



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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For further information, contact:
Christopher A. Concepcion, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@my Marianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

CHAMOLINIAN, FILIPINO PERFORMANCES AT INT'L FESTIVAL

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Week 2 of the 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Saturday (Aug. 27) will highlight indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian performances on stage, as well as Filipino. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands and will also be held every Saturday in September from 5-10 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

This Saturday's stage entertainment includes the Chamorro community at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The Filipino community will perform at 7:30 p.m., and the Carolinian community will give the closing performance at 9:30 p.m.

This year, the MVA and participating cultures are putting equal emphasis on stage entertainment and hands-on experiences, including participation this week by the Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Month Committee. Lasts Saturday the Filipino community invited volunteers on-stage to try the nimble "tanikling" dance and play the "mama papa" clapping game. The Carolinian community demonstrated the weaving of coconut fronds and gave away woven head adornments, fish, and other creations to the audience. Cultural demonstrations were also made at individual booths.

“As we say in Chamorro and Carolinian, the opening night of the festival last week was ‘blessed’ by the rain,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “It rained at first, but cleared up into the evening, and both visitors and residents enjoyed themselves. We’re looking forward to another great night this weekend.”

In addition, each week the festival will feature on-site preparation of a favorite island delicacy, roast pig.

“The roast pig got a lot of attention,” said MVA Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo, the event’s lead coordinator. “Not only were visitors fascinated by the process and busy taking pictures, but both visitors and residents were eager to get a taste. It was cooked to perfection.”

The festival is sponsored by PDM Promoters, Team PDI, Div. of Parks & Recreations, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, KKMP, Best Sunshine Int’l, and Power 99. The festival will also include arts and crafts and ethnic cuisine. Admission is free.



The Chamorro community performs at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016. The festival returns on Aug. 27, 2016, and will feature hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.



The Filipino community teaches a young audience member the fancy footwork of the

“tanikling” dance at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016. The festival will be held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas, Saipan.



The Filipino community teaches the “mama papa” clapping game to festival-goers at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016, in Saipan. The festival will be held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas will feature hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.



The Carolinian community demonstrates coconut frond weaving at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016, in Saipan. The festival will be held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas will feature hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.



Jacob Teura of the Tahitian community demonstrates weaving at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016, in Saipan. The cultural diversity of the Northern Marianas will be celebrated at the festival on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas.



The live roasting of a pig fascinates festival-goers at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016, in Saipan. The island delicacy will be served each festival night on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas.



Japanese and other ethnic cuisine is served at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016. The festival will continue on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas from 5-10 p.m.



Marianas Visitors Authority Clerk Naomi Santos distributes Saipan-da backpacks at the International Festival of Cultures on Aug. 20, 2016. The festival will be held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas from 5-10 p.m. nightly.

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 other parts of Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana. From Korea, Asiana, Jeju Air, and Jin Air provide direct flights from Seoul, and Asiana also provides service from Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong to Saipan are available. Philippine Airlines provides nonstop service from Manila to Saipan and connects with many cities in China and across Asia. 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 to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and by United via Guam. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul or Manila. Interisland travel is provided by United Express (Cape Air). For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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