



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL FERRY FREE FOR BIKE RACERS

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – If you’ve never biked the quiet roadways and backtrails of Tinian, the 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival Feb. 16-17, 2019, in The Marianas will make it easier than ever with free transportation for bike racers from Saipan to Tinian.

The 65K Pika Bike Race will be held on Feb. 16 at 6 a.m. and will begin and end at the festival site at Kammer Beach. Bikers from Saipan who register for the race will be able to travel on the Feb. 15 ferry to Tinian at 5 p.m.

“As much as possible, we want to give our support to the Tinian community, open this event to as many people as possible, and give bikers a chance to experience the beauty of the island during the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “This year, we are offering participants in the 65K Pika Bike Race the chance to ride the ferry for free, to and from Tinian. We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the weekend in beautiful Tinian.”

To register for the 65K Pika Bike Race and avail of free ferry on Feb. 15, bikers may contact Alex Gozon at alexgozon@yahoo.com or 1.670.234.5416 or Dawn Sarmiento at dawnsarmiento@yahoo.com.

The MVA will offer ferry service between Tinian and Saipan on Feb. 15-18, 2018. The

ferry schedule is: Feb. 15, departing Saipan at 5 p.m. and departing Tinian that evening; Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 4 p.m.; Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9 a.m. and departing Tinian at 4 p.m.; and Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 8 a.m. and departing Tinian at 12 p.m. The Super Emerald ferry will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base, passengers and must check in one hour before departure.

Ferry round trip cost is \$25 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. Ticket purchases may be made at the MVA Office in Tinian or Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

A repertoire of old and new competitions is also in the works, according to Concepcion. Other activities during the weekend include live entertainment, a variety of local dishes for sale, indigenous craft sales, and games such as *umang* (hermit crab) races and beach volleyball.

Campgrounds are open to the public at Kammer Beach, which has restrooms and showers.

The event is co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by Bicycling Association of Tinian and MVA members. Available hotels on island are Tinian Ocean View and Lorilynn's Hotel. Air service from Saipan to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site, which will be in San Jose village.

For more information on the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or the MVA Facebook page, call the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365, or email MVA Tinian Field Supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com.



FILE-Bikers on the quiet roads of Tinian on Feb. 14, 2015. The Marianas Visitors Authority will provide free ferry rides from Saipan to Tinian for registrants of the 65K Pike Bike Race on Feb. 16, 2019, during that weekend's 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

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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