

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/23/20: Tourists Return Home; Airport & Airline Heroes; Princess Cruises Issues; Resorts, Hotels Shutting Down; Waiter "Joseph" & His Scooter; Restaurants Open for Take-Out; Jewelers, Cigar Vendors Open Online; Hurricane Season Starts June 1 [29 Stories]

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Vol. 3, #1241 --- Monday, March 23, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

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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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 336,000 people around the world...

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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- *SkyMed FAQ*
- *SXM Vacation Giveaway Continues; Drawing Deferred Until Late 2020*

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- *Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It*

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----- ***** *SkyMed Customer Stories* *****

Protect Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership from SkyMed

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- *Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate*

- *Please Patronize JMB Sponsors*

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- *SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic*

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29 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:

In subscriber copies only.

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

In subscriber copies only.

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://everythingxm.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. Thousands Return Home as SXM Girds for Covid-19

On Friday, March 13, the Dutch side Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs announced a forthcoming ban on travel from the United States, Canada, and elsewhere to the island, effective March 22. Medical evacuations were excluded from the ban, but cruise ships were also included.

Although not all airlines quickly notified their passengers about the flight cancellations and some didn't offer immediate help with rescheduling return trips, others stepped forward and as a result, thousands of SXM tourists from the USA and Canada were able to return home expeditiously before the ban took effect.

In fact, with help from SXM Airport and from Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin of Island92 radio as well as Marco Croes, SXM country manager for Delta airlines, we published specifics concerning all the airlines' special flights back to the US and Canada in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Those articles helped facilitate the connection between passengers and flights for hundreds of passengers flying to a spectrum of cities in the USA and Canada

When we left SXM last Thursday afternoon aboard a Delta flight to Atlanta, we met dozens of other passengers both in SXM and in Atlanta who were returning to various parts of the country — all grateful for Delta's help.

Although at the time of Prime Minister Jacobs' address there were no cases of coronavirus in SXM, one was confirmed and announced late last week - and there are more now on both the French and Dutch sides. SXM [is not immune](#) to the pandemic. The expectation of coronavirus cases is what led the SXM government to shut down overseas travel and to enforce social distancing by shutting down restaurants, bars, etc., which also resulted in many resorts closing to enable their employees to stay home.

Although the air travel shutdown was announced with a duration of two weeks, it was widely expected to last longer to enable the island to keep control of any coronavirus outbreak and to ensure the ability of the two hospitals on the island to respond to the needs of island residents.

If you are a US or Canadian tourist on SXM, it behooves you to get out and go home as soon as humanly possible - like *NOW*. The Dutch side has only two ventilators -- they need to be available to island residents and it is unfair for tourists to expect access to them in a global pandemic. As a practical matter you need to be home where your health insurance is actually accepted. Please go home now to protect yourself from this growing pandemic.

Please see the other stories in this issue for more information about coronavirus and related topics.

2. A Warm Thank You To Airline & Airport Heroes

Many people have gone out of their way to help tourists get home since the shutdown of overseas access was first announced on Friday, March 13. Topping the list were the scores of airport employees at ticket counters, in baggage handling areas, on the tarmac, and many other areas who worked tirelessly under very challenging circumstances to help passengers get home expeditiously and with good care.

The first airline to our knowledge to get extra flights into SXM Airport was Delta, who did it in one major hurry. The aircraft arrived in SXM empty except for the flight crews and left close to full, with lots of passengers thankful for Delta's tremendous responsiveness. A special shout out must go to Delta St. Maarten station manager Marco Croes who quickly got in touch with Delta's corporate offices when it became obvious that thousands of people would need flights home. United, WestJet, and JetBlue also provided flights off the island, although both JetBlue and American were rather slow at getting any meaningful information to their passengers.

This is a new experience for everyone — one which all hope is never repeated. It has been and will continue to be an enormous challenge for everyone in business who is required to deal with it directly. Under the circumstances, the response by everyone was beyond remarkable — and still is.

3. SkyMed Updates Coronavirus Medical Evacuation Info

The challenge that coronavirus is delivering to American business and everyone across the US and Canada as well as the Caribbean is an enormous one. The situation seems to change by the hour, as do government requirements and regulations for handling different aspects of the impacts of coronavirus.

With that in mind, SkyMed has updated its response to coronavirus, as reflected in the updated Frequently Asked Questions issued by SkyMed at the beginning of this week. This latest coronavirus information is now being incorporated into our very latest, complete Frequently Asked Questions document concerning SkyMed medical evacuation protection — a product that continues to take SkyMed members home when they become seriously or critically injured or ill when traveling practically anywhere.

Here is the latest Covid-19 update from SkyMed:

Dear SkyMed Members, Representatives, Employees, and Contractors;

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused a worldwide pandemic. As a result, numerous governmental restrictions

have been imposed that are affecting how we normally handle our member services and run our business. We are being impacted by US federal, state and city regulations. In addition, we are dealing with overriding regulations being imposed by Host countries in which our members may be located. Borders are being closed, and each situation needs to be evaluated individually depending on what country our member is in and what country their transport preference is. We are dealing with 32 countries and their regulations in our immediate SkyMed Universe and the world as a whole with regard to our Global Emergency Travel members.

General facts to know and understand about SkyMed services as related to the COVID-19 virus:

- SkyMed CANNOT independently make arrangements to transport a member infected with the Coronavirus COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the US State Department must be notified by health and medical authorities making a positive diagnosis of Coronavirus COVID-19 and notice of immediate quarantine procedures enacted.
- SkyMed CANNOT supersede our US State Department regulations or similar regulations of Host countries that our members may be in.

All countries have national emergency regulations that are in force, and we must honor their authority.

Questions and Answers to help understand operating procedures:

Q. What happens if a member is diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. If diagnosed with the COVID-19, virus patients will be quarantined in accordance with their Host country's laws and regulations and not released until tested negative for the virus.

Q. What happens if someone thinks they have the COVID-19 virus but is not officially diagnosed?

A. If someone thinks they may have the COVID-19 virus they should seek their health care professional's advice as soon as possible for guidance on how to deal with symptoms. In addition, they must self-quarantine for 14-days and not risk exposure to others.

Q. What happens if a member needs to be air evacuated for a critical medical reason not related to COVID-19?

A. SkyMed air evacuation services are activated when a member is hospitalized with a critical illness or injury and the attending physician orders an air ambulance to take the member home or a medical escort to accompany the member. These services remain unaltered as long as air ambulances are allowed to enter and exit the area or Host country our member is located in. Local government regulations have overriding authority over air evacuation of critical medical situations.

The COVID-19 virus is a severe worldwide pandemic. Many new governmental restrictions and agencies now control all aspects of public travel.

SkyMed wants to help our members at all times, especially those who are currently traveling and away from their home base. We can assist in making your travel arrangements to help get you home. The best method to contact us for your travel is by email to info@skymedtravel.com or call us at 1-800-568-8994 with your preferred travel itinerary. Our in-house travel agency is here to help make reservations. Having our in-house travel agency is a big help as we can book airline reservations and issue the tickets ourselves. We can also make car rental and hotel bookings and can make changes on the fly to ALL these reservations.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm. Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or www.memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can. Regular member services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President
SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

All of us know we will be resuming travel hopefully later this year. No matter what, we should all be prepared since anything can happen anywhere. Like fire insurance, you need to obtain SkyMed Medevac protection before you need it. For much more on SkyMed, please see the stories in Section 3.

4. Planning a Future Cruise? Think Twice About Princess

This *USA Today* investigation into [Princess](#) -- may make you want to think twice about whether you really want to cruise on one of their ships....

5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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.

Changing Your Email Address?

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email
and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News subscription
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com***

6. 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..

7. Most SXM Resorts Shutting Down, For Now

If they haven't shut down already, most SXM resorts and hotels are now on the verge of doing so.

As one new resort -- SECRETS in Anse Marcel -- came online this year, and as others were in or about to enter a full construction or reconstruction mode (Planet Hollywood, Westin) SXM had reason to expect a very good year — its best since before hurricane Irma.

But the market was jittery and the gangbusters winter that most merchants had expected and hope for didn't materialize. A persistent lack of rooms was a problem, as was a nearly total lack of promotion of the island. Then came the coronavirus and the "temporary" two-week airlift shut down, now underway. The actual length of the shutdown is anybody's guess, though few expect it will last only two weeks.

As always, Massachusetts-based *SXM Weekly News* will keep on operating and will bring you all the latest information both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which routinely now posts news, information, government press releases, Covid updates, and much more.

8. 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 everythingxml.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.

9. 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*.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

10. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

We are working 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 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

** Unprecedented SkyMed Medevac Event Extended to

4/30**

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling.

Here are particulars:

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

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

And you'll find Frequently Asked Questions here (frequently updated):

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2020SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

Important SkyMed Facts:

SkyMed *Takes You Home* benefits apply in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Optional GETS (Global Emergency Transport Services) protection is available in the rest of the world, but service is not provided to countries on the U. S. State Department's "do not travel" warnings list.

Our March/April Madness Sale:

From now through April 30, 2020, here's what our March/April Madness

SkyMed Sale delivers:

1. Buy a new or upgrade to a new Five Year SkyMed Ultimate membership through us, and we'll give you a five year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new five-year JMB membership is \$139.00). If you're not a JMB member, we'll set up a new five-year JMB membership on us. Note: If you're upgrading, your original SkyMed membership must have been bought through us.
2. RENEW a five-year Ultimate bought through us for another five years, and we'll give you a five year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new five-year JMB membership is \$139.00).
3. Same as (1), but applies to three-year SkyMed Ultimate memberships. Buy or upgrade to a three-year SkyMed membership, and we'll set up a new three-year JMB membership on us. Note: If you're upgrading, your original SkyMed membership must have been bought through us.
4. RENEW a three-year Ultimate bought through us for another three years, and we'll give you a three-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new three-year JMB membership is \$109.00).
5. Buy a new Annual SkyMed membership from us and we'll give you a one-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership on us (our reg. cost for a new one-year JMB membership is \$59.00).
6. NOT A JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS MEMBER? No problem: We'll set up a JMB membership for you. See next item.
7. All purchases must be made directly through us between February 21, 2020, and April 30, 2020 by phone at 508-747-8281. Purchases made any other way do not qualify for these JMB Website Supporters benefits. If you are not visiting SXM no substitutions are available for the above offers

11. No Set Date for Normalcy to Return to SXM Tourism

Virtually the entire planet is dealing with the Covid-19 virus. Just as there is no reasonably precise estimate about when things will return to normal in North America — there is also no idea when normalcy will return to SXM tourism. It's just too early to tell.

There are many people in our audience who have reservations on SXM in April, May, June, or later. We are frequently asked whether it's practical for anyone to visit SXM in any of those months (or later). *Our pat answer is that we have no crystal ball and don't know exactly what the future holds.*

Most officials say the coronavirus Pandemic will get worse before it gets better. There has probably never been as great a mobilization against a single viral enemy in the history of the planet as there is now against Covid-19. Both treatments and vaccines are being tested and real, solid efforts are already underway to greatly increase the

manufacturing of badly needed respirators, ventilators, medical masks, etc.

The best thing you can do to protect yourself — especially if you are in a vulnerable population due to age or pre-existing conditions — is to stay home and remain isolated. You can't contract coronavirus unless you are exposed to someone who already has it, even if they are not exhibiting any symptoms and don't know they have it.

For much more information on the coronavirus, see CDC.gov and [please pay close attention to medical authorities in your state or province for the latest information and directives from government authorities](#). For SXM information related to Covid and every other SXM topic, please watch this newsletter as well as news we publish in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

12. Former Sale & Pepe Waiter Tried to Stop a Scooter Theft...

A former waiter at Sale and Pepe restaurant who recently started working for Roxxy in Simpson Bay tried to fight when a thief tried to take his motor scooter in front of the Market Garden grocery store late last week. The thief responded with gunfire, killing scooter owner and well-liked Norwegian waiter Josef Jihad Soboh.

Samy Joe, a waitress at Sale & Pepe whose own scooter was disabled just a few weeks ago when a thief attempted to steal it from in front of that restaurant, published pictures of the individual who police seek as a person of interest in this crime. Please see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for multiple pictures of that suspect. If you are on the island and see this person anywhere — or recognize him, please notify police at once giving them as many details as you can about location, other people with him, what they're wearing, motor vehicle registration plates, etc. He may also be wanted for questioning in connection with hold-ups at other Dutch side markets.

13. Beaches, Restaurants, Stores all Shut Down

By order of the French side and Dutch side governments, most of the beaches, restaurants, and stores across the island are now shut down, though many restaurants do offer both take-out and delivery services.

If you are tourist and are still on the island, there is no point in you staying and every reason to return home while flights are still available. If you stay on the island, you may not have the opportunity to leave until some time in May at the earliest. An updated complete list of available flights is being published periodically in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); please see it and return home as quickly as you can. This is for your safety and that of everyone else on the island.

14. SXM Jewelers, Cigar Vendors Selling Online

If you've continued to visit our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) in recent days, you've noticed posts from JMB SXM media partners offering you outstanding jewelry bargains as well as great buys on authentic Cuban cigars and other products. For much more, please visit our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) after reviewing the list of sponsors here in *SXM Weekly News* in our next to last story, below.

You can help solve your Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, anniversary, and other shopping date objectives by buying from this select group of vendors on both sides of the island. [They are open for mail orders](#). Also, if you've thought about buying a condo on the island — which would make a beautiful place to escape once Corona has run its course — you can accelerate that objective at low preconstruction condo development pricing from our real estate SXM web media sponsors. For much more information, see our Sponsors list, below.

15. Renting a Timeshare Condo? Get Trip Cancellation Insurance

If you're renting a timeshare condo, a villa, or any other property for your next SXM vacation late this year or in 2021, make sure you get trip cancellation insurance that covers events including pandemics — not all policies cover them.

Although as we mentioned elsewhere the future of the current pandemic remains uncertain, nonetheless many people are making reservations for late fall and next winter right now, when many prime properties are available.

In addition, people looking to buy their own island condos also are proceeding with those purchases -- perhaps getting a leg up on others who are understandably a little less proactive. All are looking to return to SXM as soon as they can in the face of Covid-19.

We have no recommendations concerning trip cancellation insurance. But, as you may know, we do recommend SKYMED medical evacuation protection: SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically or seriously ill or injured while traveling throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage is also available through their affiliate, global emergency transport services, or GETS. See [this website](#) for details.

16. As If Covid Weren't Enough, Here Comes Hurricane Season

After battling back from the devastation of hurricane Irma in September, 2017, SXM was looking forward to a better season in 2019 – 2020 — but the *permanent* loss of some resort hotel rooms (Alamanda, Summit Resort, Ocean Club, several buildings at Simpson Bay Resort, and others) and the *temporary* loss of even more (the Westin), plus construction lags on new projects (primarily the massive new Planet Hollywood, on which full-bore construction has yet to begin) hampered the ability of SXM to house / attract tourists. Add to that a lack of budget devoted to island promotion, and the result was a high season that was decent, but still well below expectations or hopes.

At the end of last year, we all heard about Wuhan China and we hoped for their sake that they would contain that outbreak. But few people related Wuhan to any real potential effects outside of China.

Then the Covid-19 Pandemic started and on Friday, March 13, SXM determined that enough was enough and it needed to cut off the inflow of tourists in an attempt to stop or at least mitigate significant arrivals of coronavirus-carrying tourists.

Now, SXM is a beautiful island ghost town with shuttered restaurants offering only take out to locals and some expats, with deserted beaches, closed bars, and the hope that the worst of the epidemic that is hitting the rest of the world has been successfully kept out of SXM to a large measure.

With all that possessing the cumulative mindshare of the people of SXM, realize also that hurricane season is now only about two months away; it starts June 1 and ends November 30. And as we previously reported both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), as of now the coming season appears to Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of [Crown Weather](#) to likely be busier than normal in general, though of course how it may impact SXM is yet to be known.

[Our Weather Center on our main site, everythingxsm.com, turns into a Hurricane Center throughout hurricane season](#), bringing you the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from the national hurricane center along with many satellite images and radar loops from the same and related sources. Plus, of course, when conditions warrant, Rob Lightbown posts urgent information in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We urge you to join the Facebook group if you haven't already — and when there, we urge you to invite your SXM tourist friends to do the same.

As we all hunker down and shelter in place or work from home, you'll find a welcome diversion in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where some 26,000 fans of SXM share experiences, post their favorite pictures, ask questions, and get or give answers. It's also a great way to relax, and right now anything that helps us relax is a good thing.

17. SkyMed Updates Covid-19 Medevac Coverage

As circumstances regarding the coronavirus Pandemic continue to evolve, SkyMed has updated the information

about its medical evacuation coverage related to coronavirus. We published their latest updates this week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as well as in story number 3, above. We are repeating that story right here in case you missed it in the first section of this newsletter:

Dear **SkyMed Members**, Representatives, Employees, and Contractors;

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused a worldwide pandemic. As a result, numerous governmental restrictions have been imposed that are affecting how we normally handle our member services and run our business. We are being impacted by US federal, state and city regulations. In addition, we are dealing with overriding regulations being imposed by Host countries in which our members may be located. Borders are being closed, and each situation needs to be evaluated individually depending on what country our member is in and what country their transport preference is. We are dealing with 32 countries and their regulations in our immediate SkyMed Universe and the world as a whole with regard to our Global Emergency Travel members.

General facts to know and understand about SkyMed services as related to the COVID-19 virus:

- SkyMed CANNOT independently make arrangements to transport a member infected with the Coronavirus COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the US State Department must be notified by health and medical authorities making a positive diagnosis of Coronavirus COVID-19 and notice of immediate quarantine procedures enacted.
- SkyMed CANNOT supersede our US State Department regulations or similar regulations of Host countries that our members may be in.

All countries have national emergency regulations that are in force, and we must honor their authority.

Questions and Answers to help understand operating procedures:

Q. What happens if a member is diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. If diagnosed with the COVID-19, virus patients will be quarantined in accordance with their Host country's laws and regulations and not released until tested negative for the virus.

Q. What happens if someone thinks they have the COVID-19 virus but is not officially diagnosed?

A. If someone thinks they may have the COVID-19 virus they should seek their health care professional's advice as soon as possible for guidance on how to deal with symptoms. In addition, they must self-quarantine for 14-days and not risk exposure to others.

Q. What happens if a member needs to be air evacuated for a critical medical reason not related to COVID-19?

A. SkyMed air evacuation services are activated when a member is hospitalized with a critical illness or injury and the attending physician orders an air ambulance to take the member home or a medical escort to accompany the member. These services remain unaltered as long as air ambulances are allowed to enter and exit the area or Host country our member is located in. Local government regulations have overriding authority over air evacuation of critical medical situations.

The COVID-19 virus is a severe worldwide pandemic. Many new governmental restrictions and agencies now control all aspects of public travel.

SkyMed wants to help our members at all times, especially those who are currently traveling and away from their home base. We can assist in making your travel arrangements to help get you home. The best method to contact us for your travel is by email to info@skymedtravel.com or call us at 1-800-568-8994 with your preferred travel itinerary. Our in-house travel agency is here to help make reservations. Having our in-house travel agency is a big help as we can book airline reservations and issue the tickets ourselves. We can also make car rental and hotel bookings and can make changes on the fly to ALL these reservations.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm. Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-

[infection.html](#)

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or www.memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can. Regular member services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President

SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

We will be updating the SkyMed FAQ document shown below with the new questions shown above on Wednesday, 3/25/20.

18. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ :::::::::: Updated 3/20 w/ Covid-19 Info

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

This document contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements – plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day “Free Look period,” so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual “SkyMed Takes You Home®” protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current “Do Not Travel” list – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination – or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

Q2. Who is protected?

1. “Single” protection is available for individual travelers. “Family” protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, “G.E.T.S.” protection is an inexpensive option.

Q5. What's the difference between “short term” and “Annual” or multi-year protection?

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it “Takes You Home®” to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while

traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?

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

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

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the "SkyMed universe," SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a "HQ" (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

Q16. Can I sign up online?

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, www.skymed.com/jmb . But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

NOTE TO READERS FROM JEFF: The questions in the prior article will be added Wednesday 3/25 to our downloadable FAQ, including the latest Covid-19 updates.

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:
JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@jmbcommunications.com

19. SXM Vacation Giveaway Continues; Drawing Postponed

During our "Paradise SXM" Event, we'll 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.

The giveaway celebrates our site surpassing 6.6 million visits and moving toward 7 million. The weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries. The drawing date has now been deferred until late 2020. All vacations are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we will give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, probably a zipline trip, a car rental, and possibly more.

How to Enter: To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at everythingsexm.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.

Paradise SXM will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

20. SkyMed For Upcoming Car Travel: 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.

21. Restaurant of the Week:

We are temporarily discontinuing selecting a new restaurant of the week until tourist flights to SXM resume, which hopefully can happen within the next few weeks.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

White Swan Chinese Restaurant (featured 3/16/20) SXM's very best, delicious, authentic food, attentive service, generous portions, and reasonable prices. We loved it...

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 3/9/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/2/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Sale & Pepe (featured 2/10/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and great menu, service, and food. Sale & Pepe is hitting its stride. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right.

SkipJack's SXM, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 2/3/20) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go! Great staff and superb food in a picture postcard lagoon setting.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 1/27/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, 1/6/20. Italian. Excellent food, many choices, busy, good specials. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 12/30/19) **Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.**

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.

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....

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's Smooth 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.

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.

22. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 25,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

23. 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).

24. 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 is story 29.

25. Going Somewhere? Get Guaranteed Renewable Annual SkyMed 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 \$25,000 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 5 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 in story 29.

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](#)

26. 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 everythingxsm.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.

27. 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.

28. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 3/11/20)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

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](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time 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 (new)

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

Topper's Restaurant

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)

LA ROSA (NEW)

NONNA ROSA (NEW)

LAZY LIZARD (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

Monte Verde / Belle Vue (new)

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 3/11/20

**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.

29. 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 beyond. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

***2017 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.**

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)

3/23/20 #V3-1241 6:00 am EST 3/24

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