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#1070 --- Monday, 10/31/2016 News From St. Maarten / St. Martin



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Webite Login

Member News (New)

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com

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to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is a <u>send-only</u> email address. For Contact info, see <u>#Contact Us</u> at the end of this newsletter.

Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten and St. Martin "SXM" 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 close to 280,000 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



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

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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:

In This Week's SXM Weekly News:

- -- KLM's 747's Epic Last Visit to SXM Gets Huge Audience, Fanfare
- -- Entry Form For Our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway is In This Issue
- -- Lee's Roadside Grill May Disappear from Its Simpson Bay Location
- -- Just How Long Will Cupecoy Beach Last?
- -- SXM's Beaches Are Shrinking; Is Climate Change To Blame?
- -- How To Enter Our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway (We Want You To Enter)
- -- SkyMed Is On Sale
- -- Rental Bargains at Fully Renovated Simpson Bay Resort

-- Last Call: JMB's Fall Membership Sale Gives You 260+ Discounts on Everything You Do in SXM, But It Ends Monday, Nov. 7

27 news stories this week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsxm.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, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 260+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 1/7/2017 1/14/2017 Week 1 Royal Islander LaPlage Ocean Front one bedroom unit with full kitchen, balcony overlooking ocean, restaurant, beach, large pool, two bars all on site. Located in center of Maho area across the street from the casino, grocery store and restaurants. \$950/ Claire 413-598-8401 billbigos@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/4/2017 2/18/2017 Week 5 & Week 6 Atrium Simpson Bay Beautiful updated studios on ocean lagoon side. Rooms 706 & 605. Features king size bed, kitchen w/full refrigerator, stove, dishwasher & microwave. Large balcony with ocean view. Amenities include free parking, elevator, pool, beach and adjacent restaurant. Walking distance to nearby restaurants. Available 2017. \$6,000 for week 5 & \$6,000 for week 6 or \$10,000 for both weeks. Marie 239-908-9707 motart@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingsxm.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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

http://everythingsxm.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

Get a growing list of 260+ Money-Saving SXM-focused travel discount benefits through JMB Website Supporters:

http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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- 2. Airfares Stay A Bit Softer -- But for How Long?
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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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- 23. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits
- 24. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Page
- 25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News
- 26. Events and Parties in SXM

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

- A. Where to Get Member Info: 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.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

How To Get a <u>GROWING LIST of 230+</u> 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. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for five full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

Now a growing list of 260+ benefits... and more coming soon.

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members 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. Hurricane Season Now Enters its Final Month

The Atlantic hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30: we're in its home stretch.

Although November is usually fairly quiet, there are exceptions — such as major hurricane Lenny which hit in mid November 1999, costing millions in damage. It also closed the Maho Beach Hotel complex for the entire high season; giant waves hit the coast and sent salt spray over the tops of Maho's tallest buildings.

As always, we'll keep you posted on any November storm developments. See story 3.

2. Airfares Stay A Bit Softer -- But for How Long?

Currently, winter airfares to SXM continue to be better than we would expect.

We have not modified our listings on the Low Fare Guidelines page on the secret site simply because we aren't convinced current low fares will last. Hurricane season isn't over; the US political climate remains unstable; and anything can happen in the Middle East.

Nonetheless, current airfares continue to be good for the winter season — for now. You should make your reservations now if you haven't already.

JMB members, check the low fare guidelines on the Secret Website. Also see story 4 for access to great fares.

3. Where To Find Current SXM Weather Info (Four Key Sources)

Here they are:

- a) Crown Weather Services whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- b) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops.
- c) Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- d) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

See significant National Hurricane Center Outlooks and Advisories as they relate both to SXM and to the US East

and Gulf coasts on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG .

N. B.: Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.

4. Take Advantage of Your Free Membership in the SkyMed Travel Club

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on packages worldwide.

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

Normally, this organization charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for everyone else, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Exclusively through us, you get access to a world-class global ticketing mechanism without paying one cent to get in the door.

Join the Club by going to www.skyMedtravelclub.com, click the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and provide the requested information. It's very important to complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — entering that code is what ensures that you pay nothing to be a member of the SkyMed Travel Club. If you fail to enter that code, you will not gain free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing.

Do join — you will not be disappointed once you've booked, as many of our readers already know.

4a. Three Days, Three Airliner Accidents: AA, Fedex, and Eastern Airlines

There were three major airliner accidents last week in the US and others overseas. Fortunately, we've heard of no serious injuries related to the US accidents.

Mike Pence, Republican vice presidential nominee, was aboard a chartered Eastern Airlines 737 that landed about halfway down the runway in bad weather at LaGuardia and slid off the end of the runway. Passengers on the campaign airplane were shaken up but otherwise okay. The FAA is investigating.

The second accident involved a Fedex DC-10 aircraft which suffered a collapsed landing gear in Florida. FAA investigating, no serious injuries.

The most serious accident involved an American Airlines 767 scheduled to leave Chicago O'Hare for Miami. The starboard engine suffered an uncontained failure, a devastating event which could have dire consequences had it occurred while the plane was airborne. Instead, the pilot stopped the takeoff roll, emergency evac chutes were deployed and everyone got off safely, with about 20 passengers suffering minor injuries on the chutes.

A few passengers stopped to pick up luggage, a potentially disastrous practice. If you are ever on an airplane and are ordered to evacuate, it is essential the entire plane be evacuated within 90 seconds. That can't happen if anyone stops for luggage. Luggage can be replaced; people can't. Just get out in a hurry.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

5. Rental Bargains Continue at (Almost) Fully Renovated Simpson Bay Resort

Any day, the last units scheduled for renovation at Simpson Bay Resort will be completed and so will that huge project.

As we've reported, the metamorphosis at this venerable resort is amazing. Last year, when we met with top guy Richard Sutton, we compared the quality of the new units to those of an upscale resort we visited in Scottsdale,

Arizona — a very high recommendation.

What's particularly interesting is that all the new units at Simpson Bay are available for rent on our www.everythingSXM.com website at no visible premium pricing. Despite the overwhelming change in the quality of the accommodations, the rental cost is about the same as it was before the renovations, a great deal for renters.

Check our site for lots of rental bargains.

6. Want To Buy a Timeshare Week in SXM? Where To Get Them at Rock-Bottom Prices

If you're in the market for a timeshare week in SXM, now is a perfect time to buy. Billings for next year's annual maintenance fees are going out and some people want to sell their units before those fees must be paid — so there are lots of bargains and motivated sellers.

To see dozens of St. Maarten timeshares for sale by their owners, with no middleman commissions, visit www.everythingSXM.com and click the timeshare rentals and sales link. We run ads only from JMB Website Supporters members — not from strangers. It is well worth a look.

SECTION 3: Member

7. "Section Three" -- Member Discounts / Benefits News & Updates

This new section of *SXM Weekly News*, which appears weekly, will provide detailed information about current JMB Website Supporters discounts and benefits both for current members and for people thinking about joining JMB.

In addition, it will be the introduction point for new benefits beyond the 260+ already available to all JMB members. We think you'll find many surprises here that will be of great interest and value.

Please see below for this month's story.

What's To Do at Night On SXM?

Go here and click our SXM "Entertainment Calendar" in the left-side navigation bar to find out.

8. October Member Benefits Update: Car Rentals

We recently told you about a key member benefit for JMB Website Supporters members: discounts on car rentals. We're repeating the list of current car rental discount providers below, but first we want to mention that we expect to add a new provider shortly: **Next Level Car Rental**, which was first mentioned to us by "Topper" Daboul last year.

That company is based on the Dutch side like most car rentals and it serves SXM Airport. We'll let JMB members know when they are formally added to our list of rental providers, below.

JMB Website Supporters currently offers JMB members more than 260 discounts and other benefits across the island and beyond, with many more coming soon. See the beginning of the next section to join and to save on virtually everything you do in SXM on your next trip.

Among our most heavily used benefits are discounts at key car-rental companies. Here they are, in no special order:

- a) <u>Tropical-Tropicana</u> Car Rental was our original car-rental partner, starting some 20 years ago. Headquartered at Baker's Suites boutique hotel, Simpson Bay, Tropical has an almost entirely new fleet with just a few older cars to accommodate those who request them. The fleet also includes vans to accommodate larger parties and events. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.
- b) Rodael Car Rental caters primarily to cruise ship passengers and has provided a discount to that portion of our audience for many years. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.
- c) <u>Leisure Car Rental</u>, located close to SXM Airport, is female owned with Jacqueline and Jimmy in charge and doing an excellent job as always. To see the discount they offer, which is substantial, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.
- d) <u>Thrifty Car Rental</u>, located on Airport Road, is the largest car rental business on the island with a fleet numbering in excess of about 600 vehicles of all descriptions including luxury. To see the discount they offer, please check the discounts master index in our JMB Website Supporters members only secret website.
- e) Next Level Car Rental is coming soon.

Use the above hyperlinks to get to these partner websites. However, you will only find specifics of the discounts on our members-only JMB Website Supporters secret website. If you're still not a member, *pay less* on your next vacation; **here's more information** on membership.

Many more discounts are coming. Stay tuned.

For details on all the above, see the Discounts Master Index in the Secret Site. (Members only; username & password required).

SECTION 4: Island

<u>9.</u> LAST CALL

JMB's Fall Membership Sale Ends November 7;

Get 260+ Island Discounts
And Many Other Benefits
at Sale Pricing Now

Your Last Shot Before The Holidays at Reduced-Cost JMB Memberships --- as little as \$44

Renewals & Reinstatements are on sale, too.

SALE MEMBERSHIP PRICES NOW AVAILABLE -- SALE ENDS MONDAY NOV. 7:

New JMB memberships -- 1 year \$44; 3 years only \$89

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89

www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the Membership Renewal Center

JMB Membership Reinstatements -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89

http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

Prices now effective. This sale is your last chance for low membership prices before the holidays.

10. Do Not Wait For Something to Go Wrong Before You Act....

I've had three phone calls in recent months from people -- SXM tourists like you -- who needed help in a hurry.

They all wanted something they could not get. The events that moved them to call were 1) a stroke (it wasn't his first); it happened a day or so before his wife called me for help; 2) a heart attack a few days before a gentleman from the Rocky Mountain west called; and 3) a cancer diagnosis a few days before a man's wife called me.

If you're healthy now, that's good -- but tomorrow is another day. In all three cases, these people were hoping to return to SXM but they did not want to risk their lives (and their finances) by not having SkyMed medical evacuation membership protection. In all three cases the sudden change in their health made it impossible for them to be approved. (SkyMed always asks "Any hospitalizations in the last six months?")

Do NOT put off getting SkyMed Medical Evacuation protection. I don't like it when I file an application for someone and sudden drastic changes in their health make approval impossible. I want to have SkyMed always say "yes" but life doesn't necessarily work that way. Please GET SKYMED BEFORE YOU NEED IT...so you'll have it when you DO need it. See www.getskymed.com. It is the best medical evacuation membership product on the market. -- Jeff

11. Lee's Roadside Grill May Be Forced To Move Out

Lee's Roadside Grill, a Simpson Bay landmark for years, may soon be forced out of its iconic location.

Lee's writes on Facebook:

Dear family, friends and customers:

The one judge and the powers that be decided that Lee's Roadside Grill has no right to stay in this location. We will have to move by March 31, 2017.

But all is not lost! We will be filing an appeal to three judges to stay at our current location and continue to be a part of the vibrant Simpson Bay community and the island of St. Maarten.

If you would like to support us in our fight please email or contact the Minister of Justice Mr. Edson Kirindongo at Edson.Kirindongo@sintmaartengov.org; the Minister of Tourism Ms. Irania I. Arrindell at Ingrid-Irania.Arrindell@sintmaartengov.org; and to the office of the Prime Minister Mr. William Marlin at William.Marlin@sintmaartengov.org and tell them that Lee's Roadside Grill should stay right where it is and how moving [it] will have an impact on the community and the island. Thank you all for your support through this process! -- Lee's

12. KLM 747 Flies Its Final SXM Flight

For as many years as most people can remember, KLM has been flying its iconic 747 jets into SXM every week.

The bad news: the last flight of KLM's 747 occurred on Friday, October 28, as we originally reported in the summer of 2015.

The flight, which had served both SXM and Curaçao, now will serve only Curaçao. Airbus A330 aircraft will replace it with service to SXM. KLM has said that it may replace the Airbus at some future time with its newer, more fuel-efficient Boeing 787 aircraft which have started to be delivered to KLM.

As always, we'll keep you posted about airlines and flights serving SXM in Getting There, section 1, here in SXM Weekly News.

13. Just How Long Will Cupecoy Beach Last As a Pristine Spot To Really Relax?

As we previously mentioned, it appears that Marriott is buying the Blue Mall for conversion into an international hotel property. We also reported that a triple-tower apartment building, Aqua, is to be constructed behind the Shore Pointe condominiums near Cupecoy beach apparently not far from an historic slave wall.

With all the construction taking place in Cupecoy in recent years, the questions that come up are, first, what will be constructed on the land across the street from the Sapphire Beach Resort... and second, what will be built on the currently unoccupied land now used for parking at Cupecoy beach?

The French side has done a remarkable job of ensuring the ability of its citizens and tourists to access all French side beaches easily and without cost. The Dutch side appears to be doing the opposite, in effect — allowing de facto obstruction which inhibits the ability of its own people and tourists to access certain island beaches. The process is antithetical to effective marketing and counterintuitive in the face of looming major competition from Cuba, which has many hundreds of miles of unspoiled beaches.

Cupecoy is one of the most gorgeous beaches we've ever seen. We hope the island government puts its arms around the property and preserves it permanently for future generations. Failing to do acquire and preserve the remaining part of Cupecoy would be an irrecoverable loss for the island.

We will soon publish a feature on the Emilio Wilson Estate which we believe most people on the island had wanted to see preserved in its natural state for future generations. Instead, a chunk of it will be turned into what developers are calling an eco-park. But the head of Loterie farm bristles at the suggestion that there is any comparison between Loterie farm, a true eco-preserve, and the new development.

More to come.

14. Great Jewelry Bargains in SXM: Holiday Gift Shopping Made Easy

After a slow summer due to lackluster tourism, the jewelry stores on Front Street are looking forward to late fall sales and to high season — and they're offering great bargains to entice you to select your holiday gifts here on St. Maarten.

To see the jewelry stores that offer gift cards and other incentives to JMB Website Supporters members, please log into our secret website through the orange login box on every page of www.everythingSXM.com. Your members-only discounts will give you further savings on the already discounted prices in the stores.

Next week, take a close look at section 3 of our site which talks about member benefits. Will be listing all of the jewelry stores providing discounts and will tell you more about what they provide. Again, these savings are for JMB Website Supporters members exclusively. If you're not yet a member, join today; see the beginning of this section for details.

15. SXM Beaches Are Shrinking: Is Climate Change The Reason?

We asked readers of SXM Weekly News to post decades-old pictures of island beaches (from both the French and

Dutch sides) on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site — and they did exactly that early last week.

Pictures of three beaches in particular struck us: Orient beach; Cupecoy beach; and Dawn beach. Every one of them had far more sand then than they do now.

Was it coincidental? We don't know at what time of year the pictures were taken, so perhaps there were seasonal variations. Cupecoy, in particular, can change day-to-day depending on the direction of current.

Regardless, one fact can't be contested — all three beaches did have far more sand when the photos were shot. In particular the beach in front of the Papagayo restaurant at Club Orient has shrunk to the point where steps had to be taken to help protect the restaurant from the ocean. It looks to us like the Club fights a constant battle against erosion.

The pictures do imply a startling story. Climate change is for real and it is having profound effects around the world. This video, produced many years ago by the now defunct SXM Private Eye organization, offers more evidence that climate change is continuing and that it imperils much of what all of us currently enjoy. (We had / have no association with them other than having saved their video a long time ago.)

Look, with speakers on: https://vimeo.com/4943920

16. A Haunting Video on Climate Change's Potential Effects on SXM

Please read the preceding story concerning shrinking island beaches in SXM; the video referred to in the last paragraph of that story merits your scrutiny.

17. Our Five Million Smiles Vacation Giveaway: How To Enter (Prize List Updated 10/29)

Most readers now are busy finalizing plans for winter getaways — just as we're finalizing more prize additions to our Five Million Smiles giveaway.

One of our Grand Prizes is going to be a week at one of the island's most fabulous villas — its name will be announced very shortly. We'll also be announcing more vacation prizes soon, but here are those we can announce now (the list has grown since we last published it):

- Eight days and seven nights at La Vista Resort or La Vista Beach;
- Eight days and seven nights in a brand-new two bedroom suite at Simpson Bay Resort;
- Eight days and seven nights at The Summit Resort; and
- · Four days, three nights in boutique hotel style suites in the main building at Oyster Bay Beach Resort.
- More vacations are to come and will be announced soon.

There are also many prizes to come including a **helicopter ride** for the grand prize winner (from Corail Helicopters, Grand Case Airport). There's also a **Free tour of Toppers' Rhum Distillery** (including free samples, if you're old enough). And there's a **painting by renowned SXM artist Patty Meotti** which has been posted in our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>. More on Patty is <u>here</u>. We'll detail these and other new prizes soon.

Many dinners for two are also offered for the Grand Prize winners, including:

- Dinner for two at award-winning Chef Dino Jagtiani's Temptation Restaurant;
- Dinner for two at the exquisite new Mario Bistro in Cupecoy;
- Dinner for two at SPIGA Restaurant in Grand Case;
- Dinner for two at Infinity Restaurant at Oyster Bay Beach Resort;
- \$50 Gift Certificate for Avantika Restaurant;
- Dinner for two at **Toppers Restaurant**;
- Dinner for two at Pineapple Pete Restaurant
- Dinner for two at Sushiitto Restaurant
- Dinner for two at Lal's Curry In a Hurry Indian Restaurant;
- Dinner for two at Cheri's Cafe (limit \$50);
- · Dinner for two at The Boathouse;

More dinners and a number of Activities and Gifts (Jewelry) are to come.

You can enter now if you're a direct (not pass-along) subscriber to SXM Weekly News... Click the link to enter now: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/getting_here/entry-form-for-our-seven-yacation-giveaway.shtml

Entries from pass-along readers will not be accepted; Subscribe directly now by clicking "Free Newsletters" at www.everythingsxm.com. Only direct subscribers are eligible to win -- and subscriptions are free.

18. Reminder: Steeply Discounted JMB Military Memberships Available for Vets

If you're an active duty, reserve, or retired member of the US military, you can obtain or upgrade to a military membership in JMB for just \$16.99 per year paid in full upon joining -- four full years at just \$67.96 total.

With a military membership, you can renew at that same fee quite probably forever. What's more, converting an existing membership to military or joining us as a military member <u>immediately gives you platinum status JMB membership</u>, entitling you to highlighted ads on our site to sell or rent out timeshares you own in St. Maarten or elsewhere and to future benefits yet to be announced.

To join us as a military member or to convert your current JMB membership to military, send us a check for \$67.96 payable to JMB Communications, mailed to PO Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812. If you'd rather pay by PayPal, go to www.paypal.com and send the \$67.96 to Jeff@JMBcommunications.com and in the Notes area, indicate that it's for a new (or renewal) military membership.

<u>For verification</u>, email or fax us your military identification with the serial number obliterated. The email address to send us your military ID info is <u>support@JMBcommunications.com</u>; please don't use Facebook for any personal communications. You can also fax it to 508-749-7898. Be sure to tell us the email address you'll be using when you sign up, so we can match the ID you send to your new membership.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at support@JMBcommunications.com .

19. Restaurant of the Week:

La Vista Resort in the Pelican area has both quaint New England style cottages and beautiful seaside condos, making it a long-time favorite of timeshare owners and other visitors.

Another aspect of its appeal is the Hideaway restaurant which gets consistent rave reviews by its many regulars.

Beside its beautiful ocean views from its location next to the la Vista pool, and it's entertainment, Hideaway offers delicious freshly prepared entrées which taste much like your favorite homestyle recipes. The restaurant is also convenient for the thousands of people staying at timeshares or hotels throughout Simpson Bay and beyond, and there is plenty of parking.

If you haven't already tried the Hideaway, please plan to do it on your next trip. We think you'll enjoy it as much as we have.

Sill not a JMB member? You're spending way too much for practically everything you buy in SXM. Get hundreds of discounts and other benefits: see the beginning of this section.

Big Fish Restaurant www.bigfishsxm.com/ (featured 8/16)

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 2/29/16)

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/22/16)

Mario Bistro 9/5/16

SkipJack's SXM, http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/ (featured 3/7/16)

Cugini (12/7/15)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 9/12/16)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/25/16)

Domino's Pizza https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338 (featured 9/16)

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 4/18/16)

The Boathouse, https://www.facebook.com/CDayDay777 10/3/16

The Hideaway, http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html (featured 10/31/16)

Stone Restaurant, <u>www.thestonerestaurant.com</u> (featured 9/2/14) **Le Pressoir**, <u>http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com</u> (featured 7/6/15) **Temptation**, <u>http://www.temptation-sxm.com/</u> (featured 10/10/16)

Lal's Curry In A Hurry Indian Restaurant, Airport Road, Simpson Bay (featured 5/9/16)

Mr. Busby's Beach Bar http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/25/16)

Island Pizza, http://www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 7/25/16) Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/19/16)

Papagayo, http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php (featured 10/17/16)

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 (featured 4/13/15)

Vesna Taverna, <u>www.vesnataverna.com</u> (featured 4/25/16)

Topper's / Topper's By The Sea http://www.sxmtoppers.com/ (featured 6/6/16)

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 7/18/16)

Got SkyMed Questions?

Phone or Email Jeff: (508) 747-8281 jeff@getskymed.com

SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, saving you upwards of \$45,000 or more -- payable in cash in advance if you aren't a member -- were you to try to set up an emergency medical evacuation yourself. What else matters? Get SkyMed BEFORE you need it. Call any weekday during normal business hours, Eastern Time. Please leave a message or email us if you get a voicemail response.

20. SkyMed Is On Sale: The "SkyMed Bonus" Returns

Updated 10/17/16

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Whether it's an accident, a sudden illness, or virtually anything else, <u>SkyMed is your free ticket home</u> aboard an ICU-equivalent emergency medical evacuation jet with an ICU-certified medical attendant on board to make sure everything goes as planned.

How SkyMed Works: Like clockwork, you'll be taken from the hospital to a waiting aircraft by ambulance at SkyMed's expense; SkyMed makes all the arrangements and pays all costs for the medical evacuation jet and for the ambulance at the destination which takes you to a waiting team at your destination hospital, which already has your medical records and is ready to start helping you. There are no co-pays and no deductibles, either.

Anything can happen anywhere — but you can always trust SkyMed to take you home when you need it most.

What's It Cost? Without SkyMed, you'll need \$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance to pay for a medical evacuation — if you can make the dozens of calls necessary to set it up in an emergency. SkyMed does all that for you, for a small membership fee; you simply make one phone call 24/7/365 to get things going. <u>Enroll today while it's fresh in your mind</u>.

Why Buy Now? We're offering SkyMed now at very special pricing for JMB Website Supporters members only —

but if you're a nonmember and care to join SkyMed now through us, we'll enroll you in JMB Website Supporters at the same time. This offer is available only by phone; call Jeff directly at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed questions only) and he will be happy to answer your questions, tell you about the different types of programs available, and their respective costs. He'll also be happy to fill out your application for annual or multiyear memberships by phone and at the same time you'll be able to set up a JMB Website Supporters membership (required to get the best multiyear SKYMED discounts).

The SkyMed Bonus: JMB Website Supporters members get hefty discounts on all multiyear SkyMed memberships. If you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership (for three or five years), or upgrade your SkyMed membership bought through us to a new three- or five-year SkyMed membership, Jeff will be able to simultaneously enroll you in a JMB Website Supporters membership for the exact same period. If you're already a JMB member and do a new or upgraded multiyear SkyMed membership through us, your JMB membership will be extended by the same multiyear duration. Again, this offer is available by phone only and for a limited time — call Jeff at 508-747-8281 during normal business hours Eastern time. Since he has been a rep for SkyMed for about 14 years, Jeff will be able to answer all of your SKYMED questions and help tailor a plan for you that meets your needs.

See www.getskymed.com or phone Jeff any weekday at 508-747-8281 or email him at jeff@getskymed.com (use the subject "SkyMed inquiry") to learn more and get your questions answered.

Compare The Types of SkyMed Memberships:

First, <u>short term memberships</u> are for brief trips in North America, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico -- 34 countries total. The advantage of short-term memberships is that they are very inexpensive, just about \$9 per day per person maximum of about \$18 per day. <u>The disadvantage is that they only cover you for the short term you are traveling: when they expire, your protection disappears</u>. When you're ready to travel again, you must reapply for a new short-term membership. Although the process is quick, you still must be medically approved and at some point, that may not be possible. Bear in mind that many of us travel more than once or twice a year, even if it's only a few hundred miles from home to visit friends or relatives, which is why we recommend annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships instead of short-term memberships. You do not want your protection to end.

Second, both **annual and multiyear SkyMed memberships** are essentially permanent coverage. *Once you've been approved and as long as you continue to pay your membership fee on time, your membership cannot be discontinued as a result of advancing age or declining health* — two critically important advantages that ensure you have coverage when you may well need it most.

Third, **Ultimate memberships** cover multiple years and provide protection worldwide. The only exceptions are places like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, North Korea — places no wise person would visit anyway. Ultimate memberships also offer the greatest breadth of coverage. You can see a complete list of all the features and benefits of these coverages here.

Fourth, if you're an **American or Canadian ex-pat** living in St. Maarten or elsewhere outside your country for six months or more per year, you can still get SKYMED Takes you Home protection in the form of an *ex-pat* membership. Email us (see next paragraph) and we can tell you how it works and get you protected.

In addition to everything else he does, Jeff Berger has been a SKYMED rep for over 14 years. He'll be happy to answer any questions you have; just phone the office any weekday at 508-747-8281, or email him at Jeff@GetSkyMed.com. He generally returns calls and messages within 24 hours. To see online frequently asked questions, go here. You can also see his site at www.GetSkyMed.com.

JMB members get serious discounts on all multiyear SKYMED memberships. If you're not already a JMB member, join today and take advantage of those discounts.

For more on JMB memberships, look here at our sale prices:

New JMB memberships -- 1 year \$44; 3 years only \$89 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about sxm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89 www.everythingsxm.com/secret Go to the Membership Renewal Center

<u>JMB Membership Reinstatements</u> -- 1 year \$39; 4 years \$89 http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml

The above sale prices are available briefly; sign up today.

More stories are below.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.

21. No Age Limit to Join or Renew SkyMed

What's the upper age limit to join SkyMed? There isn't any: apply today regardless of age.

What's the upper age limit to renew your existing SkyMed membership? *There isn't any*. Just pay your SkyMed renewal on time and your membership will continue regardless of your health or age at the time of your renewal. There is no membership cutoff for advancing age or declining health, unlike so-called competitive programs. *And the price of your renewal membership will not increase due to declining health or advancing age*. SkyMed *Takes You Home*® -- what else matters?

22. Q and A About SkyMed Medical Evacuation (Updated 9/19/16)

Here are constantly updated questions and answers about SkyMed, the folks who fly you home in 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.

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

A. Not by a long shot. Most other programs say in their fine print that they 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 low 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 -- which is why we recommend annual or multiyear memberships. Why risk the hurdle of medical requalification?)

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

A. There are 18 other services, some of which you've never even thought about but all of which are important. You'll find them on our downloadable **SkyMed Benefits PDF** on our <u>SXM Weekly News PDF Archives</u> page.

Q. How fast are the evacuations?

A. That depends on a number of factors. First the patient must be medically stable and ready to fly. Even though emergency medical evacuations are aboard ICU-equivalent medevac jets, the patient's stable health during the trip is of paramount importance. He / she must be medically stable to take that trip. Although arrangements for the electronic transfer of medical records, reserving flight and medical crews and the jet itself, making hospital arrangements at the destination hospital, and setting up ambulances at both ends of trip must all be completed beforehand, nonetheless it generally takes only a matter of hours before you're in the plane on the way to hospitals and doctors you know and trust near home. Bottom line is that SkyMed does it as quickly as it can be done assuring the patient's health and safety during the medical evacuation and the flight home.

Q. Do they 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, when 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 in the US or Canada 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 in full, immediately. Just remember that you must medically requalify every time you need a new short-term membership, which is why most of our members buy and renew annual or multiyear Ultimate SkyMed memberships instead of short-term. Those memberships cover all pre-existing conditions in full after only 90 days. More on that is below.

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), out of your home country (USA or Canada) 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. (See the question, "Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?" which is below.)

Q. Does SkyMed cover pre-existing conditions?

A. Yes, right away for short-term memberships and after just a 90 day waiting period for 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 that SkyMed approves, they'll renew it every year upon on-time payment of your renewal fee. No physical exam is required regardless of your age or health if you've paid your membership renewal 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. There is no maximum. Apply away.

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

A, Yes, at about \$9/day per person or maximum \$18/day per family. 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. That's a key advantage over short-term plans.

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, not policies) 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. *Ex-Pat and "Silver" memberships also are offered.*

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, assuming renewals are paid on time. 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. <u>Multiyear memberships give you more benefits than annual memberships but cost less when paid at inception</u>. They're quite a bargain.

Q. Is there a best time to buy?

A. Yes -- exactly like fire insurance, <u>buy it before you need it!</u> Why gamble? The peace of mind alone is worth every penny.

Q. Does SkyMed cover us no matter where we travel?

The basic annual 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.

Q. I already belong to SkyMed but I'm pretty sick now. Will SkyMed drop me?

Once you've bought an annual or longer SkyMed membership, that membership stays in force as long as you pay renewals on time regardless of how old you get or how sick you get. When you're in, you're in -- declining health is not an issue. And no, you do not have to tell us about changes in your health that occur after you join.

Q. I'm an American [or Canadian] xPat now living in SXM. Since I live there, can I still be brought "home" to Canada or the US?

As long as you've purchased our xPat Membership (for people who live in SXM six months or more per year), you absolutely will be taken home, back to the US or Canada, to the hospital of your choice when you become critically ill or injured. Just be sure you've specified your preferred home hospital in your SkyMed application.

Got Other Questions?

If you have questions about SkyMed not answered above, email jeff@getskymed.com and Jeff will get back to you or phone him at 508-747-8281. Please also include your phone number and best time to call; he'll be in touch. Please use the subject "SkyMed Inquiry" in your email.

SkyMed Takes You Home®; What else matters?

For more, see skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members) or www.getskymed.com (non-JMB members) or email Jeff directly at 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.

23. Download The Complete List of All SkyMed Features & Benefits

Read it for yourself: it beats every would-be competitor hands-down. Look: http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf

This is an Adobe Acrobat PDF Document. Your system most likely already has a PDF Reader (free) but if not you can get one here: <u>download Adobe Acrobat Reader</u>.

24. Interact With Fellow SXM Visitors on Our Everything SXM Facebook Site

Our <u>Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site</u>, 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*.

25. Where to Find Past Issues of SXM Weekly News

Look here for our PDF archives: http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml. This is scheduled to complete an update shortly.

26. Events & Parties in SXM

Starting this week, we're publishing a weekly feature about significant events and parties on the island that are open to the public.

Here are a few initial listings; see the links for details including any fees. If you're not a Facebook member, join to see these event listings; Facebook is free.

Championnat de France de la classe Europe 10/29 to 11/1:

https://www.facebook.com/events/625996504232623/

clock

Halloween Bash - Monday 10/31 at 7 PM - 3 AM The Red Piano St. Maarten 35 Billy Folly Rd., Simpson Bay

Topper's Kickoff to Caribbean Rum & Beer Festival, Toppers Rhum Distillery, Simpson Bay, 11/3: https://www.facebook.com/events/144861425964294/

Roaring 20's Party With A Purpose, Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 PM, Tantra Nightclub & Sanctuary https://www.facebook.com/events/1777797459142012/

From Author Jacky Rom - Friday, November 11 at 4 PM Topper's Simpson Bay - Get together -- Great Cocktails and snacks available

Check this story for more SXM events every week. Also see our Entertainment Calendar courtesy of <u>Island92 radio</u> updated monthly at <u>www.everythingsxm.com</u>.

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://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.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 5: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: 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. 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 .Your username and password are required.

SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 10/18/15

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, click the Unsubscribe link here: http://everythingsxm.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://everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi, select *2016 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.

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us: [Revised 4/23/16]

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

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to <code>jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com</code> 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 .

To see the JMB Communications Privacy Policy, visit http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml

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