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| **'Tis the Season! Mid-Atlantic Destinations are Aglow with Special Winter Events****(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, November 18, 2016)** - It's time to haul out the holly and strap on the skis as destinations across the Mid-Atlantic region showcase the wonders of winter. From hosting holiday-themed festivals, to opening their doors at unique resorts to to cuddle up and watch the snow fall, the Mid-Atlantic is the perfect, heart-warming place to visit during the year's chilliest months. Destinations represented by the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](http://www.matpra.org/)) share some of their most-anticipated events and locations, for the holidays and into the new year. Interested in learning more about locale listed below? Contact the visitors bureau in the description for information. **Delaware****Southern Delaware**Southern Delaware's Winter WonderFEST features a 2 mile drive-thru holiday light show in Cape Henlopen State Park and a Christmas Village at the Lewes Ferry Terminal with outdoor carnival rides, full size Ferris wheel, live entertainment, visits with Santa, outdoor skating, and a s'mores fire pit. *Southern Delaware Tourism, Tina Coleman,**tinac@visitsoutherndelaware.com**,*[*VisitSouthernDelaware.com*](http://www.visitsoutherndelaware.com/)**Wilmington**Escape the winter doldrums and experience an oasis of color at Longwood Gardens during the annual Orchid Extravaganza.  From late January through March, more than 5,000 exquisite orchids are on display inside the four-acre Conservatory.   The variety of colors, species, sizes and shapes are sure to uplift and delight. *Greater Wilmington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis,**lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com**,*[*VisitWilmingtonDE.com*](http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/)**Maryland****Annapolis**Winter fun abounds in Annapolis! Enjoy our chocoholic-friendly Chocolate Binge Festival,  Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade, drive-through Lights on the Bay, Holiday Candlelight Strolls, Midnight Madness Holiday Shopping, State House by Candlelight, our daylong New Year's Eve Celebration with midnight fireworks, and our Polar Bear Plunge....And that's just the beginning! *Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Susan Seifried,**sseifried@visitannapolis.org**,*[*VisitAnnapolis.org*](http://visitannapolis.org/) **Baltimore**From downtown spectaculars like the Pandora Ice Rink and Christmas Village to neighborhood traditions like Hampden's Miracle on 34th Street and Mount Vernon's Monument lighting, Baltimore has a sleigh full of holiday adventures.  Step aboard the Holly Jolly Trolley and tour the city's most decorated neighborhoods and attractions.*Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle,**knagle@baltimore.org**,*[*Baltimore.org*](http://baltimore.org/) **Calvert County**Calvert County offers "cool" events this winter. Watch a sparkling lighted boat parade and see a Christmas tree made from crab pots. Wander a wooded path filled with light sculptures. Take a plunge at North Beach's annual Polar Bear Plunge. *County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki,**bakija@co.cal.md.us**,*[*ChooseCalvert.com*](http://choosecalvert.com/) **Frederick County**Board your horse-drawn carriage and watch as Downtown Frederick goes from a historic Main Street to a twinkling winter wonderland every Saturday in December. Carolers serenade visitors as they sip hot chocolate and roast marshmallows outside shop windows. Decorations line the streets as Santa makes his way into town. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz,**mmuntz@fredco-md.net**,*[*VisitFrederick.org*](http://www.visitfrederick.org/) **Hagerstown**Warm up indoors this winter and enjoy model train displays, sure to delight the young and young-at-heart while also teaching local transportation history. Christmas at the Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum provides family fun on weekends through February and the historic Antietam Station has an open house on Sundays in January. *Visit Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Betsy DeVore,**betsy@visithagerstown.com**,*[*VisitHagerstown.com*](http://www.visithagerstown.com/) **Harford County**Feast on the beauty of a Candlelight Tour of historic Havre de Grace. Enjoy Ice Skating at Hutchins Park and A Holiday Gallery in Havre de Grace. View historic homes hosting holiday open houses at Ladew Topiary Gardens, Concord Point Lighthouse, the Hays-Heighe House, and Hays House in Bel Air. *Visit Harford County, Greg Pizzuto,**greg@visitharford.com**,*[*VisitHarford.com*](http://visitharford.com/) **Howard County**In Howard County, you'll find great shopping and festive events just a short drive from Baltimore and D.C. Symphony of Lights shines bright with over 100 larger-than-life holiday displays, viewed by car, foot or bicycle. Visitors will also enjoy hunting for the perfect gifts in the shops of Old Ellicott City. *Sarah Kurtanich, Howard County Tourism & Promotion,**sarah@visithowardcounty.com**,*[*VisitHowardCounty.com/HoCo-Holidays*](http://www.visithowardcounty.com/hoco-holidays) **St. Mary's County**Celebrate Christmas the way the first Marylanders did with a theatrical walking tour of colonial holiday traditions on the waterside grounds of Historic St. Mary's City - Maryland's first settlement, capital, and premier outdoor living history museum, located where the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay meet in St. Mary's County. *St. Mary's County Tourism, Andrew Ponti,**andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com**,*[*StMarysMD.com*](http://www.visitstmarysmd.com/)**Pennsylvania****Pennsylvania Tourism Office**Boasting more than 120 scenic state parks, 80 ice fishing destinations, and countless trails for snowmobiling and snowshoeing, Pennsylvania's winter activities offer outdoor adventures for everyone. From Lewistown's Annual Festival of Ice in December to Philadelphia's Mummers parade to kick off the year, chase away the winter blues in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Robin Tilley,**rtilley@tierneyagency.com**,*[*VisitPA.com*](http://www.visitpa.com/) **Butler County**Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland is back again at Big Butler Fairgrounds. The award-winning Christmas light and music extravaganza is unlike any other light show. Guests tune their radios and drive through hundreds of thousands of brilliant LED lights dancing in perfect synchronization. *Visit Butler County,  Kimberly Windisch,**kimberly@krolmedia.com**,*[*VisitButlerCounty.com*](http://visitbutlercounty.com/) **Indiana County**Throw some sparkle in Old Man Winter's eyes ... visit the outdoor winter wonderland of Indiana County! Enjoy miles of cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating, and ice fishing without crowds in toasty cabins or B&Bs. Warm up with craft brews/spirits/wines, Lively Arts shows, or wood-fired pizza in our gourmet restaurants.  *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack,**mjack@visitindianacountypa.org**,*[*VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org/) **Lancaster County**With its Pennsylvania German heritage, the Lancaster area is home to many American yuletide traditions, so get the most from your holiday getaway to Pennsylvania Dutch Country by visiting [LancasterCountyChristmas.com](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/towns-and-heritage/lancaster-county-christmas/index.asp) for details on our seasonal events, activity, and shopping ideas - all in one place.  *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff,**jcliff@discoverlancaster.com**,*[*DiscoverLancaster.com*](http://www.discoverlancaster.com/) **Laurel Highlands**After more than 10 years of dormancy, the revered Laurel Mountain Ski Resort re-opens, adding a fourth ski area in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands! The historic ski area, which opened in 1940 as a private getaway for the region's coal and steel magnates, boasts the steepest slope in Pennsylvania.  *Anna Weltz, Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau,**aweltz@laurelhighlands.org**,*[*LaurelHighlands.org*](http://www.laurelhighlands.org/) **Lehigh Valley**Celebrate the holidays in Bethlehem, "The Christmas City." Check off your shopping list at Christkindlmarkt, rated one of the top holiday markets in the country; take a charming horse-drawn carriage ride down Main Street; and ring in the new year with fun for the whole family at PEEPSFest. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger,**kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com**,*[*DiscoverLehighValley.com*](http://www.discoverlehighvalley.com/) **Pennsylvania's Americana Region**Koziar's Christmas Village has been creating holiday magic for over 69 years. Glowing with thousands of lights; make one visit to the winter wonderland and you'll understand why a trip to Koziar's has become a Christmas custom for so many. See for yourself, and make it your tradition too.*Pennsylvania's Americana Region, Lisa Haggerty,**lisa@visitpaamericana.com**,*[*VisitPAAmericana.com*](http://visitpaamericana.com/)**Pocono Mountains**The Pocono Mountains is your place for a winter getaway, home to six major ski resorts along with accommodations to suit everyone's needs. Visitors can also enjoy snowtubing, snowshoeing, ice skating, horseback riding, and zip lining. Don't forget it's always 84 degrees at one of our four indoor waterpark resorts! *Poconos Mountains, Brian Bossuyt,**bbossuyt@poconos.org**,*[*PoconoMountains.com*](http://poconomountains.com/) **Tioga County**"God bless us, everyone!" is the spirit welcoming all to Wellsboro for Dickens of a Christmas.  Every December, downtown transforms into a Victorian marketplace complete with food, shopping, strolling entertainers, and enough holiday spirit guaranteed to delight even Mr. Scrooge! *Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher,**morgan@visittiogapa.com**,*[*VisitTioga.com*](http://visittioga.com/) **York County**After devouring the Thanksgiving turkey, jump into the holiday season with Christmas Magic - A Festival of Lights at York County's Rocky Ridge Park. Stroll along a half-mile walking trail and wonder at 600,000 Christmas lights, holiday scenes, train displays, and more. Don't forget the hot chocolate! *York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andrew Staub,**astaub@yorkpa.org**,*[*YorkPA.org*](http://www.yorkpa.org/)**Virginia****Alexandria**Celebrate the anniversary of George Washington's birth in his hometown of Alexandria, Virginia. The city celebrates the General's birthday throughout February with a dozen festive events, including the George Washington Birthday Parade, a Cherry Challenge among restaurants, free admission to historic sites, and an 18th-century banquet and ball. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman,**lspellman@visitalexva.com**,*[*VisitAlexandriaVA.com*](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/) **Arlington**In Arlington, the annual Rosslyn Holiday Market Festival + Bonfire takes place in December. A one-stop shop for holiday gifts, dozens of local and renowned vendors offer a variety of unique and high-quality items as well as performances from local choirs and bands. *Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau, Cara O'Donnell,**codonnell@arlingtonva.us**,*[*StayArlington.com*](https://www.stayarlington.com/) **Charlottesville and Albemarle County**Charlottesville and Albemarle County feature a unique holiday tradition:  First Night Virginia.  This family-friendly festival of the arts, celebrated on the Historic Downtown Mall, began in 1982 and is such a fun way to ring in the New Year!  *Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau, Bri Warner,**warnerb@charlottesville.org**,*[*VisitCharlottesville.org*](http://visitcharlottesville.org/) **Fairfax County**Fairfax County gets festive each winter! Stroll through a stunning botanical garden adorned with 500,000 LED bulbs or drive through Northern Virginia's largest light show. Greet George Washington's Christmas camel at Mount Vernon. Cure that chocolate craving at the Chocolate Lovers Festival or pair with wine at a local vineyard.  *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris,**amorris@fxva.com**,*[*FXVA.com*](http://www.fxva.com/) **Hampton**Slip into a warm sweater and head to Hampton for a large helping of holiday cheer this winter. Whether it's the highly-anticipated Hampton Lighted Boat Parade, the Holiday and Kwanzaa Marketplace at Hampton University Museum, or street parades in Coliseum Central and downtown, holiday excitement abounds in Hampton. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs,* *elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com**,* [*VisitHampton.com*](http://visithampton.com/) **Harrisonburg**Harrisonburg is bustling with events to put you in the holiday spirit. The streets glow with lights for the Harrisonburg's Holiday Parade, featuring a tree lighting ceremony, carriage rides, and festive floats in downtown. Come together to ring in the New Year at First Night Harrisonburg. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Jessica Williams,**jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov**,*[*VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*](http://www.visitharrisonburgva.com/) **Lexington**Step back in time to a candlelit Christmas at the Jacksons'. At the Stonewall Jackson House, experience the tradition of preparing for holiday guests. Churn butter in the kitchen, pick the proper outfit for a festive dinner, and choose handmade gifts for family and friends. Enjoy seasonal music and refreshments. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams,**marketing@lexingtonvirgina.com**,*[*LexingtonVirginia.com*](https://lexingtonvirginia.com/) **Lynchburg**Leave that bulky coat behind and hop Amtrak to Lynchburg where we've been known to have 70° winter days!  Rent a snowboard at Snowflex (year-round ski) Center, rent a bike for our urban trails, or enjoy a night of visual and culinary arts during First Fridays festivities. *Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby,**krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov**,*[*LynchburgVirginia.org*](http://www.lynchburgvirginia.org/) **Prince William & Manassas**Spend this holiday season in a classic small town setting, sipping hot chocolate and watching the annual tree lighting at Merry Old Town in Historic Downtown Manassas.  Enjoy the Christmas parade, Santa, ice skating, music, and more while enjoying the nostalgia of the quaint downtown district. *Prince William & Manassas, VA, Dan Cook,**dcook@discoverpwm.com**,*[*DiscoverPWM.com*](http://discoverpwm.com/)**Shenandoah County**Hit the slopes of Bryce Resort in the scenic Shenandoah Valley. Bryce offers the perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city.  Their ski school is the ideal for families with small children and the nearby assortment of vineyards and craft breweries leave no shortage of evening entertainment. *Shenandoah County Tourism, Jenna French,**jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us**,*[*VisitShenandoahCounty.com*](http://visitshenandoahcounty.com/) **Virginia's Blue Ridge**Holiday traditions in Virginia's Blue Ridge include Main Street parades and holiday homes tours.  Downtown Roanoke hosts Dickens of a Christmas the first three Friday nights in December. Include a stop at the historic Hotel Roanoke to see 30+ beautifully decorated evergreen trees on display from Thanksgiving through New Year's. *Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Catherine Fox,* *cfox@visitvablueridge.com**,* [*VisitVABlueRidge.com*](http://visitvablueridge.com/) |

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| **About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit [www.matpra.org](http://www.matpra.org/).   |