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#1032 --- Monday, 2/15/2016 -- 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)

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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, Note, and Android Users

This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of 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.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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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 (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks).

*In This Week's SXM Weekly News:*

- Why It's Important to Renew Your Passport Now**
- Our "FlyTravelGo" Travel Website Lets You Easily Compare Fares, Buy What's Best**
- Democrats Introduce Bill To Force Airlines to Provide Adequate Seat Pitch; What It Could Mean**
- Grapevine: Francesco Corallo Looking To Buy Sapphire Resort**
- Where To Rent or Buy an SXM Timeshare -- and How Much to Ask**
- Last Few Days -- Buy One Get One Free Membership Sale Ends Monday Feb. 15**
- Oyster Bay Beach Resort to Install Skimmers To Remove Seaweed**
- La Bamba Beach Bar, Kim Sha Beach, Demolished by the Dutch Side Government**
- Port de Plaisance Owner Files Injunction, May Have Designs on Kim Sha Beach**
- Orient Beach Sees Progress, But It's Complicated**
- More Than 200 Boats Set To Compete in Heineken Regatta**
- "Flowers R Us" Offers Discount to All Current JMB Website Supporters Members**
- The Sheer Beauty of Baie Lucas**
- Kids Activities on SXM (for School Vacation Weeks)**
- Traveling This Spring Or Summer? How To Handle SkyMed's 90-Day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion**

- [Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection](#)
- [Questions & Answers about SkyMed Medical Evacuation](#)
- [We're Giving Away Ten SXM Vacations... and Tons More](#)
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[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:**

Not in archives.

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

Not in archives.

### **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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**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) .

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**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. Why It's Important to Renew Your Passport Now

About 10 years ago, the U. S. government began requiring all U. S. citizens traveling in the Caribbean and elsewhere to obtain and carry U. S. passports. The result was chaos since millions of people applied for passports, overwhelming the government's processing capabilities. Huge delays resulted.

Now, all those passports are coming up for renewal -- so a glut of renewals is about to begin. The State Department says processing time will be about six weeks. So if your passport is about to expire, get it renewed. Most local post offices have the paperwork you need, and many can do passport photos as can AAA offices.

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#### 2. Our "FlyTravelGo" Travel Website Lets You Easily Compare Fares, Buy What's Best

Our [flytravelgo.com](http://flytravelgo.com) website has been redesigned to give you clear preferences when you buy airfare. Now, you can quickly and easily select what's important to you: getting there fast with a minimum number of stops (or none); price; specific airline; time of day. The site also lets you look at fares for specific dates or nearby dates, which may save you money.

FlyTravelGo has become a favorite of many of our readers and their families and friends. Check it out at [www.flytravelgo.com](http://www.flytravelgo.com).

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### 3. Where to Find Current Weather Observations & Forecasts

Go to [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- the current SXM weather forecast is on our home page and on our Weather page; you can click those links for detailed forecasts. Our Weather page also includes many constantly updated satellite images and radar loops for SXM and the Caribbean. .

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### 4. Bill Introduced To Force Airlines to Provide Adequate Seat Pitch; What It Could Mean

As we previously reported, jetBlue is renovating all its cabins to add larger video screens, smaller bathrooms, and less seat pitch -- 32 inches instead of 34 in some seats. But it quickly adds that it is replacing heavy old thick-back seating with thinner, lighter, but more comfortable seating that consumes less space. Bottom line, it says, is that it will be able to sell more seats without sacrificing "the jetBlue experience" or the "most room in coach" it has long offered.

JetBlue is among the best in passenger cabin roominess. Spirit is among the worst and American has been bad for years, after it reversed its "more room in coach" campaign a number of years ago.

Cramped aircraft cabins generating thousands of complaints led a member of Congress to introduce legislation to remedy the long-festering problem. Here's that report: <http://tinyurl.com/jm2dgnm>

If the bill passes, what may it mean? Less cramped cabins most likely, but also higher airfares since fewer passengers may fit on airplanes if carriers don't want to use the Jet Blue type of renovations.

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

### 5. Grapevine: Francesco Corallo Looking To Buy Sapphire Resort

The owner of Starz and other casinos in SXM and elsewhere, Francesco Corallo, is said to be seriously interested in buying embattled Sapphire Beach Resort in Cupecoy beach as well, the rumors say, as neighboring Ocean Club and undeveloped property across the street from both resorts near Blue Mall.

Bruno Sitbon, who as we previously reported is fighting Sapphire developers / owners Philippe and Jean Verdier in court for control of Sapphire, heard about this rumor recently and asked Corallo about it. The Sitbon family says that Corallo has denied the rumor.

The Sitbons also said that while ownership of the resort is being contested in court, the Verdiers are enjoined from selling it to any third parties.

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### 6. Where To Rent or Buy an SXM Timeshare -- and How Much to Ask if You're The Seller

If you want a SXM timeshare condo for a fraction of what the resort would charge, buy directly from the timeshare owner -- not the resort. Go to our [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) and click Timeshare Rentals / Sales and you'll find hundreds of them. Most are for sale for far less than the timeshare owner paid, and way less than you'd pay the resort.

We also accept ads only from our JMB Website Supporters members, people who are not strangers to us.

If you're the seller, how much should you ask? Look at the hundreds of ads on our page and keep your prices competitive with others for the same size unit at the same resort.

N. B., despite total renovations, prices at Simpson Bay Resort remain depressed. In the resale market weeks are plentiful and they may currently offer the best bang for the buck.

## **SECTION 3: Island**

### **7. Last Few Days -- Buy One Get One Free Membership Sale Ends Monday Feb. 15**

When you buy a new BOGO membership, BOGO renew your current membership, or BOGO reinstate a former JMB membership you get a new one year membership *for someone special living at a different address*. Click the links below for details. When you do this you look good; your friends benefit; and it costs you nothing extra.

What You Get:

- A growing list of nearly 260 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).
- A free one-year "BOGO" membership for a friend or relative not living with you
- Buy Now: Use Your Discounts & Benefits on Your Next Trip
- Ends Monday 2/15/16

New memberships:

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

Renewal memberships:

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

Membership Reinstatements:

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

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### **8. Valentines Day Jewelry Specials for JMB Website Supporters Members**

Hand-picked Valentines Day special jewelry offers at Black Friday-like extraordinary price points were emailed to all JMB Website Supporters members. Offers are from Caribbean Gems, Zhaveri Jewelers, and Oro Diamonte. All offers require you to provide your JMB Membership Card info (membership number and expiration date). Valid current cards only can be accepted. All offers are subject to reasonable limitations. Supplies are ample but offers are first come, first served.

If you missed the mailing, go here: <http://www.jmbcommunications.com/VDay2016.pdf> Not a member? See story #7.

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### **9. Oyster Bay Beach Resort to Install Skimmers To Remove Seaweed**

Oyster Bay Beach Resort chief honcho Ricardo Perez says the resort has ordered and will soon install booms/skimmers well away from shore to keep sargasso seaweed off its part of dawn beach.

The devices, designed specifically to combat invasive sargasso seaweed, include vacuum technology to gather and suck the seaweed and pump it to shore for gathering and disposition.

Although some large sea turtles nest on dawn beach, they are historically seen at its southern end, far from Oyster Bay.

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### **10. La Bamba Beach Bar, Kim Sha Beach, Demolished by the Dutch Side Government**

The La Bamba saga / soap opera continues.

First it was open on Kim Sha Beach between Royal Palm and Atrium Resorts. Then the government sold land it owned on which La Bamba was situated to a business owned by Sudi Ozkan, the Turkish billionaire who owns Princess Port de Plaisance Resort, in return to Ozkan giving land near its resort to the government for a sewage treatment plant. La Bamba was told to get out and it did, going to Soggy Dollar in Simpson Bay.

Then it gets complicated, but La Bamba reopened on land adjacent to its old location on Kim Sha beach. A government change seems to have voided the land swap. So there La Bamba was on what the government apparently thinks is *its* land. The government doesn't like things like that so it gave a few hours notice then bulldozed the place and removed all the resulting debris. We're told nothing's left.

Meanwhile, Sudi (remember him?) through his company went to court to fight the current government coalition to keep the land swap in place. That's where it stands right now, but see the next story.

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## 11. Port de Plaisance Owner Files Injunction, May Have Designs on Kim Sha Beach

As you read in story #10, Turkish billionaire and Port de Plaisance resort owner Sudi Ozkan through one of his companies is in court to stop the SXM government from reversing a land swap agreed to by the predecessor Dutch Side government. The agreement it likes is one which gives it a few acres on the beach.

Word on the street is that Ozkan wants to build a hotel on the public Kim Sha beach between Atrium and Royal Palm, which is exactly the site that the proposed American Clinic "medical tourism" project was eyeing a few years ago. If anyone thought he wanted the land for a family picnic, they don't know much about Sudi Ozkan. A high-end hotel was also an integral part of the American Clinic proposal. We may be witnessing an interesting chess game here.

Ozkan also owns the currently undeveloped land abutting Cupecoy Beach opposite Blue Mall and has supposedly been trying to sell that to a private developer as well. If he does, it will likely make access to that very popular clothing-optional beach quite problematic.

He could also develop that property himself....

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[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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## 12. Minister Emile Lee of Princess Heights Calls for Dutch/French Hospital Cooperation

Emile Lee, who heads Princess Heights Luxury Boutique Suites Hotel on the hill opposite the Westin Dawn Beach, was elected a while back and became part of the new Dutch Side government. His portfolio: health. (Why it wasn't tourism is beyond us.)

He's doing a great job, most recently calling for cooperation between the Dutch and French Sides to offer superior hospital care on the island. Right now it is not widely regarded as superior.

Instead of competing, he suggests health facilities on both sides of the "small" island work together to share top-quality resources. We hear health care in Holland is top-drawer and that a key member of the Dutch Parliament agreed recently to help the Dutch Side build a quality new hospital facility. The current St. Maarten Medical Center has too few specialists, too few rooms, outdated facilities, etc. It is not a trauma center and Americans visiting it say



it does not compete at all with the quality of American healthcare.

We'll keep you posted.

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### 13. Orient Beach Sees Progress, But It's Complicated

The squabbling between prospective and actual tenants of orient beach's new buildings continues. Several places are open, others are empty, and nobody seems to be happy. The Collectivite has yet to address the €2500/month rents that are regarded as outrageous by tenants.

Meanwhile, the Collectivite is upset that some tenants have erected new structures on their deck resembling the old demolished shacks -- apparently without permission. It is not threatening to demolish them (as the Dutch Side would do) but it does say it wants them to get permission.

Note to the Collectivite: for paying you €2500/month rents, you should be kissing your tenants' butts instead of making it nearly impossible for them to do business. Make it easy for them to do business; that's what effective governments do. That way everyone wins....

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### 14. A New Source of French Pastry Near Super U

Au Pain Gourmand is excellent... but much of the day, expect long lines. The later you go the less they have. It's a 50-foot walk from the Super U pedestrian exit.

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### 15. More Than 200 Boats Set To Compete in Heineken Regatta

Another big Heineken Regatta is shaping up on the island, once again with over 200 competing boats. The early March event is the single biggest week of the Dutch Side's tourist season. For more, click "Media" at [www.heinekenregatta.com](http://www.heinekenregatta.com).

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### 16. "Flowers R Us" Offers Discounts to All Current JMB Website Supporters Members

"Flowers R Us," the florist on the second floor of Carrefour Market in Cole Bay, is now offering a percentage discount to current JMB Website Supporters members on all purchases of \$80 or more. We've used them several times and they do great work. Go in the front door of Carrefour and immediately turn right and go upstairs to the florist. We'll post a voucher for the new discount shortly but in any case your current, valid JMB Website Supporters Membership Card must be shown with a government-issued photo ID to verify that you're a member entitled to this discount.

Great stuff for Valentine's Day...

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### 17. Where to Hike in SXM

Get one of cartographer Michal Kasproski's SXM roadmaps either directly at discount (see the Secret Site) or from Van Dorp in Simpson Bay at retail. His latest maps feature hiking trails across the island. One of the best is at the rugged shoreline in Guana Bay.

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## 18. The Sheer Beauty of Baie Lucas

One of the most naturally breathtaking stretches of coastline on this island is Baie Lucas, just north of Oyster Bay on the French Side of the island. Stretching from Oyster Pond northward along the coast, the road passes by the bay, by the Embouchure Bay observation deck, and ultimately to the village of Orleans on the French Side where there's a very busy little bakery near the main road to Orient.

Bring your camera... lots to see here.

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## 19. SXM Horseback Riding

There are many spots offering it, but one we'd suggest is the stable next to the Butterfly Farm in the Orient area. Main reason: location. You'll follow a neat shoreline route that's beautiful and fun for you, your friends, and seemingly the horses as well. Check it out.

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## 20. Kids Activities on SXM (for School Vacation Weeks)

- a) Butterfly Farm, Orient Bay off the road to Club Orient; go early for the most activity and wear brightly colored clothing.
  - b) Carousel, Simpson Bay; great Ice Cream and the island's only working carousel. Opens early afternoon.
  - c) [The St. Maarten Party Bus](#), Dutch Side; great fun for the whole family on their daytime island tours.
  - d) Loterie Farm, off Pic Paradis Road, French Side north of Marigot; very scenic area, pool, natural restaurant, zipline, wild monkeys (sometimes).
  - e) Maho Beach, Dutch Side, watch planes land. Not suitable for very young children who could have the daylightscared out of them by very low approaching aircraft.
  - f) See <http://www.stmaarten-activities.com/en/> for hundreds more family discounts from Aqua Mania. See the Secret Site; our JMB members get discounts on all Aqua Mania activities. The code you need is on the Secret Site. You'll also need your JMB Website Supporters current, valid Membership Card when claiming your discounts. No valid Membership Card and photo ID, no discounts.
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## 21. Restaurant of the Week: See Our List Below

This feature returns next week. See past Restaurant of the Week selections 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. Still not a member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see story 13.

- Big Fish Restaurant [www.bigfishsxm.com/](http://www.bigfishsxm.com/) (featured 2/8/16)
- IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 12/14/15)
- Canoa, [www.canoasxm.com](http://www.canoasxm.com) (featured 2/1/16)
- 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 12/21/15)
- 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 1/25/16)  
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, Maho complex at Le Terasse  
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. Traveling This Spring Or Summer? How To Handle SkyMed's 90-Day Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion

SkyMed "Takes You Home"(R) one-year and multi-year memberships include a 90-day waiting period for pre-existing conditions. Most members want to be sure any pre-existing conditions are covered when they travel so... if you are traveling 90 days or more into the future .. get SkyMed now so when you're ready to go, everything is covered. Got questions? Email [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com). If you want us to call you to talk SkyMed over, include your phone number and best time to call as well as your time zone (for Americans, Canadians, and ex pats only.)

For details right now, see [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com).

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## 23. Age Is No Deterrent to Getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection

SkyMed has no upper age limit on applications for its medical evacuation protection. It does not matter if you're 89 -- apply anyway, there is no charge for unsuccessful applications. SkyMed Takes You Home(R) to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. See [www.getskymed.com](http://www.getskymed.com) for more but read the next few articles; they answer many questions. You can also contact Jeff for more info at [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com).

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## 24. Questions & Answers About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 1/8/16)

Here are constantly 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. 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. Will SkyMed accept me?**

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.

**Q. We travel 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. What is the maximum age for applying for membership?**

A. No maximum *at all*. Apply away.

**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. And 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. Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?**

The basic SkyMed "Takes You Home™" plan covers you in the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. The Ultimate membership covers you globally through SkyMed Global -- or you can add a global rider to annual memberships (at \$100/year) which adds rest-of-the-world coverage, also through SkyMed Global. SkyMed does not cover countries where there are open hostilities - - Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, North Korea, etc.

SkyMed Takes You Home®; 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@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.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.** Please tell them you're calling because you heard about them from Jeff Berger.

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## 25. Got Other SkyMed Questions? Here's Where to Ask

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email [jeff@getskymed.com](mailto:jeff@getskymed.com) and Jeff will get back to you. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch.

SkyMed Takes You Home® - what else matters?

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## 26. Our New \*Triple\* 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. *See below for how this works.*

Second, for a five-year SkyMed Ultimate, non JMB members pay \$3495 in advance; JMB members pay only \$2495 through us for the family plan (or only \$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.* So... the #2 advantage of buying through us is low cost, no matter how you buy.

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

*Third: 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.*

The third benefit: a dream vacation. Email us after you're signed up through us and for a limited time SkyMed will give you a vacation for a small fraction of its usual cost. (Oyster Bay Beach Resort is one of their vacation sites.)

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## 27. We're Giving Away Ten SXM Vacations... and Tons More

Here's a complete list of everything we're giving away as of now -- the list has grown since you last saw it:

Vacation prizes (almost all are eight days / seven nights):

- [Club Orient](#) Naturist Resort, Orient Beach (Must be taken May, 2016)
- [Mary's Boon Beach Resort](#);
- [Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#);
- [La Vista or La Vista Beach](#)
- [Summit Resort](#)
- [Baker's Suites](#)
- [Club Fantastico](#) (Naturist)
- [Hotel L'Esplanade](#) OR [Le Petit Hotel](#) OR [Blue Pelican](#)
- [Simpson Bay Resort](#)
- El Zafiro Boutique Hotel, Restaurant, and Bar, Simpson Bay (new)

Here are our newest items:

- Sunset Cruise for Two aboard the [Classic Schooner Passaat](#)
- One-week car rental (Hyundai i10 or equivalent) from [Leisure Car Rental](#)
- 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
- NEW Dinner for two at The Palms Restaurant, Simpson Bay
- Massage from [Tricia Altenau of AIA Massage Therapies](#), the island's most sought-after massage therapist

To enter:

We'll draw the vacation winners live on the air on Island 92 radio on March 21. After we give away all 10 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 prize winner. 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 again. *You must give us a phone number you can answer regardless of where you are when we call.*

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 that page.

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## 28. 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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## 29. 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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### 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\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/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.

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### 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)

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

See [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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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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