



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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PARADE OF CULTURES IN THE MARIANAS ON SEPT. 20, 2019

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Parade of Cultures returns to The Marianas on Sept. 20, 2019, to kick off the first night of the Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures.

The parade, featuring walking groups showcasing their traditional attire from the Pacific, Asia, and beyond, will begin at 5 p.m. at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan and will proceed north along Beach Rd. to the festival site at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall.

The International Festival of Cultures celebrates the ethnic diversity of The Marianas. A soft opening will be held on Sept. 20 from 5-10 p.m. with the parade, food sales, cultural demonstrations, and sales of arts and crafts. On Sept. 21 from 5-10 p.m., the festival will also feature live ethnic performances on-stage.

“One of the best qualities of The Marianas community is our rich ethnic diversity, and that’s what the International Festival of Cultures aims to highlight,” said MVA Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “We invite everyone to join us in this annual celebration as we learn about and enjoy the many cultures that live, work, and play in The Marianas.”

Returning to this year's celebration are the communities of Korea, Japan, Tonga/Fiji/Samoa, Federated State of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, China, Cook Islands/Marquesas/Tahiti, The Marianas, and Bangladesh.

Shuttle transportation will be provided from American Memorial Park parking lot to Paseo de Marianas by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA).

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Coordinator Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3219 for more information.



FILE-The Bangladesh community participates in the Parade of Cultures in 2014 in during the International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. This year's Parade of Cultures will be held on Sept. 20, 2019, in downtown Garapan, Saipan, to kick off the 5th International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 20-21 at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall.

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 www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/mymarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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