

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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BISITA LUTA ON OCT. 4-6, 2018, FEATURES FISHING, FIESTA & MORE

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Rota is gearing up to welcome visitors for three days of festivities during Bisita Luta on Oct. 4-6, 2018.

Bisita Luta (Visit Rota) will feature a fiesta, a fishing derby and more on the island renowned among The Marianas for its untouched nature beauty and warm island hospitality.

"Bisita Luta is a series of festivities that my office and staff plan and prepare to get our local people and tourists excited in preparation for our annual fiesta celebration of our patron saint, San Francisco De Borja. We are excited to welcome visitors from our neighboring islands and from afar to come to Rota and celebrate with us," said Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig.

Most festivities will take place at Chamorro Village Park in Songsong. On Oct. 4 (Thursday), there will be a Night Market and Street Dance Competition at 6:30 p.m. Fisherman participating in the next day's Bud Light Fishing Derby will have an orientation in the evening.

Bud Light Fishing Derby will kick off the following day (Oct. 5) hosted by Ambros Inc. This program welcomes fisher men and women from Rota, Guam, and Saipan who continue to participate in an annual basis. This evening, Bisita Luta festivities include the Rota Wildlife Showcase, Bisita Luta Food Competition, and a Bisita Luta Concert that will feature bands from Guam and Saipan that will surely liven up the event grounds filled with dancing, great food, and lots of fun!

In honor of Songsong's patron saint, the San Francisco de Borja Fiesta mass will be held on Oct. 6 (Saturday) at San Francisco de Borja Parish, followed by dinner and entertainment. The Bud Light Fishing Derby will conclude that day, with awards presented at the fiesta grounds.

"Bisita Luta is already well-known in Guam, Saipan, and Tinian as one of the best times of the year to visit Rota, and people usually return with mouth-water tales of all the island delicacies they sampled with there, not to mention Rota's renowned island hospitality," said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA is pleased to support the Rota community in hosting this extraordinary annual event. We are especially pleased with the advanced planning being made, and we are sharing those details with our off-shore offices to entice more international visitors to come and have a truly authentic cultural experience in Rota during Bisita Luta."

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Rota Municipal Council, and Rota Legislative Delegation, in partnership with the San Francisco De Borja Fiesta Committee and Parish Council.

MVA members offering hotel and car rentals are Rota Resort & Country Club (1.670.532.1155), Valentino Hotel (1.670.532.8466), and Islander Car Rental (1.670.532.0901). Additional accommodations are provided by Coral Garden Hotel, Bay View Hotel, Sunrise Motel, and Bed & Breakfast.

For more information, contact Special Asst. for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 1.670.532.9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Field Operations Supervisor Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327 or <u>satalig@mymarianas.com</u>.



Award-winning Teteto Beach and other unspoiled scenery await visitors for Bisita Luta (Visit Rota) on Oct.4-6, 2018, in The Marianas. The event will feature a fiesta, fishing tournament, and other festivities and is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office and sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Marianas are a chain of idyllic islands including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the Western 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 looking for new travel discoveries will find them in The Marianas, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four to five from other parts of Asia and Australia. The Marianas are served seasonal flights from Japan, with regular flights to begin in Winter 2018. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, and Jeju Air also provides service from Busan. From mainland China, direct flight service is available from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou. HK Express and Hong Kong Airlines provide service from Hong Kong. United Airlines has daily flight connections from six cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made to Saipan via Seoul-Incheon, Hong Kong, or Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul or Hong Kong. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian is provided by United Express (Cape Air) and Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.