



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**50K PIKA BIKE RACE ON FEB. 19 AT TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – This year’s 18th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-20, 2022, in The Marianas will again feature the 50K Pika Bike Race on Saturday, Feb. 19.

The festival, affectionately known as “Pika Fest” among locals (“pika” means spicy), pays homage to Tinian’s small but famous “donne sali” hot pepper and includes a full weekend of activities including food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

The 50K Pika Bike Race will begin at 6 a.m. at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian. Registration is \$40. Registration forms and payment may be submitted at The Bike Shop in Courtney’s Plaza on Beach Rd. in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The first 35 paid registrants will be given a free ferry ride from Saipan to Tinian on Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. and a free return ferry trip from Tinian to Saipan on Feb. 19 at a time to be determined.

“We’re excited to have the Pika Bike Race return as a part of this year’s Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, as it provides many bikers a much-anticipated opportunity to enjoy the safe and scenic roads of Tinian,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We are finalizing the ferry schedule and will be announcing dates, times, and prices once confirmed. In

the meantime, we encourage bikers to register for the race as soon as possible at The Bike Shop so they can avail of the free ferry ride for the first 35 paid race registrants.”

For a registration form or more information on the 50K Pika Bike Race, contact Alex Gozon at [alexgozon@yahoo.com](mailto:alexgozon@yahoo.com) or 1.670.234.2665.

The festival will have a soft opening at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to Jones Beach.. On Feb. 19 & 20, booths will open at 10 a.m., with live entertainment and competitions beginning in the afternoon and continuing into evening.

Hotel accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Lorilynn’s Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn, and Western Lodge. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (barbecue pits, indoor showers, and toilets are available).

For more information, contact Tinian Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at [vborja@mymarianas.com](mailto:vborja@mymarianas.com) or MVA Community Projects Specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200 or email [jaranda@mymarianas.com](mailto:jaranda@mymarianas.com).



FILE-Participants in the 50K Pika Bike Race traverse Broadway on Feb. 13, 2021, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in The Marianas. The bike race will return on Feb. 19, 2022, as part of the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority jointly

organized with the Tinian Mayor's Office on Feb. 19-20, 2022.

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](http://www.mymarianas.com), Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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