



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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GOLF GROUP LAUDS SAIPAN COURSES

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Several leading golf booking and golf media companies from Hong Kong and China recently lauded the “world-class golf courses” of Saipan during a recent FAM(iliarization) tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) with major assistance from Director of Marketing & Operations David Largent of Best Sunshine.

The seven members of the tour group were in the Northern Marianas on Aug. 11-17, 2016, to tour and to play several professionally-designed courses on Saipan and visit key tourist attractions. The group played at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links and Coral Ocean Golf Resort and also visited Mariana Golf Resort.

“The enthusiastic response of these influential golf representatives following their experience at our Saipan courses means more exposure for this niche market in Hong Kong and China,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “We anticipate this will be a shot-in-the-arm for the MVA’s ongoing golf marketing efforts in China, and we look forward to welcoming more golfers from the region as the word gets out. We understand that another group, accompanied by a professional Chinese player will come to the NMI later this year as a prelude to a major Saipan International Open golf tournament to be hosted by Imperial Pacific starting in 2017.”

In addition, the group also visited key tourist attractions and enjoyed optional activities to round out their Saipan experience. Several hotels were visited or inspected, including: Hyatt

Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Mariana Resort & Spa, GrandVrio Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Saipan World Resort. The group also toured Best Sunshine Live gaming facilities, visited iconic Managaha island, the historic, and scenic sites of Marpi, and took an off-road Let's Go! ATV tour. Dining was experienced at: 360 Revolving Restaurant, Kinpachi, the cultural dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kensington Hotel dinner buffet, Avenue Restaurant, and various hotel restaurants.

The group featured three prominent golf booking companies, Golf007.com, Golden Holiday Golfing Tour, and AliGolf. The media represented were Golf Digest China, Asian Golf Explorer, HK Golfer Magazine and the most famous and prolific golf writer and photographer in China, Roy Lee. The group has committed to bringing regular golfers from China and Hong Kong on golf trips to enjoy the golf and quality activities of Saipan.



Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion, third right, welcomes representatives of golf booking companies and media from Hong Kong and China to dinner on Aug. 16, 2016, at Kensington Hotel in Saipan. From left are: Roy Lee, Owner, RoyLee.com; Michael Li, Owner, GZ Golf Travel; Bruce Chan, Owner, Golf007; Michelle Wong Manager, Asian Golf Explorer; Peggy Chan, Manager, RoyLee.com; Bruce Bateman, Marketing Manager, MVA; David Largent, Director of

Marketing & Operations, Best Sunshine; Concepcion; Andy Lee, Senior Vice President, AliGolf; Shilong Jia; Editor, Golf Digest China.

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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