

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release- Oct. 18, 2019 For further information, contact: Priscilla M. lakopo, Managing Director Marianas Visitors Authority Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237 mva@mymarianas.com www.mymarianas.com

HELL OF THE MARIANAS CENTURY CYCLE ON DEC. 7, 2019

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) - Registration is now open for the 12th Annual Hell of The Marianas century cycle slated for Dec. 7, 2019.

Cyclists may register online at www.webscorer.com through Dec. 4, 2019. Categories are Pro/Elite, Age Groups (Male and Female), 2-person Team, and 4-person Team. Registration is Oct. 7 is \$80/Individual, \$180/2-person Team, and \$280/4-person team.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) 12th Annual Hell of the Marianas is presented by Fiesta Resort & Spa and jointly organized with Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation (NMICF).

"We are so pleased to continue with Hell of The Marianas especially after last year's forced cancellation due to Typhoon Yutu," said NMICF President Vince Seman. "MVA has long appreciated the allure of sports tourism in the picturesque CNMI. NMICF is grateful for MVA's commitment to support the Hell of The Marianas as a signature event that draws pros and joes from our region."

Seventeen pro riders have signed up for this year's event. Female pros are Yasue Nakahara of Japan; Livia Hasenova of Slovenia; Hiutun Tsang and Phobe Leung of Hong Kong;

and Kylie Jill Adair of Australia. Male pros are Yasumasa Oka, Konno Genta, and Nagatsuka Toshiki of Japan; Narko Pavlic of Slovenia, Lex Nederloff of the Netherlands, Edgar Nieto of Spain; Hei Nok Wong and Tsun Ho Ying of Hong Kong; Kevin Olivier Biffiger of Australia; and Daniel Ven Carino, Ronnel Hualda, and Jerry Aquino, Jr. of the Philippines.

The race is Micronesia's most challenging 100K cycling course, highlighted by the untapped natural beauty of Saipan at its most distinguished attractions, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout and Banzai Cliff.

"The MVA is pleased to again partner with the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation in presenting the 2020 Hell of The Marianas," said MVA Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We look forward to welcoming all local and visiting competitors to the Dec. 7 event."

For more information visit <u>www.hellofthemarianas.com</u> or <u>www.webscorer.com</u> (Race ID No. 191292).



FILE - Cyclists converge in the Hell of The Marianas century cycle on Dec. 2, 2017, on Saipan in The Marianas. Registration is now open at <u>www.webscorer.com</u> for the Hell of The Marianas on Dec. 7, 2019. (Photo credit: NMI Cycling Federation)

The Marianas are an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. Latte stone limestone monoliths from the time of the pyramids, 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 awaiting visitors to The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are just three to four hours by plane from major Asian gateway cities. 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. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon or Busan. Direct charter flight service is available from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou, while HK Express and Hong Kong Airlines fly from Hong Kong. Flights from Japan operate seasonally. United Airlines has daily flight connections from four cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop via 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 <u>www.mymarianas.com</u>, Facebook/mymarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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