

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/23/19: 737 Max; SXM Airport's Future; Adonis Cupecoy Hotel; Cupecoy Development & Restaurants; Retiring to or Starting a Business in SXM; Big Trucks Overturn, Snarl Traffic; Why French Side Residents Were Protesting; Fr. Side Access; "Pelican Pond"; Sea Turtle Hatchings; Holiday SXM Membership Promo Ends 1/3; SXM Vacation Giveaways [39 Stories]

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Vol. 2, #1229 --- Monday, December 23, 2019
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



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Member News

St. Maarten & 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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- Want an SXM Vacation? Be Our 6.5-millionth Visitor

 --Traveling Anywhere In Late March or After? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now
 #####

 ---- *****Customer Stories*****
 Cover Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed
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-- Please Patronize JMB Sponsors
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39 News Stories This Week

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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, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 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 12/28/2019 1/4/2020 Week 52 **Atrium Beach Resort and Spa** One Bedroom - King Size Bed - Sleeper Sofa - Full Kitchen - Simpson Bay on Kimsha Beach - walking distance to casino, dozens of restaurants, supermarket, bakery and shopping. Extra fees are \$3/person per day utility fee, \$1.50/person per day environmental

fee and \$50 resort tax per week payable to resort. \$1,750 Jerry 513 563 2755 FICK1@FUUSE.NET

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/6/2021 2/13/2021 Week 6 Sapphire Beach Club One privacy bedroom, Pull out couch which makes it a sleep 4 unit. Full kitchen. Balcony looking over ocean. Parking garage underneath or parking in front of building. Bar-restaurant on premises. Also have a convenient store & salon for all your needs. \$13,995.00 Susan 609-476-4166 slzang1@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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 group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

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

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

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How To Get a GROWING LIST of 300+ 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 growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

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: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather*

1. UA Pulls 737 MAX From Schedules Into June, 2020

Several major airlines that fly the Boeing 737 Max aircraft — or did until it was grounded last March — have already pulled it from their schedules through next April. But last week, United Airlines, in a move that betrayed a very bearish attitude toward the ill-fated Boeing airplane, canceled all 737 Max scheduled United Airlines flights into June, 2020.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has said that software changes proposed by Boeing to make the airplane safe to fly must still go through a significant number of benchmarks — and that those benchmarks take time. It is not rushing the program, despite Boeing's apparent over-eagerness to get the airplane back in the sky this month.

For whatever reason, Boeing had continued to build dozens of 737 Max airliners every month ever since the plane was grounded. Only now did they finally decide to stop production, since they have a glut of the planes. Certainly, no airline is eager to agree to buy a new plane — which the 737 Max still is — with a currently proven tendency to crash and kill people.

Boeing has an enormous task ahead in earning confidence around the world.

See next two stories.

2. 146,000 737 MAX Flights Cancelled

Ever since the 737 Max was grounded last March, airlines have continued to schedule flights using it and then change them to other aircraft or cancel them outright. An industry source is now saying that since the groundings began, airlines using the 737 Max have canceled a total of 146,000 Max flights — a huge number especially considering that the worldwide fleet of the airplanes is relatively small. The airline most seriously affected was and is Southwest, where pilots have expressed anger that flights they were expecting to fly can't get in the air. They have reportedly filed suit against Boeing for loss of wages, though some observers believe the suit will get nowhere fast — just like the 737 Max's still sitting on the ground.

3. Will Boeing's 737 MAX Ever Return to Service?

Ever since the problems with the Boeing 737 Max began, some observers have suggested that the best thing Boeing can do is to dump the program, which plunked very powerful engines on an airframe that went into service more than 40 years ago. The original 737 was designed close to the ground, with short landing gear, since at that time there was no such thing as a jetway — just roll-up metal stairways which passengers descended outdoors. Since then, the airplane has been massaged 66 ways from Sunday, but it's still the same basic, very old design.

Some 737 pilots tell us the 737 is not an easy airplane to fly and requires constant attention. Obviously, the 737 Max proved to be orders of magnitude more complex and demanding — not to mention defective. Should the airplane return to service at all? That's a debate being waged by many observers. From a marketing perspective, it would be

a smart move by Boeing to scrap the Max, but from a financial perspective it would be hellacious. Assuming Boeing does return the 737 Max to service, the next question will be how they ever convince people that they really ought to fly on it.

4. Much More Coming Next Month on SXM Airport's Future...

We are currently working on a major story for publication next month that looks very closely at the future of SXM Airport from a passenger perspective. The article will talk about changes currently underway to completely renovate the second floor of the terminal building; the future of preclearance in SXM; potential enlargement of the terminal building; and significant potential changes to the layout of the airfield from a pilot perspective. Is there an airport hotel in the offing? SXM has never had one; we'll look at that question as well. Stay tuned.

5. December Winds and Rains

December is when rainy season patterns begin their transition to normal winter weather in SXM. Temperatures cool slightly and the amount of rain begins to simmer down from normal occasional deluge rainy season patterns.

In recent weeks SXM has been refreshingly windy — a usual occurrence during December. Weather has been fine from a tourist perspective, though there have been brief deluges resulting in a fair amount of ponding, particularly on Beacon Hill Road near the airport and in front of Atrium resort (see separate story in our island news section).

Weather generally completes transitioning into its usual winter pattern by mid-January.

6. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) **[Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.**
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) 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.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.

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7. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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 travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc..

8. New Adonis Cupecoy Hotel Close to Opening

The new 52-room Adonis Cupecoy hotel has been racing toward its promised completion by January over the last several weeks. Now, the developer tells us that the new hotel will be open in about one more week. We expect to publish pictures -- inside and out -- in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Close to both Starz casino (scheduled to reopen by next season) and the new casino at Porto Cupecoy, where there

are also a number of great restaurants (Mario's Bistro and Mama Pizza among them), Adonis is modern and near but not on Cupecoy and Mullet beaches.

9. "Fourteen" Condo Twin Towers Rising Steadily in Cupecoy

The two 21-story "Fourteen" condos now under construction in Cupecoy are moving along quickly. The first tower is now six stories tall, with concrete for the seventh story now being poured.

It does appear that additional site work is being done for the second tower in preparation for its construction to begin in earnest.

We are asking our realtor partners to post more information about this property and buying options for it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

10. Towers at Mullet Bay Debacle Demands Intervention

The Towers at Mullet Bay debacle demands intervention by the island government, once a new administration has been elected. Some repairs were made to the building after hurricane Irma. Even now, people are living in the building and apparently are paying to do so — but no timeshare owners. What we're hearing is that a financial fiasco related to ENNIA Insurance and some court intervention is what is preventing timeshare owners from staying at this property, and perhaps preventing the property itself from completing post-hurricane renovations.

28 months after the hurricane hit is ample time for all this to be resolved and for timeshare owners to be given some respect by all parties. That still hasn't happened. There have been other timeshare debacles on the island, most notably the Caravanserai debacle which continues and about which we've written here on many occasions.

Let's not have another one persist here. If the new government to be elected early next month wants to prove that it is oriented toward tourism and timeshare owner consumer protection, it needs to get into this quickly and effectively on behalf of timeshare owners — the biggest part of the Dutch side's stayover tourism industry.

It's a big deal.

11. "The Morgan" at Caravanserai Continues ...

The single most unusual "resort" on the island is currently called Alegria, on the site of the former Caravanserai timeshare resort.

You can check our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#) online and do a search of either Caravanserai or Alegria to check the back-story here. That might explain some of the abandoned building shells on the site as well as the new building now under construction which had been part of the prior timeshare resort. The owner of the property, who renamed Caravanserai to Alegria a few years ago, is renaming it again to the Morgan, supposedly an upscale hotel.

In recent years, the property has been used primarily by tour buses bringing loads of cruise ship tourists to Maho beach to gawk at arriving airplanes and each other. The bars near the runway have been busy, but there seems to be little guest activity at the property, just ongoing construction.

There should be a court decision in the near term stemming from a case brought by timeshare owners whose contracts were unilaterally canceled by the current owner of the property in possible contradiction of local laws. Some of the timeshare owners sued (there is no such thing as class-action here) and the final appeal verdict should be known soon. We'll get back into some of the other details of this once the verdict is handed down.

12. No Street Lights in Mullet Bay: Where's GEBE?

You would think that GEBE, SXM's electric and water company, would be able to monitor its system and tell when certain geographic tracts have no street lights. Or you'd assume that their own people would be doing some monitoring and would tell them when lights are out in various districts. Regardless of the cause, street lights in the entire Mullet Bay area where the golf course is have been out for weeks — and although we're not always there, we've been looking for GEBE maintenance trucks in the area and have seen none.

Where's GEBE?

Rank and file employees there work hard. But management, it would appear, still doesn't.

13. Where to Find SXM Condo & Villa Rentals

If you are looking for timeshare condos to rent for future SXM island vacations, please see our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. It contains hundreds of rentals for 2020 as well as dozens of units for sale on the island. 2021 rentals will begin to appear on the site early in March, 2020. Our high-quality sponsors/partners offering villa rentals across the island also have a variety of properties to offer you. Here they are. We have also listed three hotel properties below that have rooms available for future stays in all seasons.

14. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingSXM.com.

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

15. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Please check this link to [BrightPath](#) in SXM, a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

Please see also story 16a for important information.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

16. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway

Jeff will be working in December & January to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program.

As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16a. Retiring To or Starting a Business in SXM

This story is from BrightPath®, a St. Maarten-based company that provides specialized help to US residents and others who seek to establish St. Maarten residency to retire, start a business, buy income property. etc. It is loaded with useful information. See more at www.brightpath.sx. *This was written by Vivian Chamas, BrightPath founder:*

BrightPath® Origin. I founded BrightPath about five years ago. It was a concept to attract investors into St. Maarten and to introduce the island to people who wanted to retire or start a new business here. Many wanted life in St. Maarten because of the benefits here — it's real estate tax-free and duty-free, and residents can have bank accounts established in either dollars or euros without any special paperwork necessary.

It's a very tranquil lifestyle but everything is here that people need or want — supermarkets, restaurants, nightclubs, recreation, and very agreeable winter weather. It's a very good destination to promote.

In early 2020, BrightPath is expanding into several other islands, including St. Kitts, Dominica, and Antigua.

Objective. *Our objective has always been to supply solutions to people who want to transition to life here in the Caribbean. We do that by assisting them with their immigration process and their banking needs, if needed. If they wish to start a business we can assist them with all the requirements related to making that happen. There are no real estate taxes in St. Maarten and none are currently anticipated in the foreseeable future.*

From a tax perspective, it is important to understand that St. Maarten does have the benefits of no import duties and no property taxes. However, it's important to understand that worldwide income is considered by St. Maarten when the country is determining the amount of taxes an individual or family or business will pay. Any income you generate outside of St. Maarten has to be declared in St. Maarten. For us to make sure we give you optimal advice custom tailored to your specific situation, we normally speak with your tax advisor. Given specific information about your current jurisdiction and your tax status, we can do our advisory due diligence properly and give you the best advice about starting or continuing a business here in St. Maarten.

Documentation requirements vary by country and also by whatever program we need to place you in. In general for first-time applicants, across-the-board for the St. Maarten government paperwork we do require your birth certificate, if you're married then your marriage certificate, and if you're divorced, your divorce certificate. All of these documents have to be issued within the last three years, per Dutch side government requirements. All of them also must have a legalization stamp from a Dutch Embassy or an apostille stamp to certify the authenticity of each document. Usually such a stamp is issued by the Secretary of State of the state in which the applicant lives in the US.

Although the apostille stamps may be difficult to obtain, it's one of the services that we provide both in the United States and Canada. We do obtain those documents for our clients and obtain the stamps and appropriate signatures. These stamps are a higher level than traditional US Notary Public stamps. The government of the Dutch side of the island also requires an original police record issued within the last six months. Note that if there are just

misdeemeanors, such as DUI, we may usually still be able to proceed successfully with the request. However, if there are crimes of a more serious nature then we prefer to send that information up for review. At the end of the day, we do have a responsibility to our community for the quality of immigrant that we are bringing into the country. In some cases, we will refer the matter to some local authorities to get their feedback before proceeding further.

There is substantial paperwork required for SXM residency — and we handle all of it for our clients. Our objective is to make the transition much easier for clients. Adopting residency in a new country is a big step; there are issues including housing, schools, and more -- all issues that will affect your lifestyle. We try to handle all of the details that don't make the transition exciting anymore.

We follow the process in stages and we notify our clients as individual stages are completed. The process, though still considered by many a bit complicated, is relatively easy for US citizens. It is a process that we complete from start to finish within 90 days, usually. For residents of other countries, the process can take from 3 to 6 months. The benefit for Americans is largely because of the Dutch-American Friendship Treaty.

Because of the Dutch American Friendship Treaty, US citizens don't require a specific work permit to work in Dutch St. Maarten. Once we obtain a residency permit for US citizens, it customarily has a validity for an indefinite period, which means that it is essentially a permanent residence. As a result, you can freely work on the island. You do not need a separate process with a separate work permit on the island as a US citizen.

Regarding taxation, your taxable income level would depend on your worldwide income.

Regarding schooling, once you have your residency permit, your children will be able to attend local schools. If you are going to have them attend private schools, once you have your residency permit and the children have passed the entrance exam, it's a matter of simply paying the tuition there.

Most banks on the island are able to offer financing once your residency permit is in place. There are attractive options especially for first-time homebuyers on SXM.

What we do best is handle and expedite paperwork regarding immigration, relocation, establishing new businesses, and developing relationships with banks. We generally work in collaboration with licensed real estate agents on the island because their depth of experience serves our clients best.

People coming to the island are sometimes concerned about medical care. The availability of medical care is pretty good compared to our peers. Would it compare to first-world hospitals and dedicated care? No. Within the Caribbean, however, I do think it stands amongst the best.

Initial Consultations. Everyone has different needs, different experiences, different expectations, and different financial situations. Our initial consultation is always free, which enables people to learn what we can provide that's custom-tailored to their needs. That way there are no expenses related to us determining what the most suitable options are for each individual case. It's important for everyone to realize that they can ask all the questions they need to ask without being on the clock, so the free consultation is an important benefit for our clients. Our prices are standard and are listed on our website, www.brightpath.sx. Government fees vary depending on what governments are involved and what documentation costs are in various jurisdictions.

From experience, we can generalize a bit and say there are usually three types of people coming to SXM:

1. There are **younger people** who want to try their luck living someplace else and they may want to start a business here. A lot of those come in and come out; they start a business but don't always give it the time that it needs to become successful and they leave, either to go home or to another island to try something else or something similar there.
2. Another segment that comes here from abroad is **existing companies** that want to branch out to St. Maarten or leverage our transportation and distribution facilities to have a regional headquarters here for product distribution throughout the Caribbean region. *Companies can consolidate their imports duty-free here in St. Maarten and then re-export*. For trade, it's great. Our big harbor is also excellent for product distribution for regional subsidiaries. Those companies can also invoice in US dollars and keep those US dollars.
3. The third segment is **individuals**, usually from the United States or Canada, who want to retire here. We usually help them partner with a licensed real estate agent and help them set up local banking and all the paperwork necessary for residency. We help them with opening the bank account, getting the residency permit, handling rent real estate, and getting the financing.

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17. Big Trucks Overtake, Snarl Traffic for Hours

Midweek last week saw one of the worst traffic jams in Dutch side history. Two separate truck accidents occurred in one afternoon, one on top of "the hill" and the other at the turnabout near the St. Maarten Medical Center. Traffic in Simpson Bay, which is normally very heavy before Christmas every afternoon, was backed up not simply beyond the Airport, but all the way to Sapphire Resort in Cupecoy, near the French border.

Some people traveling from Cupecoy toward the airport said that trip took them about two hours, considerably less than it would've taken to walk the same distance. We have heard no reports about the condition of the drivers or any passengers in the vehicles involved in the accidents.

We do know some passengers headed for SXM Airport got out of their vehicles and walked the rest of the way to the airport to try to avoid missing airplanes.

Some cruise ship passengers trying to return to the cruise ship terminal were able to notify the ships which, we were told, held up departures a bit to accommodate their accidentally stuck passengers.

If you were involved in this backup, know that this is not a normal part of life in SXM. Many locals said it was the worst backup they've seen in the last 30 years.

18. Why French Side Residents Were Protesting; Fr. Side Access

The French acronym is PPRN. Although it is simply a draft program by the French government, nonetheless it has been enforced in the wake of hurricane Irma, and its effect has been devastating to a large part of the French side population.

Explained simply, the PPRN draft does not allow the reconstruction of homes in areas flooded during hurricane Irma — areas on which insurance cannot now be obtained. For the sake of the draft, it doesn't matter whether your family has owned the property in question for 100 years or more: permits to build or rebuild simply were not to be had.

The government of the Collectivite and the people of the French side vehemently objected to the draft, which was being enforced as if it were law — which it isn't. The Préfet — who is the woman representing the actual French state in Europe on the island — has been extremely doctrinaire and stubborn in enforcement, and hadn't budged despite many months of opposition to PPRN from both the French side government and thousands of French side citizens. All of this is what caused the boil over on the French side of the island which continued to the middle of last week.

At that point, facing major demonstrations and disruptions, the Préfet said that it would re-examine the PPRN and "correct" it — though there was no definition of exactly what "correct it" meant and no promise that PPRN would not be back after what amounts to a 90 day cooling off period, which will end in the middle of March.

At the beginning, decent people were expressing frustration with the intransigence of the Préfet. They were ultimately joined by disenfranchised youths who, for a time, created roadblocks in Sandy Ground, French Quarter, and other areas, which for a time made customary travel throughout the French side impassable and caused schools and businesses to be shut down temporarily by the government.

In France itself, there are major demonstrations going on concerning pension reforms which will cut pensions. Although the French side is part of France, the demonstrations here on the French side were laser-focused on the PPRN and not, for now, on the pension issue.

The three primary French side areas which interest tourists the most are Grand Case, Marigot, and Orient beach, and to a lesser extent villas in the French lowlands. All of these areas are readily accessible and conducting business as usual. The only difference is that you may notice an increased presence of gendarmes patrolling the areas — a good assurance.

There are some indications that progress is being made toward rectifying problems created by the draft PPRN — but they are only indications at this point, not certain solutions. As of late last week, blockages remained in French Quarter (north of the McDonald's Roundabout on the main road north from Philipsburg to Orient beach) and in Sandy Ground, west of Marigot.

It's still a relatively simple matter to get to the areas noted above. To get to Marigot or Orient beach drive north on the union road on the east side of Simpson Bay lagoon or drive north on airport road to the causeway, and take the

Causeway East to the union road and turn left (north) toward Marigot. From there, you can freely travel to points throughout Marigot or to Grand Case or Orient beach. You can return the same way. As of late last week, you could not get to Orient beach or Grand Case by way of French Quarter, though that situation may improve soon. Blockages continue to exist from just east of the French side drawbridge through Sandy Ground. We currently recommend no travel through Sandy Ground — which is not necessary to get anywhere of interest to tourists.

If you want to get to the French lowlands, use the Dutch side road through Mullet Bay and Cupecoy beach. Currently this gives you full access to the lowlands.

19. The Protestors' Utopian Demands...

The French side protesters have issued a series of demands against the French side of the island. Although the list is very extensive, at its heart is the death of the PPRN proposal. There are many other elements to the proposal, a significant number of which regard capital expenditures for the improvement of the lives of many French side citizens.

Although many French side citizens would support the full series of demands in the "manifesto", most people seem to think that the extent of the demands makes them more of a starting point for negotiations than a cinderblock wall of requirements that the protesters are unwilling to alter. The fact that the list exists at all is positive, since it gives a starting point for negotiations between the protesters and the government.

The fact that the people will not accept the PPRN as currently presented has been proved beyond doubt by the recent demonstrations. We know the French side government certainly gets the impact of the demonstrations. The critical factor to be determined is whether the Préfet gets it as well, since the Préfet's responsiveness to the demands will set the course for the future of the French side. Please see story 18 concerning current French side access.

Here are the [demands of the French side protesters](#).

20. Prodigious Pelican Pond Persists: Why?

At this writing on Sunday night, the pond that had appeared on Billy Folly road in front of Atrium Hotel has temporarily disappeared, though everyone who must wade through it by car, truck, bus, or taxi fully realizes that any significant shower will bring it back in a hurry.

There is inadequate drainage in the area plus other factors that contribute to the problem. The area is fill, a fact that is highly obvious when you look at the land between atrium and Burger King and see that it is full of mud, a former channel for water between Simpson Bay lagoon and Simpson Bay.

Adding to the problem is the fact that there is been a great deal of development on Billy Folly Hill. That development has put cement on much of the hill, preventing the land from absorbing water from heavy rains. Consequently, after heavy rains, water cascades down various streets in the area including Onyx Road which drains into Billy Folly Road right in front of Atrium Hotel, in the same area as the new Chabad center and the new Lee's restaurant.

The water in the road at times is so deep that it causes electrical issues in some of the cars forced to drive through it.

Additional development in the area may well aggravate the situation. Pumping the water out of the area and dumping it into Simpson Bay is not an option. The government, which claims to be strapped for money, is being pleaded with by local residents and businesses to step in and help the area. Some local residents say that the situation has also been aggravated by rising water tables resulting from climate change, which is also being blamed for the record shattering storms Irma and Maria in 2017, Harvey that same year, and Dorian this year, which like Irma delivered 185 mile-per-hour sustained winds and catastrophic destruction when it hit the Bahamas.

We'll keep an eye on the situation and report on any further developments.

21. The New Culinary Panoply at Cupecoy Beach

With little fanfare, within a few hundred yards from each other, two significant culinary communities have blossomed near Cupecoy beach. The first is along Rhine Road just outside the gates of the medical school of American University of the Caribbean (AUC) and the second, more upscale, is next door at Porto Cupecoy.

On Rhine Road, you'll find a Smokehouse, pasta, Lebanese food, Japanese food, pastry, Indian food, pizza, and a bodega.

At Porto Cupecoy you will find Mario's Bistro, one of SXM's top restaurants of any kind (it's Continental); Thai Savanh; plus Mama Pizza, an Asian bistro, and a French restaurant.

Cupecoy is becoming a place where culinary attractions are increasing. More will be back when Starz Casino reopens before the next high season.

22. Sea Turtle Hatchings Expected

Sea turtle nesting season is over and most nests on area beaches are clearly marked: stay clear to protect endangered sea turtles.

Hatchings will occur over the next several weeks. Again, stay well away.

23. SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon Jan. 3

Registration has ended and dozens of people will be joining us for our SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon January 3 in Simpson Bay, the first-ever on SXM. We thank you for registering and look forward to meeting you at the luncheon, featuring lots of info about SkyMed for current members and their guests.

23a. Don't Miss Our Holiday SXM Membership Sale -- Ends 1/3

Our biggest sale of the year for our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program ends 1/3. Both new and renewal pricing are the lowest of the year. We have few sales, so take advantage while this is offered; it ends soon.

Make sure your new JMB membership or your renewal/reinstatement is in force well ahead of your next visit to the island: do it today. Sale pricing is shown below.



Holiday Membership Sale --- Our Biggest of the Year --

*******ENDS 1/3!*******



**Get 300+ SXM Discounts
& Many More Island Benefits**

& (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties... Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership Today:

New JMB memberships: 5 years, \$139 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$109; 1 yr., \$59
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml

Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

Reinstatement JMB memberships:
6 years, \$149 (best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$49
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

23b. Want an SXM Vacation? Be Our 6.5-millionth Visitor

You can now enter our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway, described below.

In addition, if you are our 6.5 millionth visitor to everythingSXM.com, our main website, you will be a finalist in that vacation giveaway. If you are visitor number 6.5 million, you will see 6,500,000 in our hit counter. When that happens, click PRT SCN to print the screen you see, or get an image of it. Email that image to Susank [at] JMBcommunications.com with the subject 6.5 million. In the email, include your full name, address, and telephone number. When we create a list at random of 50 people who will be finalists in our giveaway next March, you will be on that list. You will be highly likely to be called and awarded a vacation prize.

Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway. To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at everythingxsm.com. That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners *MUST* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers.

Several people are going to win SXM vacations from us through **Paradise SXM**, and you might just be one of them.

Paradise SXM will be giving away several SXM vacations, including weeks at Simpson Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Adonis Cupecoy hotel, Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach, and El Zafiro hotel and restaurant on Simpson Bay beach -- and other properties to be announced.

The giveaway celebrates our site surpassing 6.5 million visits. Most of the weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries late in March. Some others — particularly at villas and condominiums to be announced — will be given away a bit later. All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we will give away many dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, probably zipline trips, a car rental, and possibly some major gifts on one or two neighboring islands - all to be announced soon.

Paradise SXM will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever.

Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

24. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it today. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb, our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

25. Where Are They Now?

This is the xth in a series of articles about where the people are who served you in the past at extremely popular SXM restaurants. If you've been going to SXM for any length of time — or, in fact, if you're an ex-pat now living there — you will find interesting information right here. Since they moved on from their original restaurants, many SXM restaurateurs and restaurant employees have stayed in the business on the island. In this series, we'll tell you where some of them are and where you can get those recipes you thought you'd never taste again.

No story this week - send us your story ideas through our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#)...

If you have suggestions for future "Where Are They Now" articles, please email them to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject where are they now.

Featured so far in this series:

Daniel Jurczenko **Busby's, Daniel's by the Sea** (article #8)
Karin Mikitz and Pascal Potin, **L'Alabama** (article #7)
Mario Tardiff, **Mario's Bistro, Marigot on the Channel** (article #6)
Vesna **Sunshine Cafe** and Yannick **Fish Pot** (article #5)
Livio Bergamasco / **Da Livio** (article #4)
Gray & Jason & "Lulu" / **Busby's / Daniel's** (article #3)
David Foini, **La Raviolina / La Gondola** / iZi (article #2)
Al & Lillian Wathey, **Turtle Pier / Nowhere Special** (article #1)

26. Restaurant of the Week:

Returns soon.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 12/2/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 11/26/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 10/28/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Wednesday through Sunday.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, 7/13/19. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go!

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

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

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

27. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Regardless of what time it is, people are always interacting with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — asking questions, answering questions, getting answers or suggestions or recommendations from other people, posting thousands of pictures, etc.

With almost 24,000 participating members (more than twice that including their partners and friends), there's just about always a number of people around to answer any question or to offer recommendations. *You will also find some of the best businesses on the island occasionally posting information about what they offer, too — jewelers, car rentals, points of accommodation, restaurants, pharmacists, swimsuit retailers, and others.* The best place to get your questions answered quickly is our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- check it out.

28. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has recently been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

29. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo continues on SkyMed memberships. Not only are all multiyear SkyMed memberships heavily discounted for JMB members, but *when you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership through us or upgrade your annual SkyMed membership bought from us to a multiyear membership, we will extend your JMB membership on us for the number of years you buy SkyMed.*

Example: Upgrade to or buy a new five-year SkyMed membership through us, and [we give you a free five-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership](#). All you need to do is forward us a copy of the acknowledgement you receive from SkyMed after you buy new or upgrade through us. For info, see skymed.com/jmb (that new website goes live soon), but [to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at \(508\) 747-8281 or email Jeff at \[jeff@jmbcommunications.com\]\(mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com\) with the subject SkyMed](#). Give us your phone number and time zone and we'll return your call as quickly as we can. Available exclusively to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats.

30. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb, now live; please bookmark that and not any other site.

When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone: that way we get credit. It takes about 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently; that way we do get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed inquiries only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. Thank you. Customer stories are below.

31. Going Somewhere? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of Pre-Existing Conditions by Buying Guaranteed Renewable Annual Protection Now, Only About \$1.35/day

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without it, an emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance will cost you from \$35,000 to \$50,000 or more, sometimes much more, payable in cash in advance. Worse, you must get it before you need it - just like fire insurance.

Buy a new SkyMed multiyear five-year membership from us now by phoning us at 508-747-8281 (at about \$1.35/day price guaranteed for 10 years when we take your application by phone) and we'll give you a 10 year new or renewal JMB Website Supporters membership on us. All you need to do is email us a copy of your welcome letter from SkyMed after approval to jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed.

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

By buying guaranteed renewable annual or multiyear protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed protects you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available as well. For answers to your questions, call us today at 508-747-8281.

See next story for much more on SkyMed. Offer ends soon.

Again, our new SkyMed website is www.skymed.com/jmb: please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

32. ***SkyMed Customer Stories***** Protect Against Pricey Emergency Medical Evacuations by Getting SkyMed:**

Emergency medical evacuations are payable in cash in advance and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- unless you have a SkyMed membership. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to X-Pats of both countries, taking them home from throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available covering every country around the world except those on the U. S. State Department watch list. SkyMed makes all medical evacuation arrangements and pays for them directly...you just pay for your SkyMed membership.

Here are examples of SkyMed in action:

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a

new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the

common thread in all these cases. *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere. Do it today. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb, our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

More Info on SkyMed...

On its guaranteed renewable annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions -- everything else is covered in full as soon as your SkyMed membership has been approved, per SkyMed's member services agreement.

If you're traveling more than three months into the future, you can beat that one-time 90-day pre-existing conditions exclusion by joining today. That way the 90-day exclusion period will be over by the time you travel -- so you're covered in full, including pre-existing conditions, at that time.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. There is no age limit to apply, and once you're enrolled you can renew without further medical checks regardless of your attained age or your health at the time of renewal. Without SkyMed, if you need an Emergency Medical Evacuation, you must pay for it in cash, in advance. No cash, no evacuation. And the cost without SkyMed can be astronomical. Why risk that?

By contrast, if you're a SkyMed member, you call SkyMed directly and they make all the arrangements for all the

services they provide. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

And there is *no age limit to apply*. Call us at 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff; he'll answer your questions and can take your application by phone, usually in under 10 minutes.

It's available to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats from both countries. Short-term and annual coverage includes the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available on annual memberships for a \$99 additional yearly fee, but global coverage is standard on multiyear SkyMed Ultimate memberships, which are both SkyMed's best and its least expensive medevac memberships.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

Got questions? Call us daytimes (EDT) at 508-747-8281. Again, we can answer your questions and take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. We can set up evening phone appointments too. It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it.

When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone. It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See skymed.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits

33. Are You Military?

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

Visit everythingssxm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

34. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

35. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 12/16)

AMUSEMENTS

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental (new)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Majesty Jewelers

Ray's Jewelers

Alpha Jewels

Art of Time

Artistic Jewelers

Oro Diamante

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

Island Real Estate Team is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Century 21 St. Maarten (just joined)

Sunshine Properties (new)

RESORTS:

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Baker's Suites

RESTAURANTS & BARS

IZI

SPIGA

VESNA TAVERNA

ISOLA

Frenchy Ludo's

SNOOPY'S

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Sale and Pepe

LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)

MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)

Pineapple Pete Restaurant

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

Nowhere Special

ROXXY Bar / Restaurant (NEW)

SWIMWEAR:

Endless Summer Swimwear, Philipsburg & Simpson Bay

VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at blueparadiserealty.com.

GoBeach Vacations

Sunshine Properties has just joined us.

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

Bright Path is already posting on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 12/2/19

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

36. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — *are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.*

Our Sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2020. Contact us today for more information.

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.](#)

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?

***2017 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.**

SECTION 5: For Members Only

- 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 7/2017

See www.everythingsxm.com.

About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. 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 www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe

your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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 5/25/18)

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, contact 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 respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

12/23/19 #V2-1229 6:00 am AST

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