

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release- Nov. 15, 2019 For further information, contact: Priscilla M. lakopo, Managing Director Marianas Visitors Authority Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237 mva@mymarianas.com www.mymarianas.com

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR TAGAMAN SET FOR MAR. 21, 2020

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Tagaman triathlon is slated for Mar. 21, 2020, on the island of Saipan in The Marianas.

Registration is available online at www.saipantriathlon.com or www.webscorer.com by searching the event name or Race ID 198830. The early bird registration fee through Jan. 14, 2020, is \$95/solo and \$225/team.

Tagaman is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media to the tropical shores of The Marianas. The event is coorganized by MVA and Triathlon Association of the CNMI (TRAC).

"The MVA is pleased to again be partnering with TRAC in bringing Tagaman 2020 to the local and international triathlon community," said MVA Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "TRAC has done a tremendous job since our partnership began in continuing to provide a worldclass race and unforgettable experience for the competitors, while also engaging more community support and volunteers in this annual signature event for The Marianas. We're looking forward to another great race in 2020."

With its 2K swim, 60K bike, and 15K bike, Tagaman is named for the ancient indigenous Chamorro chief Taga, renowned for his legendary feats of strength. Tagaman welcomes athletes of all levels and ages. The starting point and swim leg will be at Minachom Atdao, Saipan. Bikers will transition at Kilili Pavilion parking lot in Susupe, head south to Airport Rd., north to Banzai Cliff, and back south to Mina'chom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe for the finish line.

"Tagaman will continue to evolve as a unique triathlon on par with international event you can find elsewhere," said TRAC President Florence Antonio.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: \$1,000 for 1st place, \$700 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place. Medals and t-shirts will be awarded to all finishers.

Beginning Jan. 15, 2020, registration will jump to \$135/solo and \$245/relay team, while rates will again increase on Mar. 1, 2019, to \$165/solo and \$285/relay team. The last day to register is Mar. 18, 2020.

Early sponsors for the 31st Tagaman triathlon are Kanoa Resort Saipan as the official hotel, Neo Timing System, and KFC Triathlon Club of Japan. Tagaman race series events to prepare for the main event will be announced in the coming months.



Online registration is now open for 31st Tagaman triathlon on Mar. 21, 2020, on the island of Saipan in The Marianas. Athletes may register at www.webscorer.com for early bird rates up until Jan. 14, 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 and Hong Kong Airlines fly from Hong Kong. Flights from Japan operate seasonally. 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 <u>www.mymarianas.com</u>, Facebook/mymarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

###