



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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ROTA COCONUT FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 13-15, 2018

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Rota, renowned among the islands of The Marianas for its untouched nature beauty and warm island hospitality, is gearing up to welcome visitors for its second Rota Coconut Festival on Sept. 13-15, 2018.

Festivities kick off with a proclamation signing on Thursday, Sept. 13, at 9 a.m. by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig at the Office of the Mayor. The same day, a new art gallery at the Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs will be opened with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

“Our Coconut Festival focuses on educational and tourism as it is the best outlet for our local people and visitors alike to learn about the various uses and benefits our tree of life provides alongside learning of ways to help identify and remove threats that aim at depleting this important natural resource,” said Atalig. “I am excited and happy to welcome visitors from our neighboring islands and afar to visit Rota and attend our Coconut Festival festivities.”

On Friday, Sept. 14, the festival activities begin at 9 a.m. at the Chamorro Village Park in Songsong village, including a Coconut Tree Competition at 4 p.m. to replicate a tree out of natural or recycled material. At 6 p.m. mouthwatering Food Fair Competition will tantalize the

taste buds with cooking competitions for the following dishes: “manha titiyas,” “manha” pie, “apigigi” (roasted young coconut), doughnuts, coconut candy, “ahu” (sweet, young coconut soup), “miso ayuyu,” soup, and other dishes.

On the final day, Sept. 15, a fashion show at 6:30 p.m. will feature attire and accessories made from parts of the coconut tree. A lip sync competition will be held at 7:30 a.m., both at Chamorro Village Park.

“Last year’s coconut festival was a real eye-opener for visiting media the MVA brought from Russia and Taiwan, an opportunity for them to experience an authentic island-style festival steeping in traditional knowledge about the uses and applications of this incredible tree,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “We invite everyone to take this unique opportunity to become a part of the Rota community and come to Rota for a great Coconut Festival in September.”

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor’s Office with support from the MVA, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Ambros Inc., and other government agencies.

For more information, contact Special Asst. for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor’s Office at 1.670.532.9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Field Supervisor Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com.



The Rota Coconut Festival will be held on Sept. 13-15, 2018, in The Marianas, highlighting the numerous uses of the tropical tree.

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 Korea, China and other parts of Asia and Australia. The Marianas are served seasonal flights from Japan, with regular flights to begin in Winter 2018. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, and Jeju Air also provides service from Busan. From mainland China, direct flight service is available from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou. HK Express and Hong Kong Airlines provide service from Hong Kong. United Airlines has daily flight connections from **four** cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made to Saipan via Seoul-Incheon, Hong Kong, or 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.

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