



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MARIANAS' TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 15-16, 2020

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 16th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held over Presidents Day weekend on Feb. 15-16, 2020, in The Marianas.

Activities will include dances, bands, and other live entertainment; cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales; and more. Festivalgoers will have the chance to purchase a variety of local dishes, join the *umang* (hermit crab) races, participate in sports activities, and join the hot pepper eating competition, itself. In addition, the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 15 will begin at 6 a.m.

. “We’re looking forward to a great Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in 2020, and we invite everyone to join the festivities,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “The festival is one of the best times of the year to visit Tinian and enjoy the community and culture at its best.”

The event is sponsored by the Tinian Mayor’s Office and other MVA members. Air service between Saipan and Tinian is provided by Star Marianas and takes about 15 minutes. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site. Accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Lorilynn’s Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga

Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and indoor showers available).

For more information, contact MVA Tinian Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Project Specialist Ray Villagomez at 1.670.664.3210 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com.



FILE- Competitors in the JC Café Pika Burger Eating Contest take their first bites at the 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16, 2019, in The Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold the 16th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2020.



FILE-Tinian youth performing indigenous Chamorro dances draw a crowd at the 13th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in 2017 in the Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold the 16th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2020.

The Marianas are an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. Latte stone limestone monoliths from the time of the pyramids, traditional nature-based ocean navigation not reliant on modern technology, and a culture seasoned by East and West influences are just a few of the experiences awaiting visitors to The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are just three to four hours by plane from major Asian gateway cities. The Marianas are home to indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, as well as over 20 different ethnicities from around the world who live and work in this harmonious tropical paradise. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon or Busan. Direct charter flight service is available from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou, while HK Express flies from Hong Kong. Daily flights from Tokyo, Japan, are operated by Skymark Airlines, and United Airlines has daily flight connections from four cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop via Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul or Hong Kong. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/mymarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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