



This Week's Stories

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Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

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

Weekly Tourist-Oriented News & Comments from SXM

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Part of www.everythingstmaarten.com

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

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

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TOP STORIES

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

This is issue #987 of Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten and St. Martin (SXM) Weekly News*, published every Monday all year long (Tuesdays during some holiday weeks). You're receiving this because you subscribed or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

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

- ***New Flights, New Airlines, and More: What's Coming to SXM Airport (Feature Story)***
- ***Daily Herald Reports SXM Airport To Extend Runway, Closing Maho Beach & Sunset Beach Bar Permanently***
- ***Get It Now: A Permanent Solution To a Serious Permanent Problem When You Travel***
- ***"St. Maarten Quarter," Huge Waterfront Development Project, Draws Lots of Critics; Will It Kill Philipsburg?***
- ***Win a Vacation in SXM in Our "Lucky 13" Three-Vacation Giveaway***
- ***Our "Lucky 13" 13th Anniversary Sale: 237+ SXM Discounts At Low Prices***
- ***Miss India-St. Maarten Dipti Budhrani Heading to Global Competition in India***

24 new 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://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 for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits, and your subscription also helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 5/16/2015 5/23/2015 Week 20 Towers@MulletBay Newly renovated 1BR/1Bath with Full Kitchen. 3rd Floor unit overlooks pool and lagoon. Close to Maho shopping, restaurants and beach; 5 min walk to Mullet Bay Beach. Convenient parking on sight. \$900.00 Anne 516-431-2350 amreap@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

Totally Renovated New Unit Available; Steps from the Caribbean With All The Amenities You'd Expect

====MOTIVATED SELLER === MUST SELL=====

SALE: 1/31/15 to 2/7/15 (week 5) Simpson Bay Resort Marina 207, Newly Renovated completely redone (during 2015) luxurious sleep-four studio overlooking both the Marina pool and Pelican beach (a short walk to Marina Residences, next door). Many beaches, great restaurants, piano bar (The Red Piano), more nightlife, casinos, a Deli, and other shops and nearby, and a clothing optional beach is about two miles away. Unit features all-new stove, refrigerator, microwave, cable TV, WiFi is on site, sleeps four, very convenient. 2016 occupancy. Reduced to BEST OFFER OVER \$3000. Please contact Jeff at jeff@jmbcommunications.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

See them all at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml

This Week's Stories

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

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



<https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

"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://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

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

Section One: Getting There: Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather [Go To This Section](#)

1. Dry Weather Prompts Heads-Up From Fire Officials

2. New Flights, New Airlines, and More: What's Coming to SXM Airport

3. Daily Herald: SXM Airport To Extend Runway, Closing Maho Beach & Sunset Beach Bar Permanently

4. That \$500 JetBlue Gift Certificate Promo is Bogus

5. Hurricane Season Prolog

6. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

Section Two: Accommodations (**Hotels, Inns, Timeshares**) [Go To This Section](#)

7. Go "Early" And Enjoy The View

8. Express Yourself About St. Maarten Timesharing

9. Smaller SXM Hotels With Lots to Offer

Section Three: Island [Go To This Section](#)

-- 10. Get It Now: A Permanent Solution To a Serious Permanent Problem When You Travel

11. "St. Maarten Quarter," Huge Waterfront Development Project, Draws Lots of Critics; Will It Kill Philipsburg?

12. You Could Win a Vacation in SXM When You Buy, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership in "Lucky 13" (No Purchase Necessary)

12a . Our "Lucky 13" 13th Anniversary Sale: 237+ SXM Discounts At Low Prices

13. Miss India - St. Maarten, Dipti Budhrani, Heading to Worldwide Competition in India

14. SXM Airport Departure Lounge Gets JFK T5 / Jet-Blue-Like Makeover
15. Sandblasting Your Eyeballs Is a Bad Idea
16. SXM's Tomato Problem
17. Killer Coconuts (Read it Even If You've Read It Before)

18. Enter Our "Lucky 13" Three-Vacation Giveaway

19. What Was The Single Best Thing About Your Most Recent SXM Trip?
20. Our Preferred Car Rentals
21. Restaurant of the Week: IZI Ristorante Italiano
22. Reminder to Patronize Businesses That Have Earned Our 2015 Awards of Excellence
23. Enter To Win One of Three SXM Vacations

Scroll down for indexes to sections IV and V, and scroll further to get a growing list of 200+ St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel discounts.

Rent Out or Sell Your SXM Timeshare

Meet Our Sponsors (Updated 9/7/13)

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

How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 200+** 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://everythingxm.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**

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **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 .

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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. Dry Weather Prompts Heads-Up From Fire Officials

Dutch side fire officials issued a warning at the end of March for vigilance against the possibility of brushfires, in consideration of the island's recent prolonged dry spell.

If you're a smoker or if you do any outside burning on the island, including the use of grills, please be extra careful as dry season continues.

2. New Flights, New Airlines, and More: What's Coming to SXM Airport

A lot has happened at SXM Airport during the last year, but a great deal more is coming. That includes new airlines, new nonstop routes from more cities in the US, runway reconfigurations to enable incremental flights, and much more.

We spent 90 minutes late last month with Regina Labega, managing director of the Princess Juliana "SXM" Airport and the island's former director of tourism. She gave us substantial insights into the future of the airport. Since so much of what the airport does directly affects American and Canadian tourists, this article is oriented toward key developments coming to the airport that will affect arriving and departing tourists. Here goes:

The departure lounge has been completely reconfigured to provide a more customer friendly experience. The ambience reminds us of terminal 5 at JFK, the new JetBlue terminal, which has a number of shops and restaurants centrally located. The shops at Princess Juliana are centrally located at the exit from Security, enabling passengers to get souvenirs, drinks, gourmet burgers, and much more at new shops on the concourse.

But that's only the beginning. Much more is coming, Ms. Labega told us.

Better WiFi. Among the things that are coming are improved free Wi-Fi, with stronger signals and higher capacity. "We want everyone who wants to use Wi-Fi to be able to use it easily and effectively. Its quality isn't yet what we want it to be but it will be," Ms. Labega said.

Video Wall. A new video wall with enhanced flight information and airport site information is being installed.

Environmentally friendly landscaping has been planted, and environmentally positive LED lighting has been installed both on the runways and within the terminal building.

Interisland Hub Expansion. The airport has been intimately involved with the Air Services Development Committee of IATA. Through that committee, SXM Airport/Princess Juliana is working to enable the provision of local services in St. Maarten as a Preferred Hub Partner. This means that more electronic kiosks and E-gates are coming to the airport, expediting check in for all interisland passengers with passports by Thanksgiving day of this year. Initially there will be six kiosks which will provide 30-second turnaround for check ins for interisland travel.

Preclearance for US Citizens. The airport has been speaking with the United States TSA about the possibility of offering preclearance in St. Maarten for passengers with US passports headed back to the United States. This would enable immigration clearance to be completed for US bound passengers before they leave St. Maarten. Discussions are ongoing and an ETA is not yet known, since this requires payment by the airport to the TSA for providing the service. Expedited global entry check-in for trips back to the United States would be included, we were told.

Concerning airport capacity and terminal growth...

Terminal Expansion. The current employee parking area at the Eastern end of the terminal is actually on tarmac, and plans are underway to move employee parking elsewhere. By next season this time that area will be available for parking private and corporate jets, many of which could not be accepted during the 2014 – 2015 season due to lack of room. Eventually, the terminal will grow on this property, enabling the addition of a few new passenger airplane gates. That's expected to happen around 2020.

A New Main Runway Bypass is planned for the Eastern end of the runway. An arriving aircraft will be able to pull off the runway into the Bypass area enabling aircraft behind it to take off. The Bypass is expected to be completed during the 2016 – 2017 season. The parallel runway which we've written about before will be constructed in a future phase of airport growth, probably around 2020. The Bypass will enable the airport to accommodate additional traffic in the near-term.

Expanded Jet Fuel Storage. You may have noticed a number of fuel trucks traveling daily through Simpson Bay. Many make the trip to the airport to keep its fuel farm full. Nonetheless, fuel stored at the airport is still only a one-day supply. The airport is working to move and grow its fuel farm to enable the storage of a larger supply which would be adequate for a longer period of time.

The Central Car Rental Facility about which we've written before is still on the drawing boards, and it is expected to become a reality within about the next couple of years. The location will likely be near the current Crazy Cow location across the street from the airport. The facility would have its own garage enabling car rentals to be processed and customers to leave the facility inside their cars, removing the need for anyone to be shuttled to an individual off-site car rental facility.

More Nonstop Flights from More Airlines in Additional Cities to SXM. Concerning airlines and service from Canada, the United States, and Europe...

Ironically, JetBlue nonstops from San Juan seem to have been affected adversely by its lower-cost flights to New York and Boston. St. Maarten residents who had previously shopped in San Juan are taking advantage of lower-cost flights to Boston and New York and shopping there instead, Ms. Labega said. The San Juan flights are being promoted increasingly to help ensure their continuation, however.

More JetBlue Nonstops from Boston. The airport says that its nonstop flights from Boston have been a huge success and they may be further expanded.

JetBlue Nonstops from Ft. Lauderdale. Beyond that, JetBlue appears highly likely to be adding nonstops from Fort Lauderdale to St. Maarten, perhaps as early as this year.

Southwest Airlines Flights to SXM from BWI. In addition, Southwest Airlines is expected to introduce nonstop service from the United States to St. Maarten late this year or early next year — and that would be year-round service.

Possible Southwest Flights from Ft., Lauderdale and Elsewhere. At launch, Southwest service is expected to start from BWI Airport but it may well expand to Fort Lauderdale and even Houston Hobby. Once Southwest gets into a market, it tends to go whole hog — so it would not surprise us at all for Southwest to wind up providing nonstop service from both New York and Boston a few years from now. Definitely one to watch very closely since it could well affect flight costs from a number of cities.

Expanded Service from Europe. Internationally, both British Airways and Virgin Atlantic are looking closely at St. Maarten. Thompson Airways already flies to St. Maarten from Sweden and may add other markets. Arke Fly will add flights from Amsterdam and that could affect fare levels from there.

Canada is currently served by Air Canada, Sun Wing, Rouge, and WestJet, all of whom are doing very well and expanding service.

An airport hotel with 120 - 130 rooms is expected to be built across the street from the Airport by the 2017 – 2018 season.

Rapidly growing Brazilian Carrier Azul Airlines, founded in 2008 by Brazilian-born JetBlue founder David Neeleman, is also eyeing SXM. It would not surprise us to see them serve the island within the next couple of years.

Ms. Labega also said more entertainment is coming to SXM Airport to provide an island cultural showcase to passengers ... and more island photography will enhance the facilities.

In 2014, passenger traffic grew by 7.3% over the prior year despite Hurricane Gonzalo and Chikungunya affecting the 2013-2014 season.

As always, we'll keep you posted on all of these and many other airport developments.

3. Daily Herald: SXM Airport To Extend Runway, Closing Maho Beach & Sunset Beach Bar Permanently

Panic ensued early this month when the *SXM Daily Herald* published an article reporting that Maho Beach and Sunset Beach Bar would be permanently shut down because of a planned airport runway expansion project. The article said planes would be diverted to Anguilla and passengers would be sent to SXM by ferry. The project was called "Project Alpha-Foxtrot-Oscar-Oscar-Lima," using airline parlance. That spells "A-Fool" since the article was an April Fool's Day joke, following a long tradition of similar "jokes" on April 1 of years past by the Daily Herald..

In other words, it's a hoax and it won't happen. The airport was not amused, and neither were a lot of other people who were apparently unaware that the Herald does this every April 1 like clockwork.

Incidentally, Anguilla's runway is too short and the terminal doesn't have the capacity of SXM Airport, and neither do the ferries. So... don't worry ... be happy now. More: <http://tinyurl.com/o8e28xm> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3HQMbQAWRc> .

4. That \$500 JetBlue Gift Certificate Promo is Bogus

Another widely publicized recent hoax was that JetBlue would give \$500 Gift Certificates for people referred to them. That wasn't true either....

5. Hurricane Season Prolog

So far, initial predictions for the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season are looking positive for normally hurricane-prone Caribbean islands. Forecasters as of now are predicting a lighter than normal Cape Verde season -- that's significant for SXM since storms affecting SXM generally form in the eastern Atlantic near the Cape Verde islands. The ocean there is colder than normal right now and wind shear is expected to be high, which is likely to reduce the chance of tropical storm formation near the Cape Verde islands.

The reason for the lower ocean temps may be vast melting of the Arctic ice cap and of ice in Greenland, both affected by climate change.

Of course, one storm is all it takes. And storms can still form close to the islands. The season begins June 1 and ends November 30 and as always we'll keep you posted.

6. How To Get The Lowest-Cost Airfares, Hotels, Cruises, and Tour Packages Worldwide (Repeat)

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

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

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

The SkyMed Travel Club offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have been testing it for the past few weeks and have found the pricing to be extraordinary — even on the wildly popular river cruises that are a tourism phenomenon throughout Europe and are quickly gaining popularity here in the US.

And normally, this organization charges you \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members, and during a brief introductory period 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.

This is a new benefit for JMB members. During this introduction, everyone can join by going to www.SkyMedtravelclub.com, clicking the sign up link on the top right corner of the homepage, and providing 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 through them.

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Inns, Timeshares

7. Go "Early" and En joy The View

This applies to many things and places in SXM but this time we'll look at one in particular.

The aptly named "Tropical Heaven" restaurant on the pool deck at Summit Resort Hotel in Cupecoy has been replaced by "Early's" Restaurant named for its owner, Mr. Early.

We are replacing Tropical Heaven discounts at Summit with "Early" restaurant discounts. Just go: the view will blow you away, and the food and service are a neat bet as well. For more about the resort, see www.thesummitresort.com.

8. Express Yourself About St. Maarten Timesharing

Here's where to address Letters to the Editor:

Today newspaper: todaymanagersxm25@gmail.com

Daily Herald newspaper: editorial@thedailyherald.com

Specify where in SXM you own timesharing; it does not necessarily have to be at Caravanserai.

Feel free also to share your information with other St. Maarten timeshare owners: <https://www.facebook.com/Caravanseraitimeshare> .

9. Smaller SXM Hotels With Lots to Offer, First of a Series: Baker's Suites

Beyond the big hotels like Westin and Sonesta Maho, and timeshares like Simpson Bay and Oyster Bay, which we've covered here many times, SXM has numerous smaller hotels with lots to offer.

This is the first in a new series of articles on many of those hotels. At the end of the article you'll see a list of all resorts covered, in reverse chronological order, most recent first. Watch for other articles in this series coming every week.

Baker's Suites was introduced just over a year ago and has made an indelible impression on the local landscape. It offers less than a dozen rooms in a building that is 100% new. See www.bakerssuites.com and you'll quickly see that they missed nothing. Baker's has free parking, big beds, kitchen and dining areas in all rooms, balconies, cable TV, internet, the works. Responsive management, near beaches (across the street), quiet, *totally done right*.

Watch for another small SXM hotel here next week.

Baker's Suites, Simpson Bay on Billy Folly Road near Kim Sha Beach, www.bakerssuites.com.

SECTION 3: Island

[Just \\$59/month Gets You Global SkyMed Medevac Protection: Go Nowhere Without It](#)

10. Get It Now: A Permanent Solution To a Serious Permanent Problem When You Travel

We should all travel with the serenity of total peace-of-mind. If your trip is interrupted by a sudden critical illness or injury, you need to hire a medical evacuation jet to take you home -- ditto for your aging parents or kids away at school. If they're SkyMed members, the trip costs \$0 and you get it done with one phone call. Otherwise it's about \$45,000 they'll need in cash in advance. SkyMed takes them home. What else matters? Get SkyMed now, before they need it...

Why "Permanent"? Getting short-term medical evacuation protects you for a few days and then it disappears. It's non-renewable. To get short-term protection for a later trip, you must apply again -- and changes in your health can interfere with your ability to qualify. If you get an inexpensive "Annual" plan from SkyMed, it's guaranteed renewable when you pay your renewal fee on time -- guaranteed regardless of your health or age at the time of renewal. That's huge.

What SkyMed Does: SkyMed takes you home in a hurry on an ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet when you or your spouse / partner or minor child become critically ill or injured while traveling. Without membership, you must pay for the evacuation in cash, in advance -- if you can set it up -- and the cost can easily be \$45,000 to \$50,000 or more -- sometimes far more.

And outside the US, your health insurance probably covers nothing. Medicare covers nothing outside the USA and if you're from Canada, anywhere outside your province is a huge problem.

Only SkyMed guarantees to take you home should you become critically ill or injured throughout the SkyMed universe, which consists of the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba, plus Belize and Costa Rica. Should you need protection anywhere in the world, you can get that, too, for just \$99/year more. But the point is simply this: don't travel anywhere without making sure you have medical evacuation protection from SkyMed.

And now the best SkyMed plan is deeply discounted for our JMB members.

There are a number of SkyMed plans available:

Short-term plans are the least expensive in initial outlay, but you must be medically requalified every time you want a new short-term plan. By contrast, both SkyMed annual and Ultimate plans require only one medical qualification when you first join -- and they are far less per day on an annual basis. And when you need to renew your SkyMed annual or Ultimate plan, you can do so regardless

of your age or health, as noted above. There are also never any increases in membership fees (premiums) related solely to your age or health: everyone pays the same low rates.

Buy any new SkyMed membership other than short term now and even pre-existing conditions are covered once the 90-day waiting period (for pre-existing conditions coverage) has passed.

Steep discount. For five years of "Ultimate" SkyMed global protection, you'd prepay the five-year rate of \$699/year. But JMB Website Supporters members get \$1000 off -- they pay just \$499/year when prepaid in full, or \$2495. If you'd rather pay monthly, it's \$59, \$49, or \$39/month depending on what you need /want. Get yourself protected against the high cost of medical evacuation and you will have great peace of mind.

Call SkyMed any weekday Mountain time at 1-800-475-9633 and ask for Nan or Jim

. Tell them you're a JMB Website Supporters member to get the best rates. If you're not a JMB member, join; it's now on sale at Holiday / Black Friday prices (usually it's just \$99 for four years or \$59 for one year). Sign up for JMB here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . The cost of the best SkyMed plans is deeply discounted for JMB members. SkyMed will ask for your JMB membership number.

For one-year or other duration SkyMed memberships, buy online at www.skymed.com/jmbspecial (JMB members only) or www.skymed.com/jmbxsm (everyone else). Do it today... It's great peace-of-mind when you travel.

Five-year Free JMB Membership Extension With New Five-Year Ultimate Purchase: Once you've joined SkyMed through us, email support@jmbcommunications.com and tell them you've bought a new SkyMed Ultimate five-year membership. Upon verification, we'll extend your current JMB Website Supporters membership for five full years. Offer open to U. S. and Canadian citizens only. You must join JMB first to be eligible for both the SkyMed JMB-members-only discount and this JMB membership extension. And you must join SkyMed only as described above and not by any other means to qualify for the JMB membership extension. The five-year JMB membership extension will be terminated if you cancel your SkyMed Ultimate membership before its five-year term expires. Vacation offer expires when we run out of vacations; limited quantity available. Join SkyMed now...anything can happen anywhere you go.

11. "St. Maarten Quarter," Huge Waterfront Development Project, Draws Lots of Critics; Will It Kill Philipsburg?

A month ago, we told you about a major new hotel development proposed by Royal Caribbean next door to the Dr. A. C. Wathey Cruise & Cargo Facilities. Now details and a photo have been released. The proposal is serious and getting a lot of attention on the island -- and not all of that attention has been positive.

"Sint Maarten Quarter is designed to create a fun-loving, vibrant waterfront destination with appeal to Island visitors and guests of all ages. Offering a blend of shopping, entertainment, recreation, and hospitality, Sint Maarten is a place with appeal to both visitors and residents. By creating a vibrant waterfront, Sint Maarten Quarter fills an important gap along the water's edge and helps transfer the Great Bay into one of the signature experiences for the Caribbean," says the website of the project's designers.

Here's a slide show of the project: <http://www.505design.com/work/project-types/waterfront-port-development/sint-maarten-quarter.html>

A *Daily Herald* article <http://bit.ly/1GzFVGc> reported that "A four-star 200-room hotel -- either Hard Rock or Marriott brand -- will include an infinity pool, meeting and conference rooms, and a fitness centre and spa. [Mark] Mingo [head of the government-owned corporation that runs the harbor -Ed.] is in favour of Marriott. A zip-line attraction will both start and end on the property, have no impact on traffic, and is meant to be a quick, fun attraction that can zip up to six guests from 0 to 60 miles per hour. A Reef Lagoon is planned, which will include stingray and shark sections, as well as an aquarium where visitors can walk underwater. These are proven tourist attractions, but are not found bundled together, which will make the development a novelty in the Caribbean. The Reef Lagoon will allow tens of thousands to experience Caribbean sea life without causing damage or environmental stress to St. Maarten's reefs. Retail brands selected include those popular in Europe, the United States, and South America. The retail products were chosen to complement local offerings and not become another jewelry mall.

"Other elements include a casino, up to 500 parking spaces and up to nine yacht slips," the Herald added.

Critics are saying the project is bad for SXM, that it will divert people away from Philipsburg businesses, be a sitting duck for hurricanes,

etc. The full story has yet to be told to St. Maarteners and until it is, we'll just watch it for you and express no opinion until all the facts are clear.

The island needs a high-draw convention center hotel but Philipsburg may not be the best location for it; Mullet bay might be ideal. We'd still like to see a Seminole Tribe-run Hard Rock Hotel and convention center / casino but that doesn't seem to be what this facility is. It strikes us as more of a resort hotel, an odd project for Royal Caribbean which is behind it and an odd location as well.

In any case, as always, we'll keep you posted.

12. You Could Win a SXM Vacation When You Buy, Renew, or Reinstate a JMB Membership in "Lucky 13" -- No Purchase Necessary

We're giving away three SXM vacations to celebrate the 1,000th edition of *SXM Weekly News* which will be published this summer. If you buy, renew, or reinstate a JMB Website Supporters Membership, that helps support this newsletter and all our vacation giveaways and all of the work that goes into offering the current 237 discounts JMB offers through membership.

So you will have our eternal gratitude and our sincere hopes that you'll win one of our vacation giveaways. You must enter to win -- so buy, renew, or reinstate a JMB membership at the appropriate site below and we'll cross our fingers for you to win a vacation. Reduced sale prices will be posted by 2pm Wednesday April 8 on these pages:

Buy a new membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml (Sale prices will be posted by 8pm Wednesday April 8.)

Reinstate your former membership here: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml> (Sale prices will be posted by 8pm Wednesday April 8.)

Renew your current SXM membership at the Membership Renewal Center on the members-only "secret" website. Login through the orange login box below the masthead on each page of our site, www.everythingsxm.com. Renewal Sale pricing will be posted by 8 p.m. Wednesday April 8.

[See story 18](#) to enter the giveaway.

12a. Our "Lucky 13" 13th Anniversary Sale: 237+ SXM Discounts At Low Prices

This month is the lucky 13th anniversary of JMB Website Supporters, formally introduced in April, 2002, with one benefit: inside info on low airfares. We now offer 237 discounts and benefits across SXM and have many thousands of members. To celebrate this anniversary, we're offering steeply discounted sale prices on new, renewal, and reinstated JMB memberships. Reduced sale prices will be posted by 2pm Wednesday April 8 on these pages:

Buy a new membership here: http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml (Sale prices will be posted by 8pm Wednesday April 8.)

Reinstate your former JMB membership here: <http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml> (Sale prices will be posted by 8pm Wednesday April 8.)

Renew your current JMB membership at the Membership Renewal Center on the members-only "secret" website. Login through the orange login box below the masthead on each page of our site, www.everythingsxm.com. Low renewal prices post at 8 pm Wednesday April 8.

Our SXM discounts are worth lots of money; why spend more than you have to? Sign up today.

13. Miss India - St. Maarten, Dipti Budhrani, Heading to Worldwide Competition in India

A major story with pictures appeared in *The Daily Herald*; see it here: <http://tinyurl.com/lvzqo5h>

Participating in this huge global competition is an immense undertaking, since Dipti must fly back and forth to India multiple times for training, must take required courses in modeling, makeup, etc., and must buy an entire wardrobe required for the events. She can use our help; please donate whatever you can (any amount is welcome) to her dad's PayPal account at deepu@zhaveri.com and specify that the donation is for Dipti for Miss India Worldwide.

14. SXM Airport Departure Lounge Gets JFK T5 / JetBlue-Like Makeover

Within story #2 -- a 1200-word piece on the future of SXM airport -- there was a short blurb about the recent makeover of the Princess Juliana departure lounge. There's much more to it now; it reminds us of JetBlue's T5 at JFK, though SXM is not as big.

Bottom line, allow extra time when you're departing. Good restaurants upstairs (we especially like the gourmet burgers on authentic Johnny Cakes at Johnny Burgers) and lots of shopping. Check it out.

15. Sandblasting Your Eyeballs Is a Bad Idea

A relatively new fence helps deter Maho Beach visitors from hanging onto the original fence at the airport, where they can be sandblasted by exhaust from departing jets. But they do it anyway. It's a dangerous idea and we urge you not to try it. Here's what can happen; watch the entire (brief) video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AITNj6lWey4>

16. SXM's Tomato Problem

Very few St. Maarten restaurants offer really good tomatoes: red, sweet, delicious tomatoes. Many are off color and not exactly perfect.

If you buy tomatoes at stores, smaller ones sold on the vine seem to be the best. French Side grocery stores seem to have better quality, for whatever reason. But even there, tomatoes sold on the vine seem to be better.

The most expensive restaurants seem to have the best tomatoes, generally. Even moderately priced Cugini offers a salad with cucumbers, fresh tomato slices, and mozzarella that is outstanding and has very good tomatoes. Check it out. Cugini is in Simpson Bay between Carousel and Fedex, open every night but Sunday.

17. Killer Coconuts (Read it Even If You've Read It Before)

Coconuts grow very quickly and at some point, fall from trees and slam into the ground, sometimes hitting cars parked under them (bad idea) or people standing or relaxing under them (worse idea). Coconuts kill people; it isn't frequent but it does happen.

Jeff figured this out several years ago when relaxing on a blanket under a palm tree in Tobago. He had been there around ten minutes when he heard a loud thump and felt sand hit the side of his face. Opening his eyes, he saw a ripe coconut -- bigger than his head -- six inches away from him. He moved and ever since then this article has appeared.

Be careful out there -- seriously.

18. Enter Our Three-Vacation Giveaway

Our Three Vacation Giveaway has begun.

To celebrate the 1,000th edition of SXM Weekly News, coming this summer, we are giving away three SXM vacations. They are at:

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach;
[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case; and
[Club Fantastico Naturist Resort](#), Orient Beach

These vacations will be awarded only to *SXM Weekly News* readers who enter the giveaway. If you're a pass-along reader of *SXM Weekly News* subscribe directly to become eligible. Only subscribers can enter and win these vacations. (*Weekly News* is free).

To subscribe, go to www.everythingsxm.com and select our 2014 Weekly News list among our "Free Newsletters." We will check all entries to be sure they are Weekly News subscribers; if not, the entry will be discarded.

Enter here: <http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/weeklynews1000/index.htm>

Answer a few questions and you'll be good to go. Available now.

19. What Was The Single Best Thing About Your Most Recent SXM Trip?

We sometimes post that question, and others, on our main Everything St. Maarten page on Facebook. Check it out and let us know, right here: <https://www.facebook.com/EverythingStMaarten>

20. Our Preferred Car Rentals

This week we expect to finish posting new discounts for all our newest car rental partners on our Secret Website.

Members carrying current JMB Website Supporters Membership Cards and new vouchers that are either live already or about to go live can get discounts from Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental, www.tropical-tropicana.com ; Unique car Rental, <http://www.uniquecarrentalsxm.com/> ; Leisure Car Rental in SXM, <http://www.leisurecarrentalsxm.com/> ; and SXM Thrifty Car Rental, <http://www.thriftycarrentalsxm.com/> .

Mickey's Car Rental has not yet formally opened. We'll let you know what happens there.

21. Restaurant of the Week: IZI Ristorante Italiano

With devout perfectionist restaurateur Davide Foini at its helm, SXM landmark Italian restaurant iZi in Simpson Bay has one goal: be the absolute best. Davide is friends with Temptation's renowned chef/owner Dino Jagtiani, and both share some secrets of superb dining. (We won't tell any secrets).

But if you haven't been to iZi in a while, go back. If they have Chilean seabass, get it -- you will find none better. We tried it during our last few days on the island in late March and it was amazing.

iZi has been expanding its specials lately and we urge you to try them. Great stuff. Tell them Jeff Berger's Everything St. Maarten sent you. JMB members -- see the Secret Site for special offers from iZi.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 4/6/15)

Canoa, www.canoasxm.com (featured 3/23/15)

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 4/21/14)

Cugini (featured 12/8/14)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Plaza near Casino Royale (featured 3/10/14)

Daniel's By The Sea, www.dawnbeachsxm.com (featured 11/17/14)

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

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/23/15)

Fusion, 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 (featured 9/2/14)

Le Pressoir, <http://www.lepressoir-sxm.com> (featured 3/16/15)

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 6/28/14)

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/2/15)

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 5/5/14)

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).

FIG, Cupecoy opposite Rainbow Beach Club

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/10/14)

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 2/23/15)

Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/>

Bylbos, Simpson Bay

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

We'll write about another SXM restaurant here next week as we continue our weekly SXM restaurant coverage.

22. Reminder to Patronize Businesses That Have Earned Our 2015 Awards of Excellence

Most are already displaying our Award proudly. These are among the best-run businesses across the island. The list is alphabetical:

[AIA Massage](#), Tricia Altenau, Ti Spa, L'Esplanade Hotel, Grand Case

[Baker's Suites](#), Simpson Bay

[Mr. Busby's Beach Bar](#), Dawn Beach

[Canoa Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach

[Caribbean Gems](#), Philipsburg

[Celine Too Motor Yacht](#), Simpson Bay

Cugini Italian Restaurant, Simpson Bay (no website; they are located between Fedex and the Carousel)

[Daniel's By The Sea Restaurant](#), Dawn Beach

[Island92 Radio](#), Simpson Bay

[Island Pizza](#), Dawn Beach

[iZi Ristorante Italiano](#), Simpson Bay

[Jet Blue Airways](#), SXM

Johney Burger, SXM Airport

[L'Esplanade Boutique Hotel](#), Grand Case

[Le Pressoir](#) French Restaurant, Grand Case

Orange Grove Pharmacy, Cole Bay

[Oyster Bay Beach Resort](#), Oyster Pond

[Pier Grocer](#), Dawn Beach

[Pineapple Pete Restaurant / SPN Sports Bar](#), Simpson Bay

[Princess Heights Boutique Hotel](#), Dawn Beach

[Princess Juliana Airport](#), SXM

[Spiga](#) Italian Restaurant, Grand Case

[Summit Resort Hotel](#), Cupecoy Beach

Super Dollar Store, (no website, located on L. B. Scott Rd., Mary's Fancy, Dutch Side)

[Sushiitto](#), Port de Plaisance Casino, Cole Bay

[The St. Maarten Party Bus](#) (There's only one Party Bus)

Trattoria Pizza Pasta, Maho Beach

[Toppers and Toppers By The Sea](#), Simpson Bay

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#), SXM

[Vesna Taverna](#), Simpson Bay

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#), Philipsburg

Doesn't Your Business or Practice Deserve a Website That Works?

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

Marketing-Centric / Client-Focused, and created by JMB!

"Websites that Work," part of JMB Communications, offers substantial discounts to JMB Website Supporters members.

Many helpful website-creation-related articles are on our site, which was recently revised. Check it out.

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Page Updated Every Other Weekday

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 .

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 Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

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

SECTION 4: For Members Only (Constantly Updated)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- 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: See www.everythingsxm.com/secret .

SECTION 5: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 12/31/14

Please see our site, www.everythingsxm.com.

CONTACT US

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

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 *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 and to receive Low Airfare Bulletins. We'll be notified automatically.

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

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