



## MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

### News Release

---

*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

---

**For Immediate Release- June 17, 2024**

For further information, contact:

Christopher A. Concepcion, Managing Director

Marianas Visitors Authority

Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237

[info@mymarianas.com](mailto:info@mymarianas.com)

[www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)

### **MVA REINSTATES TOUR GUIDE CERTIFICATION**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Following a hiatus since the pandemic, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is reinstating its Tour Guide Certification Program to ensure a safe, well-informed, and professional tour experience for visitors to The Marianas.

The Tour Guide Certification Program was created by PL 18-58 and started by the MVA in 2018 to provide training and certification for members of the hospitality industry who represent The Marianas destination through daily interaction with visitors of The Marianas.

“With the increase in the volume of visitors to our islands and moving forward with our tourism recovery, it is now the right time to reinstate the Tour Guide Certification Program,” said MVA Tour Guide Certification Manager George Sablan. “This will help raise the reputation of our destination by raising the quality of our service providers and, therefore, the quality of our visitors’ experience when they’re here.”

Tour guides, tour operators, and tourist land/sea transport operators must be certified. Applications, a list of requirements, and further details are now available online at <https://mva.mymarianas.com/marianas-guide/>. At this time, individuals previously certified may renew by submitting required documents and taking the certification test. Companies and individuals are encouraged to contact the MVA now to begin the process of renewal. The schedule for tests is anticipated to begin next month.

For more information, contact MVA Tour Guide Certification Manager George Sablan at [gsablan@mymarianas.com](mailto:gsablan@mymarianas.com) or 1.670.664.3200/01.

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. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies three times a week from Tokyo-Narita, Japan, and daily from Guam. Hong Kong Airlines flies twice weekly from Hong Kong. Interisland travel between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

###