 15 at 7:30 a.m., offering a 1.5K swim, 40K swim, and 10K run. The reef swim consists of three courses: 1.5K, 3K, and 4.5K. Applications are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com.

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, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. Fly Guam/Fly Marianas provides direct flights from Hong Kong and Nagoya, Japan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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