



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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15th TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 16-17, 2019

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held over Presidents Day weekend on Feb. 16-17, 2019, in The Marianas.

Activities will include the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 16 at 6 a.m. beginning at the festival site at Kammer Beach, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment, including cultural dances. Festivalgoers can sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join sports activities (including beach volleyball), or join the hot-pepper eating competition, itself.

. “In consideration of the effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, there will be a few changes to this year’s celebration,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “As our Tinian crop of ‘donni sali’ hot pepper is not available, we are expanding the festival to cover anything spicy, including other species of ‘donni’ hot pepper grown outside Tinian. As they say, the show must go on, and coming together in February will be good for the community and good for business in Tinian. We’re looking forward to it, we’ve got some new and exciting contests in the works, and we thank our partners for joining us in this demonstration of the #MarianasSTRONG spirit following the typhoon.”

The event is sponsored by the Tinian Mayor’s Office and MVA members. At this time,

available hotels on island are Tinian Ocean View and Lorilynn's Hotel. Air service from Saipan to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site.

Tinian is accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com.



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 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16-17, 2019.

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 Korea, China and 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 four 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 Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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