



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MVA BRINGS IRONMAN 70.3 TO NMI

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is expanding its repertoire of annual signature events to include Ironman 70.3 Saipan, slated for March 11, 2017. Registration opens tomorrow (Dec. 1) at www.ironman.com.

“Ironman is a prestigious, world-wide event that is a household name to athletes and non-athletes, alike, and we’re ecstatic to be bringing the Ironman brand to the Northern Mariana Islands,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “The ad exposure the Northern Marianas is going to receive, in addition to the actual number of athletes attending, is expected to eventually exceed any other sporting event the MVA organizes, as we grow the event. We’re expecting several hundred athletes in the first year, alone.”

An Ironman 70.3 is one of a series of long distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corporation. Half the length of an Ironman, Ironman 70.3 features a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run.

In organizing the event, MVA is once again partnering with Kiyokazu Fitness Club (KFC) and KFC President Kiyokazu Onishi, who helped bring the Tinian Turquoise Blue and Rota Blue Triathlon to the NMI.

“It’s been several months in the planning with Onishi-san, but we’re pleased that we now have a date and confirmation that Ironman 70.3 Saipan is a go!” said Concepcion. “We encourage all our tourism partners and MVA members to join us in getting behind this worldwide event and putting the Northern Marianas on the Ironman map with an unforgettable experience for the competitors in March.”

Ironman 70.3 Saipan will also offer 30 age qualifying slots for the 2017 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, TN.

The swim will be held in the crystal-clear waters of Pau Pau Beach. The mainly flat bike course follows the western and northern coast of the island from Bird Island south to Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The run course features the quiet nature and historic and scenic sites of Marpi.

In addition to Ironman 70.3 Saipan, the MVA will still hold the XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18, the 12th Saipan Marathon on March 25, and Tagaman later in 2017.



Ironman 70.3 Saipan official logo

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, and Europe, North and South America 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 to five from other parts of Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served daily from Tokyo-Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines with seasonal flights by Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air and Eastar Jet provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, 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 Southeast Asia. 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 Tokyo-Narita, Seoul-Incheon or Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul, Tokyo or Manila. Interisland travel is provided by United Express (Cape Air) and Star Marianas Air. For more information on the Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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