



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MARIANAS VISITOR ARRIVALS UP 1250% IN DECEMBER 2021
95% Lower Than Pre-COVID Arrivals

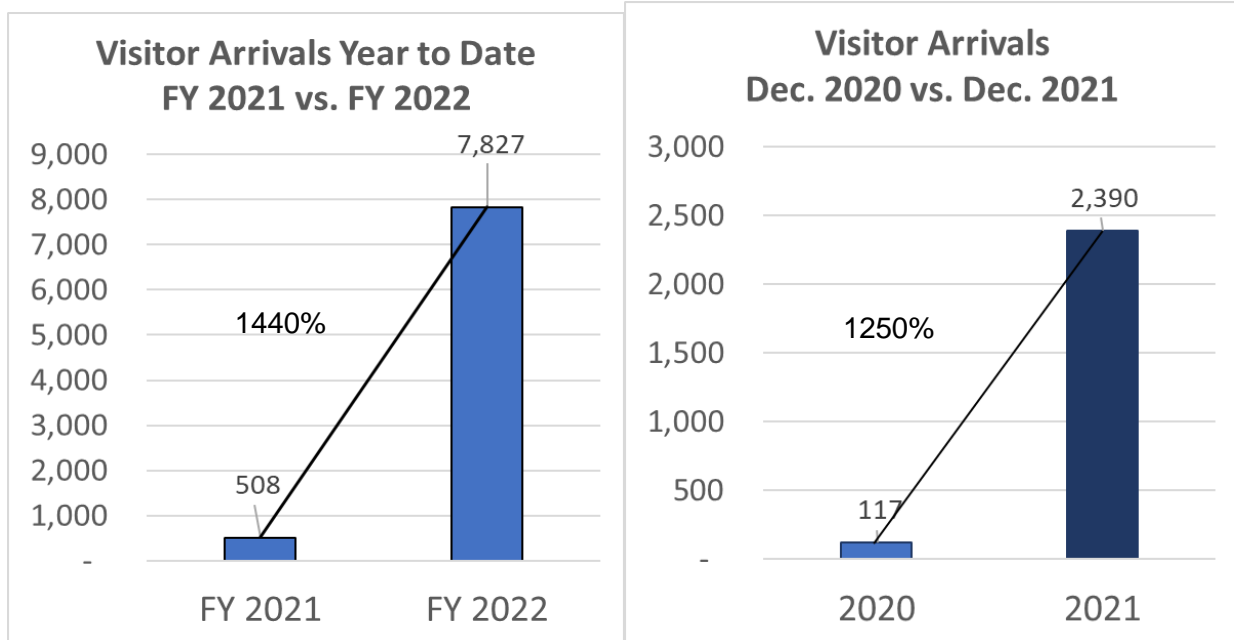
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) - According to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 1250% percent to 2,390 visitors in December 2021, compared to 177 visitors received in December 2020.

While the figure shows a marked recovery in arrivals as a result of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan implemented by the MVA in July 2021, it is still a significant decrease from 52,297 visitors received December 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating a continued challenging road ahead for the recovery of The Marianas tourism economy.

Almost all visitors in December arrived under a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, The Marianas' largest source market prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 1,656 visitors arriving. This compares to December 2020, when The Marianas did not receive any visitors from South Korea.

Also, The Marianas received 357 visitors from Guam, 318 visitors from the U.S., and a combined 59 additional visitors from all other destinations in December.

While The Marianas saw declining demand from South Korea in December and early January due to the omicron variant and other factors, the MVA and its tourism partners are optimistic about the rebound of the market in late January during the Lunar New Year holiday period and beyond. The Marianas is expecting approximately 5,000 passengers from Seoul via Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way from Jan. 27 to Feb. 28, 2022, as well as approximately 1,000 visitors from Busan through the end of February.



The Marianas is an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. 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. Ancient latte stone limestone monoliths, 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 found in The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are only a 3-4 hour flight from major Asian gateway cities. The Marianas is the first destination with a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, where Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies daily from Guam. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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