



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ROTA BLUE TRIATHLON ON NOV. 15, 2014**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and Rota municipality will host the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 15, 2014.

Regional and international triathletes are expected to return for the annual Ironman event, featuring the pristine, tropical environment and warm island hospitality of the island of Rota.

The triathlon features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5 km swim, followed by a 40 km rigorous biking course and a 10 km run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2.0 km swim, followed by a 90 km biking course and topped off with a 21 km run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

The event is also sponsored by Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan and the Rota Mayor's Office. Japanese competitors swept all winning spots in the triathlon last year, in which 111 triathletes competed.

“There's something special about Rota, the natural beauty of the island, its relaxed atmosphere, and the welcoming nature of the residents. All these put together make the Rota Blue Triathlon a race that many competitors return to, year after year,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We look forward to welcoming back all repeat competitors and new competitors on Nov. 15 for a race to remember.”

Pre-registration will be held on Nov. 14, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar. The swim course inspection will be held the same day from 1-2 p.m. at the East Harbor. Final registration will take place that evening from 4:30-8 p.m. at Rota Resort & Country Club's Sunset BBQ Tiki Tiki. The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held that evening at 6:30 p.m.

Starting time for both distances is 6:30 a.m. at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are \$80 for A-type course solo competitors and \$70 for each member in a team. The fee for the B-type course is \$100. The entry fee includes an event t-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet at East Harbor.

In 2013, 34-year-old Ryosuke Yamamoto topped the Men's Division in 2:04:47. He was followed by Taro Shirato (2:13:50) and Hideya Miyazuka (2:22:09), both familiar faces on the Northern Marianas race front. Leading the Women's Division was 45-year-old Ayako Shirato (2:33:31). Sonoko Matsubara (2:47:28) finished second, followed by Yukiko Koike in third (2:50:27).

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, including the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events.

For more information about the annual Triathlon, please contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at 1.670. 664.3210 or [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com), or contact Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1.670.532.0327.



A competitor crosses the finish line in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Rota Blue Triathlon in the Northern Mariana Islands. The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Rota Blue Triathlon will be held on Nov. 15, 2014.

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 Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. 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 Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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