



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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For Immediate Release- Jan. 15, 2018

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FERRY AVAILABLE FOR TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL ON FEB. 17-18, 2018

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – For bikers and others heading to the 14th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 17-18, 2018, ferry service will be available from Saipan on Feb. 16-19.

. The Super Emerald ferry schedule is: Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 6 p.m. and departing Tinian at 8:30 p.m.; Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 6:30 p.m.; Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 5 p.m.; and Feb. 19, departing Saipan at 8 a.m. and departing Tinian at 12 p.m. Passengers will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lowe Base and must check in one hour before departure.

Ferry round trip cost is \$20 for ages 3-11, \$35 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2. Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs. of cargo, including bicycles. A \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office in Tinian and Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

The festival highlights Tinian's famously potent "donni sali" pepper. The event is also

co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and the 16th Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by MVA members. Activities will include the road/off road 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 17 at 6 .am, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the umang (hermit crab), join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball), cook your best "kadun pika" (spicy stew), Cha-cha to the championship, arm wrestle or join the donni sali eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on both days.

"As one of the MVA's annual signature event, the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival just keeps growing in popularity each year," said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. "It's a perfect President's Day weekend getaway with family or friends, and we look forward to sharing Tinian's charm and hospitality with more visitors this year."

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. Air service to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas. Available hotels on island include Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Fleming's Hotel, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel and Green Lion House Hotel, and some hotels offer airport shuttle as well.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365, email MVA Field Operations Supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com, or visit The Marianas Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

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 other parts of Asia and Australia. The Marianas are served daily from Tokyo-Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines with seasonal flights by Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, Eastar Jet, and T'Way provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, and Asiana also provides service from Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong to Saipan are available. Philippine Airlines provides nonstop service from Manila and connects with many cities in China and Southeast Asia. United Airlines has daily flight connections from six cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made to Saipan via Tokyo-Narita, Seoul-Incheon or Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul, Tokyo or Manila. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian is provided by United Express (Cape Air) and Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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