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Note: Interviews are available with *Destination Maryland* Executive Producer Patrick Keegan. In addition, episode photos are available to download from MPT's Dropbox HERE.

New episodes of *Destination Maryland* premiere in November on MPT

Public television series features locations and attractions across the Free State

OWINGS MILLS, MD – <u>Maryland Public Television</u> (MPT) will present two new episodes of its original series *Destination Maryland* during the month of November. The half-hour program takes viewers on a road trip across Maryland to explore places, people, and experiences of interest to both visitors and locals alike.

Destination Maryland will air at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15 and November 22 on MPT-HD and at mpt.org/livestream.

Following their broadcast premieres, the episodes will also be available to view on demand using MPT's online video player and the PBS App. Encore broadcasts air on MPT-HD on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 11 p.m. and on Sunday, November 26 at 11 p.m.

The series' hosts are Maryland native and U.S. Navy veteran Tony Coffield and Sara Fiksdal, producers and hosts of the popular YouTube travel channel, The Detour Duo. The couple's energy and unique perspectives, combined with Destination Maryland's immersive story-telling techniques, will help first-time visitors, new arrivals, and long-time residents discover must-see attractions and hidden gems that make Maryland an unmatched destination.





Sara Fiksdal and Tony Coffield, hosts of Destination Maryland

On *Destination Maryland's* November 15 episode, hosts Tony and Sara explore the heart of Maryland's Eastern Shore. They learn to sail with dolphins in picturesque St. Michaels, walk in the footsteps of Frederick Douglass in historic Easton, board a Chesapeake Bay crabbing charter at the crack of dawn, and befriend a herd of adorable alpacas. Here are some of the sites they visit:

• <u>Sail Selina II</u> – St. Michaels, Talbot County

The Sail Selina II is a meticulously restored sailboat offering pleasure cruises and sailing lessons in the waters surrounding picturesque St. Michaels. Hosts Tony and Sara join Captain Iris and her crew for a sailing lesson on the Miles River.

• Riley Kat Crabbing Charter – Tilghman Island, Talbot County

Sara and Tony board the Riley Kat and learn to crab with Captain Russell, a sixth-generation waterman. Using a traditional trotline, the series hosts try to keep up with Captain Russell but are no match for his experience.

• Frederick Douglass Mural – Easton, Talbot County

Created by artist Michael Rosato, this tribute to Marylander Frederick Douglass depicts his remarkable journey from slave to abolitionist to statesman, and his enduring impact on subsequent generations.

• Outstanding Dreams Farm - Preston, Caroline County

Outstanding Dreams Farm is home to a growing herd of adorable alpacas. Tony and Sara spend time getting to know owners Phil and Vickie, and their affable alpacas, at this family-friendly stop in Preston.

An episode preview is available at youtube.com/watch?v=HW9mli9xnrE.

During *Destination Maryland's* **November 22 episode,** hosts Tony and Sara chronicle their adventures in the mountains of Western Maryland. They take viewers on a journey from the beauty of Swallow Falls State Park and the mountaintop ziplines of Wisp Resort, to a world-famous bluegrass festival in Cumberland and Tonka Toy dreams in Hagerstown. Here are some of the sites they visit:

• Wisp Resort – McHenry, Garrett County

Wisp may be best known as a destination for skiers, but Sara and Tony discover that this Western Maryland hotspot is a year-round destination for outdoor adventures – from ziplines to mountain coasters, and golf greens to whitewater rafting.

• <u>Swallow Falls</u> – near Oakland, Garrett County

Home to Maryland's highest free-falling waterfall and spectacular hiking trails, Swallow Falls State Park is one of the jewels of the state park system. Tony and Sara meet with Park Manager Donald Oates to get some inside information before exploring the park.

• Tracks and Yaks - Allegany County

Tony and Sara travel the scenic route from Frostburg to Cumberland using a unique method of transportation: rail bikes. While riding the rails, the couple take in the spectacular mountain scenery while coasting alongside the Great Allegheny Passage.

• DelFest – Cumberland, Allegany County

Founded by bluegrass legend Del McCoury, DelFest is a four-day music festival that takes place at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. Sara and Tony immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of this annual event, which attracts musicians and bluegrass aficionados from across the nation.

Heavy Metal Playground – Hagerstown, Washington County
Heavy Metal Playground is the place for anyone who's ever dreamed of operating construction
equipment. Tony and Sara try their hand at digging, scooping, pushing, and stacking, culminating
in a race through an obstacle course.

An episode preview is available at youtube.com/watch?v=0lg8FWgPYYc

<u>Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Tourism</u> is MPT's co-production partner for *Destination Maryland*.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and *Thinkport.org*. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit *mpt.org*.