



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MARIANAS WINS AWARD FOR BEST DIVING AREA OVERSEAS

MVA Woos Divers at Marine Diving Fair

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, was named #2 Best Overseas Diving Area Overseas at the Marine Diving Awards presented at this month's Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan.

Marine Diving Fair is Asia's largest SCUBA diving exhibition, and the Marine Diving Awards are determined by the online vote of divers across Japan. Diving opportunities in The Marianas were touted by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to nearly 29,000 attendees at the fair. This year MVA hosted two information booths at the event, held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (April 5-7), at Ikebukuro Sunshine City.

“As diving is one of our biggest attractions in The Marianas, the Marine Diving Fair has been a part of the MVA's annual promotions calendar for many years, and we are humbled that Japanese divers continue to consider our islands one of the best places to dive overseas,” said MVA

Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “It shows that as a diving destination, The Marianas holds its own alongside countries like Palau, the Philippines, Tahiti, Fiji, and others. This is an encouragement for the government, business sector, and community to keep up our efforts to preserve and protect our diving sites and ensure our visiting divers have a safe and memorable experience.”

The fair is joined by 76 exhibitors, including major diving equipment and camera manufacturers, and educational institutions such as PADI and SNSI. The event attracted a wide range of users, including non-divers interested in the ocean, as well as a growing number of foreign English speaking divers. Stage presentations were also made by renowned Japanese underwater photographers, and discussions were held on marine environments and safe diving practices.

Joining MVA staff in promoting The Marianas were representatives of several dive shops: Miyuki Ishihara of Dive House ANCLAH, Tomoe Yoshida of Bigeye, and Noriko Akari and Yumiko Tanaka of Sakura Marine. In addition to sharing information about diving and other visitor opportunities in The Marianas, the MVA promoted flight services to Saipan from Tokyo by United Airlines and conducted a survey among participants.

As self-reported upon arrival to The Marianas last fiscal year, nearly 1,000 individuals and families to The Marianas indicated their intention to dive. The 33rd Marine Diving Fair is scheduled for April 4-6, 2025.



The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes diving opportunities and other attractions in The Marianas at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan, on April 5-7, 2024.



Norkio Akari of Sakura Marine accepts an award naming The Marianas – including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota – as #2 Best Diving Area – Overseas in the Marine Diving Awards on April 5, 2024. The awards – selected by popular vote - were presented during Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan, held April 5-7, where the Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to the nearly 29,000 attendees to promote diving and other attractions of The Marianas.



Certificate

Marine Diving Award 2023

Best Diving Area, Overseas

The 2nd Prize

Saipan, Tinian, Rota

You have been ranked highly in the nationwide readers' poll of "Marine Diving WEB," a scuba diving website visited by 1.25 million users. Therefore, you are entitled to this honor.

April 5, 2024

Marine Diving Awards Executive Committee

Marine Creative Co., Ltd.



The Marianas – including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota – was voted #2 Best Diving Area – Overseas in the Marine Diving Awards on April 5, 2024. The awards were presented at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan, held on April 5-7, where the Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to tens of thousands attendees to promote diving and other attractions of The Marianas.

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. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies three times a week from Tokyo-Narita, Japan, and daily from Guam. Interisland travel between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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