



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TO HIGHLIGHT HANDS-ON FUN

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) - The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is adding a personal touch to the 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures, which kicks off on Saturday (Aug. 20) at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The festival will also be held Aug. 27 and September 3, 10, 17, & 24 from 5-10 p.m. nightly and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands. This year, the MVA and participating culture are putting equal emphasis on stage entertainment and hands-on experiences at the booths.

“This year we wanted to offer festival goers more opportunities to not only *watch* cultural performances, but also learn and experience the cultures, themselves,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “So this year we will split time between having performances on stage and having more personalized demonstrations at each booth. We think people are going to enjoy the learning opportunity.”

The first two weeks of the festival will also highlight performances of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture. This Saturday's stage entertainment includes the opening ceremony at 6 p.m., Chamorro community at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Carolinian community at

9:30 p.m., and Filipino community at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the festival will feature on-site preparation of a favorite island delicacy, roast pig.

“We’re very grateful to our island cultural communities and our supporters for coming together to make this year’s festival possible,” said MVA Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo, the event’s lead coordinator. “We’re going to have a great time! And even if there’s a little rain, we invite everyone to grab their zories and umbrellas and still come out and enjoy the fun!”

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, KWAU, Best Sunshine Int’l, and Power 99. The festival will also include arts and crafts and ethnic cuisine. Admission is free.



The International Festival of Cultures begins on Aug. 20, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas, Garapan, and will feature hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.

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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