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#1023 --- Monday, 12/14/15 -- News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



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## St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source  
for Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week. "Jeff1620" is a send-only email address. For Contact info, see Contact Us at the end of this newsletter.

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***You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter. Stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St.***

**Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. We now have over 260,000 readers around the world...**

Get Important SXM News as it Happens & Lots of Pictures Too from our Facebook and Twitter Pages:



Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, and Android Users

This format has been further narrowed so it is now easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of all recent editions here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

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#### TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member. Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

- Ocean Temperature**
- Holiday Membership Sale Ends Soon: Offers Low Prices on 240+ Discounts & Benefits Across SXM - But It Ends Soon**
- Three Syrian Nationals Captured at SXM Airport in Nov. With Fake Passports Still Jailed**
- SXM Sargasso Seaweed Onslaught Solutions Sought by Seaside Sources**
- Wild Monkeys in SXM**
- Cues to Curtail Coconut-Caused Concussions**
- Climate Change: Its Future Impact on SXM**
- Getting a Perfect All-Over Tan**
- Island Tours With The Party Bus Experts**
- Check Out Our Top Car Rental Partners**
- Baker's Suites Gets High Marks on TripAdvisor - and Now Adds Continental Breakfasts**
- Deep Sea Fishing**
- Lagoon Sunset Cruise & The Famous Celine On-the-Water Pub Crawl**
- Newly Expanded Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation**

## **-- We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations... and Tons More**

[29](#) news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete [Table of Contents](#)

## **Timeshare Rentals and Sales of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else, worldwide, at no charge, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 237+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

### **SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:**

RENTAL: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Resort on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces sunny Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean Sea. Includes a genuine Jacuzzi whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's multi award-winning Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, with famous Orient Beach not much more than 20 minutes away. And did I say incredible restaurants? Now reduced to only \$849 for rent or reduced to only \$2999 to buy or make an offer. We will walk away from this if not sold this month. Photos available. Phone Jeff at (508) 747-8281 or email [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com)

### **SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:**

SALE: January 16 to January 23, 2016 (week 3) Sapphire Beach Club on Cupecoy Beach, sleep-four unit faces Cupecoy Beach and the Caribbean sea. Includes a Jacuzzi® whirlpool hot tub on the balcony, king size bed, full a/c, cable TV, DVD player, refrigerator with ice maker, marble bath, beautiful furnishings throughout. Resort has shops, restaurants, mini-mart, plus a large pool, whirlpool, and bar -- all on the ocean. Close to Starz Casino (formerly Atlantis World), many great restaurants including Dino Jagtiani's Temptation, plus Mullet Bay Beach, the Cupecoy clothing-optional beach, Baie Longue, and Baie Rouge on the French Side, and did I say incredible restaurants? Reduced to \$2999 (negotiable) to buy or only \$849 to rent. Photos available. Phone (508) 747-8281 and ask for Jeff or email [susan@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susan@jmbcommunications.com) .

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):** [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

## **This Week's Stories**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin" Facebook Site:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>

"Like" Our Facebook SXM Timesharing Group People for Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection in St. Maarten

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205834172765083](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205834172765083)

Search the **SXM Weekly News** Archives:

**Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format (New):**

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

**Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):**

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive:list=sxmweeklynews>

Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Get a growing list of 210+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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6. Where To Safely Rent Out Or Buy Timeshare Weeks in SXM

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):** [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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**Section Four:** For Members Only (Revised 12/31/14)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Five: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)**  
(Revised 12/31/14)

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 230+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the \*secret\* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a total of a growing list of 200+ additional major travel benefits, including reduced-cost access to

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 200+ benefits... and more coming soon.

**Contact Us:**

[Revised 2/24/15]

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only \*secret\* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, please contact us at [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not be able to respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
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This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members (including \*Low Airfare Bulletins\*) read \*From JMB\* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

**SECTION 1: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather**

1. Current Weather

The week started with showers but by midweek turned sunny and hot. Seaweed early in the week gave way to little seaweed later.

2. Ocean Temperature...

Water temps seem warmer this year. We were told that the temp was 27C or about 81F at Club Orient but at the far southern end it's more like 83-84F; water is also crystal clear there. Park in their lot for just \$5/day and they keep an eye on things.

3. A Great Source of Low Airfares & More Available Free to JMB Members

JMB Website Supporters now gives you access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages not just to the Caribbean, but worldwide.

Retail travel sites — the ones whose names you know very well — are heavily regulated. But private travel clubs like this, which normally charge their members for membership/admission, are regulated differently and consequently, can offer much better pricing.

The organization providing these travel benefits has been traveling under the radar for 25 years and is only now making its travel reservations prowess publicly known. It's SkyMed Travel Club and it is entirely separate from the [SkyMed "takes you home" medical evacuation service](#) we've been recommending to you for years.

SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found the pricing to be exceptional — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are gaining popularity in the US.

Normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Go to the members-only Secret Website and click on the Low Airfare Grid for details on the SkyMed Travel Club. Log in through the orange login box below the masthead at [everythingxsm.com](#). Your username is the email address you have registered with Membership Services. If you forgot your password, click "forgot password" in the login box.

Do join the SkyMed Travel Club and use them to make all your travel reservations; you will not be disappointed once you've booked through them.

Not a JMB member? See the lead story in Section 3: *prices increase this month, so this is the time to join.*

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#### 4. Available to All: FlyTravelGo Is The Easiest-to-Use Travel Reservations Website

Check it out; it's remarkably fast and easy. All profits from our [www.flytravelgo.com](#) site help support *SXM Weekly News* and our SXM island discount program, JMB Website Supporters.

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### **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**

#### 5. Alegria / Marty's Dream Pool Bar Update

Alegria has presented papers to the court in SXM regarding its fourth suit to remove the Dream Bar from its premises. In each of the three prior suits, the court found for the defendant, stating that Marty's had a valid lease the plaintiff must honor. The court ruling date is not yet known.

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#### 6. Where to Safely Rent Out or Buy Timeshares in SXM

Winter rentals of St. Maarten timeshares and other properties continue at what may be a record pace. We have hundreds of rentals from JMB members [here](#).

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### **SECTION 3: Island**

#### **7. Holiday Membership Sale Ends Soon: Low Holiday Prices on 240+ Discounts & Benefits Across SXM**

What You Get:



- A growing list of 242+ discounts for restaurants, shopping, hotels, car rentals, activities, jewelry, art, and tons more
- Benefits including free ads to rent out or sell timeshare or other condos you own in SXM and worldwide
- Low Fare Guidelines to help you know what fares are worth buying -- and which are just too high
- Big Discounts on SkyMed, the world's premier provider of medical evacuation services for Americans, Canadians, and ex-pats virtually anywhere you travel, including Cuba (see stories in this section).
- Buy Now: Holiday Sale Prices Now In Effect

#### Holiday Sale New memberships:

3 yrs. \$75; 5 yrs. \$109; 7 yrs. \$139

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

#### Holiday Sale Renewal memberships:

One year \$33; 3 yrs. \$64; 6 yrs. \$107 -- our best offer by far

[www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) Go to the *Membership Renewal Center*

#### Holiday Sale Membership Reinstatements:

One year \$39; 4 yrs. \$88; 6 yrs. \$107

<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinststate/index.shtml>

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## 8. Three Syrian Nationals Captured at SXM Airport in Nov. With Fake Passports Still Jailed

Investigators from numerous police agencies including Interpol are still trying to determine the exact identity of three Syrian nationals arrested last month at SXM Airport when they attempted to enter the country with fake Greek passports. They remain in jail but so far are held only for attempted use of fake passports, a crime in SXM. So far no connection with any known terrorist organizations has been found.

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## 9. SXM Sargasso Seaweed Onslaught Solutions Sought by Seaside Sources

Officials from DESMI - a Danish company whose Latin American operations are headquartered in Ecuador -- visited SXM last week as part of an R&D effort focused on keeping Sargasso seaweed off SXM beaches and protecting endangered sea turtles from the seaweed's negative impacts. Sargasso seaweed has been plaguing the Caribbean and nations bordering the Gulf of Mexico in recent years.

Rolando Penaherrera, DESMI Gerente General for Latin America, told us last week that DESMI was mapping currents to determine optimal mitigation measures. "Sargasso seaweed is harmful in many ways but beneficial in many others," he said. "It provides habitat for fish and can be converted to feed for tilapia, goats, and other livestock," he said.

"But on beaches it not only deters tourism but it can also prevent endangered sea turtles from finding an appropriate place to lay their eggs. If they lay eggs in seaweed, the eggs can cook and never hatch. If they hatch, the survival rate drops because hatchlings may be unable to get into the water. They can die in the seaweed."

Mr. Penaherrera says DESMI has active projects in both Cuba and the Dominican Republic. It develops offshore systems for concentrating and harvesting seaweed without harming aquatic life. It hopes to propose such a system for SXM.

Penaherrera was critical of systems that gather seaweed directly from beaches. "Those systems remove sand and destroy beaches, so they are not environmentally friendly. That is why the real solution must harvest and process seaweed near shore but not on shore."

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## 10. Wild Monkeys in SXM

They're still here: upwards of 1000 of them (closer to 2,000 we think) scattered from Cupecoy to Anse Marcel. They love vegetable gardens, fruit trees, trash, and booze. We saw our first one of this trip yesterday in the pasture across from the Cadisco gas station near Orient Beach. Earlier this year one ran across the street not far from the Westin in Dawn Beach. If you see one it's highly likely more are nearby....

Advertisement:

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*Way More Than SXM*

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## 11. Cues to Curtail Coconut-Caused Concussions

Never park yourself under a coconut palm on a beach or elsewhere. Never park your car there, either. Falling coconuts kill 150 people every year and injure a lot more. That's 30 times more people than are killed by sharks. Don't hang out under coconut palms and you'll be fine....

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## 12. Crime Updates & Precautions

Despite the headlines, the Dutch Side and all of SXM is a pretty safe place. At the same time, it's paradise - not Utopia. So watch your surroundings, stay out of dark areas at night, do not flash lots of gold chains or money, and never put anything valuable in your car's trunk or on the back seat....

More: [Crime in St. Maarten / St. Martin](#)

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## 13. Climate Change: Its Future Impact on SXM

Most people - seeing glaciers melt, viewing satellite images of the tremendous shrinking ice sheet in Greenland and at the North Pole, and other huge weather changes - now recognize that climate change is a reality, not a political football.

Six years ago, a gadfly SXM website, SXM Private Eye (no longer operating), produced a stunning video showing SXM as it was more than 100 years ago, as it is today, and as it will be if climate change proceeds unimpeded. It's a stark look at an immense global challenge.

As world officials conclude their momentous climate meetings in Paris, it's a perfect time to look again at this



important, haunting video: <https://vimeo.com/4943920>

Please share with your friends.

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## 14. Getting a Perfect All-Over Tan

SXM has a number of beaches where you can tan all over -- some legally, some not, but all are "covered" on the Beaches page on our site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com).

When we were at Orient Beach in front of naturist Club Orient on Wednesday, there were lots of newbies. No matter: at Orient you're among friends and everything is easy, mon. Wear what you want (or don't want). Just bring sunscreen since the tropical sun is quite strong and can burn you, even in Winter. Use sunscreen liberally especially where your body has not previously seen the sun.

Guys who worry that their happiness at being there will become physically obvious (and their girlfriends), [look here](#).

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## 15. Island Tours With The Party Bus Experts

The St. Maarten Party Bus does many different things. In fact, its new van (just added, hitting the road soon) brings Party Bus fun to smaller groups and to intimate parties....

If you have a less-than-bus-size group and want to party, contact the folks at the St. Maarten Party Bus. Most of their certified drivers are either full-time firefighters working a second job or are retired military. They know their stuff and want to make your party memorable and fun. They're also island experts. Call [The Party Bus](#) and see what happens.

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## 16. Check Out Our Top Car Rental Partners

For nearly 20 years, we've recommended [Tropical Car Rental](#). They're one of several companies offering good-size discounts to our JMB Website Supporters members.

Tropical has undergone huge changes in the past year as its owners, the Baker Family, bring the venerable car rental company to the same high award-winning standards enjoyed by its sister company, the Baker's Suites boutique all-suites hotel in Simpson Bay.

The top manager of Tropical is Renaldo Baker, who is single-mindedly upgrading everything in the company. The staff is knowledgeable and highly responsive, and the cars -- almost all of them now -- are new. There are very few "older" cars saved for longer-term renters who prefer them.

New to our members last year, woman-owned [Leisure Car Rental](#) offers substantial discounts, a location that's literally a stone's throw from the airport, and highly responsive service.

Learn more about these and our other car rental partners and the deep rental discounts they offer to JMB members on our members-only Secret Website. Log in using the orange login box below the masthead at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com).

Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

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## 17. Baker's Suites Gets High Marks on TripAdvisor, Adds Continental

## Breakfasts

Baker's Suites, the new all-suites boutique hotel in Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort, has earned rave reviews and lots of awards since it opened just shy of two years ago. New from the ground up, Baker's offers all the amenities you expect plus very reasonable pricing and a walk-to-the-beach Simpson Bay location.

They've won lots of Awards already including many accolades on TripAdvisor and our own Everything St. Maarten Awards of Excellence (twice).

Two important points, in response to many requests:

First, they are increasing the number of rooms offered for longer-term stays (a couple of weeks or more) at very competitive prices.

And second, they just finalized and are about to implement free Continental breakfasts for all registered guests. Good stuff - now you can stay right in the building and enjoy a delicious complementary Continental breakfast.

Learn much more on their site: [www.bakerssuites.com](http://www.bakerssuites.com). See our Secret Website for discounts that apply exclusively to JMB members. Still not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

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## 18. Deep Sea Fishing

One of the most experienced deep sea fishing captains in the Caribbean is Rudy Sierens, whose "Rudy's Deep Sea Fishing" has long been prominent in Simpson Bay. Regardless of whether you're experienced or never fished before, Rudy is fully prepared to take you on an excursion that will be a highlight of your trip. See <http://www.rudysdeepseafishing.com/> for details.

Special low members-only rates apply to JMB Website Supporters members. See the Secret Site for details. Still not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

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## 19. Lagoon Sunset Cruise & The Famous Celine Too On-the-Water Pub Crawl

Although Capt. Neil Roebert's Celine catamaran, which holds fond memories for thousands of *SXM Weekly News* readers, succumbed to the depths of Simpson Bay Lagoon during Hurricane Gonzalo, those memories are being rekindled daily by Neil's Celine Too catamaran / motor yacht. Nearby twice as big as the Celine, Celine Too is sleek, luxurious, smooth, and it cuts through moderate seas calmly and comfortably.

Everything the Celine did, the Celine Too seems to do even better. Last year it was at sea every day during the Heineken Regatta, giving voyagers a beautiful front-row seat. Celine Too does our weekly 50% off lagoon sunset cruises for JMB members, a prime feature of many members' vacations. The Pub Crawl delivers a "very fun" on the water experience for all, regardless of whether you imbibe.

See [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) for more. For your JMB discounts, see the Secret Site. Still not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

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## 20. Celine Too's "Friday Fun Sail"

If you love the tropics and love the sun (who doesn't?) then the Celine Too's Friday Fun Sail is for you.

A staple of Captain Neil Roebert for many years, the trip starts with a light breakfast, after which the Celine Too

glides under the new Simpson Bay Lagoon Causeway and through the French Side drawbridge. Then it's at sea in the Anguilla channel as the boat heads north and northeast over to Tintamarre, the storied home of a small airfield (which you'll see) and a purported stop for German U-boats during World War II.

There you'll spend time lounging on shore (clothing optional) and / or exploring the island yourself... it's quite an enjoyable uninhabited island.

Back aboard the motor yacht there's a gourmet lunch made by Captain Neil himself, an accomplished cook. The boat then stops at Creole Rock, a snorkeling place off the island's NW coast, then Happy Bay for more clothing-optional swimming or relaxing, then back through the French Side drawbridge around sunset. All in all an amazing day.

See [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) for more. For your JMB discounts, see the Secret Site. Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

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## 21. Restaurant of The Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano

We first met owner Davide Foini almost 15 years ago at "La Raviolina," his tiny original restaurant in Sandy Ground, French Side, where he also manufactured pasta for many island businesses.

A few years later, he opened his gourmet Italian restaurant La Gondola at Atlantis Casino, where Chef Marco Ferrante was his right arm.

Later, Davide sold La Gondola and opened iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay, where he continues that tradition of fine dining perfectionism in a lively, hip, fun ambiance that has made it an enduring hotspot for tourists and locals alike.

Listen for the specials: they are an expression of the finest culinary art. Tell Davide or Marco we sent you: it's one of the most enjoyable spots on the island.

See past Restaurant of the Week below. Most of the listed restaurants offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members; see the Secret Site for details. We'll cover another restaurant here next week. Sill not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits at great Holiday Sale prices: see story 7 for details.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 12/14/15)

Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 3/23/15)

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 6/15/15)

Cugini (12/7/15)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 5/11/15)

Daniel's By The Sea, [www.dawnbeachsxm.com](http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com) (featured 11/16/15)

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 8/11/14)

Spiga, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 2/23/15)

Fusion, [www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com](http://www.fusionrestaurant-sxm.com) (featured 1/26/15)

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 4/28/14)

Stone Restaurant, [www.thestonerestaurant.com](http://www.thestonerestaurant.com) (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 7/6/15)

Temptation, <http://www.rareandtemptation.com/EN/temptation/>

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 1/19/15)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 2/23/15)

Island Pizza, <http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com> (featured 5/18/15)

Pineapple Pete, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 2/2/15)

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/4/15)

Coconut Grove (formerly SPN Cafe), <http://www.pineapplepete.com/sport.html> (featured 8/18/14)

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach; follow the car path from the far side of Ocean Club to get there). (featured 4/27/2015)

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 11/10/14)

Topper's / Topper's By The Sea <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 6/29/15)

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15)

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

Sushiitto Japanese Restaurant, Port de Plaisance <https://www.facebook.com/sushiitto.sxm> (featured 1/12/15)

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## 22. Where to Find The Best Authentic Italian Thin-Crust Pizza

Island Pizza at Mr. Busby's Beach Bar has what we think is the best thin-crust pizza on SXM. Using authentic recipes from Italy, they make it from scratch using only the finest ingredients. One taste and you'll understand. See [their website](#) (an all new website debuts soon) .

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## 23. Reminder: No JMB Membership Card, No Discounts or Benefits in SXM

JMB members who don't have their valid JMB Website Supporters membership card will not be able to get any discounts in St. Maarten or St. Martin. We've told this to our partners across the island and we're also nearly finished modifying all of our discount vouchers to reflect that *they must be used with a valid JMB Website Supporters membership card*. Bring your card: no discounts without it.

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## 24. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 12/12/15)

Here are newly updated questions and answers about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. *It's a life-saving flight that could easily cost you upwards of \$45,000 in cash in advance without SkyMed. Thousands of you have bought it through us.* To learn more, see [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

### **Q. What's so special about SkyMed? Aren't these companies all the same?**

A. *Not by a long shot.* Most other programs take you to "the nearest appropriate facility," *not* home like SkyMed. If you're in SXM, that means *SkyMed competitors* would likely take you to Puerto Rico. Some others also raise prices after you reach a certain age. Or they cancel you on a particular birthday, or cancel your membership when you get sick. *SkyMed does none of that.* Sign up for SkyMed today and when you reach age 109 you pay the same price as everyone else. Once you're a member, there's no age or health discrimination -- as long as you pay your membership fee you're good to go. (Applies to all annual and longer memberships. Short-term memberships, lasting only a few days, require medical requalification when you buy another.)

### **Q. What other evacuation-related services do you offer besides the evacuation itself?**

There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are quite important. You'll find them on our downloadable SkyMed Benefits PDF, now on our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) page.

### **Q. Wait - you mean they don't cancel me if I get really sick?**

A. *No, they don't.* Once you're a member, as long as you continue to pay your membership fee your membership continues regardless of your health or age, if you buy an annual or multiyear membership and keep it in force. SkyMed does not throw you out if you get sick. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will need to reapply to determine if you're still medically acceptable -- so just don't let it lapse.

### **Q. I have a few medical issues and I'm in my 70s. Does SkyMed only accept people in phenomenal health?**

A. In its brief application process, completed online or by phone or in person with a rep, SkyMed asks for your name, DOB, current Rx medications, medical conditions, and hospitalizations in the last six months. It also asks where you want to be transported when you need an emergency medical evacuation. It now also requests your passport number to help expedite customs / immigration should you require an international medical evacuation flight. *The vast, vast majority of applicants are readily accepted.* You do not have to be in "phenomenal" health at all. By the way: if you travel very little and only for short periods, you can apply for SkyMed's short-term

memberships. They cover all pre-existing conditions without exclusion.

**Q. We stay away for weeks at a time. Do we have to tell SkyMed where we're going?**

A. No, you don't. As long as you're home in the US or Canada more than six months per year, you're fine. If you spend more than half of each year away (in aggregate), then you're considered an expatriate (ex-pat) and would need a program custom-tailored for ex-pats because you're away a majority of the time and that means you represent increased exposure. That program is called X-Pat - the program for American and Canadian expatriates living overseas. Even as an ex-pat living in SXM, you can still be transported back to your city of choice in the USA or Canada.

**Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?**

A. Yes, right away for short-term memberships and after just a 90 day waiting period for all memberships lasting a year or longer. To make sure you're covered for everything when you travel, including pre-existing conditions, just buy your annual or multi-year Ultimate SkyMed membership more than 90 days ahead of your initial date of travel.

**Q. Do you require a physical exam for renewal or when I reach a certain age?**

A. No, SkyMed requires neither. Once you join and buy an annual or multiyear membership, we'll renew it every year upon payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership on time. You can be age 109 and still be protected by your SkyMed membership.

**Q. I seldom travel now. Do you have short-term plans?**

A. Yes, at about \$18/day per family or about \$9/day for singles. Since they only last a specified number of days, they end when the term of coverage ends. If you want another short-term plan later, you must apply again and medically requalify. Annual plans cost roughly \$1.30/day for your entire family (parents and minor kids); plans for singles are less. *Annual* and multiyear plans are renewable without medical requalification, assuming they haven't lapsed.

**Q. I'm from Canada. May I join SkyMed? I have to get back to my province if I'm seriously ill or my health insurance won't work.**

A. Both Americans and Canadians are eligible to join SkyMed. American and Canadian ex-pats living overseas also are eligible.

**Q. What types of policies are there?**

A. SkyMed Memberships (often called policies by members though they actually are memberships) come in several flavors: short term, for people who travel little and for short durations; "annual" for people who want full-year protection that is guaranteed renewable for life when you pay the membership fee on time regardless of age or health at the time of renewal; and Ultimate multiyear memberships which offer low annual cost, maximum benefits, and global coverage and are also renewable for life regardless of age or health when membership fees are paid on time.

**Q. Which membership gives the biggest bang for the buck?**

You clearly get the most for the least with our three-year or five-year Ultimate memberships. Coverage is global, guaranteed renewable, and can not be cancelled due to increasing age or declining health - ever. You'll also pay the same fee as all other members -- there's never an increase related to your personal health or advancing age. Annual memberships are upgradeable to Ultimates at any time.

**Q. Is there a best time to buy?**

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, buy it before you need it! Now is a particularly good time because JMB is offering special benefits and discounts; see next story. Those incentives won't be around forever.

**Q. Where does SkyMed provide service?**

A. SkyMed plans are focused on members' needs. Most members travel within about 34 countries so SkyMed's basic plans cover all those countries: the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica.

On annual plans you can buy a \$100 annual rider to cover the rest of the world. SkyMed's "Ultimate" plans,

available in three- and five-year version, include coverage worldwide except for places you'd probably not want to visit anyway -- such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, North Korea, and Afghanistan, to name some.

SkyMed *Takes You Home*<sup>TM</sup>; What else matters?

For more, see [skymed.com/jmbspecial](http://skymed.com/jmbspecial) (JMB members) or [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) (non-JMB members) or email Jeff Berger directly at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed. If you include your phone number, he'll call you about SkyMed as well, to answer any questions you may have including all pricing options. You can also call SkyMed directly (in Scottsdale AZ, Mountain standard time year round.) Their number is 1-800-475-9633; ask for Nan. If you're a JMB member, say so and have your membership card ready, *All multiyear plans offer major discounts to JMB members.*

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## 25. Our Double SkyMed Bonus

### ----- SkyMed On Sale: Lots of Life-Saving Benefits, Low Cost -----

If you've been thinking about buying SkyMed but just haven't done it, this is the time.

SkyMed takes you home when you become critically ill or injured while traveling — home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust. With rare exceptions, your medical insurance from the US or Canada isn't valid in St. Maarten. Credit Card evacuation programs take you to the nearest appropriate facility; what good is that? There is also no trauma center in SXM, and the sophisticated medical care available at leading US and Canadian hospitals is not present in St. Maarten / St. Martin. So if you become critically ill or injured, you really do need to get home to the US or Canada and that's exactly where SkyMed takes you.

*Thanks to this sale, that has now become a whole lot easier. Here's why:*

First, for every year of SkyMed medical evacuation protection you buy from us during the sale, you get an equivalent year of JMB Website Supporters membership free, on us, which brings you an increasing spectrum of benefits and discounts, soon to number close to 250. If you are already a JMB member, we will extend your membership on us for a number of years equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership. If you are not a JMB member and buy SkyMed through us, we will establish a JMB Website Supporters membership for you equal to your new or upgraded SkyMed membership's duration of one year or more.

SkyMed costs next to nothing when you buy it for a few days (less than \$18/day per family), or it costs \$499 for a family plan covering an entire year. *The critically important advantage of buying yearly coverage is that you are covered for as long as you continue to renew your membership regardless of your age or health at the time of the renewal.* Buy a "short term" plan for a week or so, and you must requalify medically every time you re-apply for another short-term plan.

That same crucial benefit also applies if you get a SkyMed three-year or five-year "Ultimate" membership, the best they offer. (It's also what Jeff has had for a number of years).

The SkyMed Ultimate normally sells for a three-year or a five-year term. One critical advantage of the Ultimate — besides the fact that it covers you around virtually the entire world — is that you are covered in case the price of crude oil makes a U-turn and starts skyrocketing again; jet fuel is a big part of the cost of a medical evacuation. A five-year Ultimate membership will cost you either \$59 per month per family, or much less in total if you prepay it and are a JMB Website Supporters member.

For a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us (or \$59/month) — and remember, because of the bonus we mentioned above, when you sign up we will also give you a five-year JMB membership *enabling you to save that \$1000 on a five year Ultimate membership. That discount is not available to non JMB members.*

For contact info (answers to questions about SkyMed), see the last paragraph of the previous story.

*When you sign up for the bonus SkyMed memberships shown above, email [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com) and tell us. We'll verify the signup and that it is through us, then process your JMB membership extension bonus. But do it soon... this won't last forever.*



## 26. We're Giving Away Eight SXM Vacations... and Tons More

There has been a huge increase in what you can get in our eight vacation giveaway, which occurs next March and celebrates us surpassing 4.5 million visits to everythingSXM.com.

Here are our vacation prizes:

- [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#);
- [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- [La Vista or La Vista Beach](#)
- [Summit Resort](#)
- [Baker's Suites](#)
- [Club Fantastico](#)
- [Hotel L'Esplanade](#) OR [Le Petit Hotel](#) OR [Blue Pelican](#)
- [Simpson Bay Resort](#)

Here are our newest items:

- Dinner for two at [Mario's Bistro](#), Porto Cupecoy
- Dinner for Two at [Temptation](#), Cupecoy Beach
- Dinner for Two at Big Fish, Oyster Pond
- Dinner for two at [Spiga](#), Grand Case
- Dinner for two at [Le Pressoir](#), Grand Case
- Dinner for two at [Beau Beaus](#) (Oyster Bay Beach Resort)
- Dinner for two at Infinity (OBBR)
- Dinner for two at Sushitto
- Dinner for two at [Pineapple Pete](#)
- Dinner for two at [Daniel's by the Sea](#)
- Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry
- Dinner for two at [Toppers](#)
- Dinner for two at [Toppers By The Sea](#)
- Dinner for two at [Vesna Taverna](#)
- Dinner for two at [Fusion Restaurant](#), Simpson Bay
- Dinner for two at [iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay
- Massage from [Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies](#), the island's most sought-after massage therapist

More prizes may be coming.

We'll draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio in March. After we give away all eight vacations, we'll call the winners back randomly. The first person picked gets our selection of some of the prizes above; that will be our first-runner-up prize. The second person called at random will get our Grand Prize, which has our selection of dinners and other prizes.

As always, anyone who doesn't answer loses and will not be called back again.

Enter here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting\\_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-vacation-giveaway.shtml)

Full rules are on the page.

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## 27. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page

Our [Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site](#), which has been around for several years, covers SXM happenings in words and pictures from its thousands of users and enables people to ask questions, get answers, post trip reports, etc. We also post things there between issues of *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 28. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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## 29. Tech Talk: Protecting Systems When Traveling

Whenever you buy any laptop or other portable computing system, make sure you protect it when traveling. There are three ways:

First, make sure you use a power-on password. Some people don't and without it, all the data on your computer is at risk.

Second, when buying a system, be sure it has a Kensington-type lock input. Buy a lock with a four-digit combination; for years some three-digit locks failed at a high rate.

Third, get GadgetTrak: it is the "LoJack" of system retrieval services. Silently and dependably, it tracks your system regardless of where you go and emails you both a report on its exact location (latitude / longitude) and a picture of whoever is trying to use it. Give that info to the police and you're highly likely to get your laptop back. And yes, it certainly does work in SXM. Very good and not expensive.

Index of all past Tech Talk stories (alphabetical):

Backing Up #1010  
Defragmentation #1006  
Malware: Stopping Malware in its Tracks #1011  
Power Options #1022  
Shutdown: #1020  
Slow Systems - How To Fix Them #1012  
System Maintenance Programs (Free) #1021  
System Restore #1019  
Travel Protection #1023  
Uninterruptable Power Supplies #1007  
Windows 10 #1005

Access these stories in the issue # noted above in our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives pages, here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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### Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_xsm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml) .

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2015 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

### Meet Our Sponsors (updated 9/27/13) Returns Next Issue

#### **SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)**

A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad: See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .

#### **SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)** Updated 10/18/15

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

## CONTACT US

JMB Website Supporters members wishing to contact us should visit the secret site, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret), for detailed JMB Website Supporters information. JMB members can email us at support[at]jmbcommunications.com. If you have misplaced your password, you can get a new one by clicking the orange "forgot password" link below the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 9/7/13)

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> You CAN NOT unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the \*spam\* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit <http://everythingxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi>, select \*2015-16 St. Maarten Weekly News\* list, and follow the unsubscribe instructions. Then, subscribe your new email address. JMB Website Supporters members no longer need to notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access. We'll be notified automatically.

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<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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12/14/15 #1023 12/11 6am AST 7.8

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