



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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THE MARIANAS PREPS TO WELCOME VISITORS FOR FRESH AIR

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas offers a breath of fresh air for cautious travelers looking to experience nature and open spaces after months of confinement due to COVID-19. The Marianas, a U.S. commonwealth, is located in the western Pacific, just 3 or 4 hours from major Asian gateway cities. With a population of 50,000(?) people spread across the main islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, this archipelago offers year-round tropical weather with plenty of space and options for outdoor activities.

The Marianas has had only two COVID-19-related deaths; robust government health protocols enacted early in the worldwide pandemic were welcomed with strong community compliance. Fifteen percent of the population has been tested for the virus, one of the highest testing rates in the U.S., and the destination has the capacity to test every resident. The destination is at Community Vulnerability Level Blue, one level short of Green and normal operations under a five-level economic recovery plan. In cooperation with public health officials, hotels, tour operators and tourism industry stakeholders have established internal standard operating procedures, including thermal scanning, for mitigating risk.

“The Marianas has enacted a number of protocols that have helped keep our community and visitors safe, which is now allowing us to ease restrictions and transition to a ‘new normal’

where people can start to enjoy normal activities while practicing enhanced safety measures,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “As The Marianas reopens, we want our visitors to feel safe and comfortable during their stay. Public health officials will continue to monitor the situation and implement measures on products and services toward the goal of keeping both visitors and residents healthy. Our strong public health guidelines, our low population density, and our abundance of outdoors activities available year-round in this tropical paradise make us an ideal destination. We look forward to welcoming more visitors to The Marianas, where every experience is a breath of fresh air.”

Outdoor activities available in The Marianas are numerous. Watersports include diving, swimming, snorkeling, jet-skiing, parasailing, windsurfing, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, marine life encounters, and more. Land activities include guided tours of historic and scenic sites, hiking, walking, ATV/UTV tours, picnicking, museums, and more. Restaurants and stores are open at 50% capacity with strict requirements for 6-foot social distancing. Masks are required when entering most business establishments and are recommended but optional in public.

Non-resident travelers entering The Marianas who complete all of the following steps in order may be responsibly exempted from the 14-day quarantine process:

- i. Fill out an online CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three (3) days prior to their arrival in The Marianas at www.governor.gov.mp/covid19/travel;
- ii. Register and respond daily to the Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System
- iii. Have proof of a valid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at least three (3) days prior to their arrival on The Marianas. The test result will then be reviewed by a CNMI Health Representative.

For more information on entry requirements, visit governor.gov.mp. For more information on The Marianas, visit the MVA at www.mymarianas.com.



Akiko Hagiwara, left, and Ayano Braxton, enjoy a morning run in Saipan in The Marianas. The Marianas archipelago offers a breath of fresh air for travelers, offering numerous year-round outdoor activities and strong COVID-19 prevention measures for visitors and residents that have result in a an extremely low case rate in this western Pacific destination.



Taga Beach on the island of Tinian in The Marianas archipelago offers a breath of fresh air for travelers. The destination offers numerous year-round outdoor activities and strong COVID-19 prevention measures for visitors and residents that have result in a an extremely low case rate in this western Pacific destination.

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 flies from Hong Kong. Daily flights from Tokyo, Japan, are operated by Skymark Airlines, and 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](https://www.facebook.com/mymarianas), or [Instagram @themarianas](https://www.instagram.com/themarianas).

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