

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/27/20: AA Gets Bailout, Raises Fees; Air Caraibes to SXM Starting July 3; 2021 SXM Rentals; Lockdown Changing; Dutch Navy Relief Ship Arrives; Big Brush Fire Extinguished - No Injuries; On the How & When of Tourists' Return to SXM [39 News Stories]

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**Vol. 3, #1246 --- Monday, April 27, 2020  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

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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](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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*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 about 340,000 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](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?>

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

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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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingSXM.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:**

**Published edition only.**

**SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**Published edition only.**

### **Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

### **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](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

*Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):*

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

### **Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):**

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

### **Get a growing 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](http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

**Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)**

**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](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. After Billion Dollar Bailout, AA Again Raises Checked Bag Fees

Despite the fact that American Airlines is known to be aware that its reputation over the last few years has fallen into the toilet, it still doesn't seem to have stopped doing things that make sure its reputation stays there.

Now, after receiving a billion-dollar bailout from the US government to help ensure that it stays afloat, American Airlines — in the middle of enormous turmoil around the world — has decided to raise its checked bag fees on some of its normally most profitable types of flights — those to the Caribbean and South America.

Perhaps AA thought that nobody would notice. Sorry, American: we noticed, and we hope our 340,000+ readers around the world notice, too.

Is profiteering now a way of life at American Airlines? [Read this](#) and see what you think. Here is what [Airfare Watchdog founder George Hobica](#) has to say about this.

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## 2. Air Caraibes Plans to Resume SXM Flights July 3

Air Caraibes has announced plans to resume flights from Paris to St. Maarten starting July 3. Airlines don't normally make major flight announcements unless they have approval from the government controlling the airport to which they intend to fly, which is why the Air Caraibes announcement was so interesting.

Will this happen? Stay tuned. Here are [the details](#).

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## 3. About Flight Cancellations for May and June

After weeks of apparently hopeful dawdling by airlines that normally fly from the US to SXM, they are now starting to cancel some flights scheduled from the US to SXM during May and June, though notifications to passengers don't seem to be happening very quickly.

If you have flights scheduled to SXM any time during May or June, we strongly suggest you contact your airline. It appears highly likely now that flights through May and probably June will be canceled.

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## 4. On Resuming Flights to SXM

We expect that the decision on the part of SXM to resume flights into SXM on a particular date has not yet been made.

On the other hand, virtually shutting down the airport for four months, until sometime in July, seems like it should enable the island to put a halt to the new coronavirus infections — if and only if people actually do shelter in place, avoid congregating, use face masks, and wash their hands frequently.

As is the case elsewhere in the world, however, not everyone actually does that — and the result can be fatal. It will be up to the island to decide whether a) conditions on the island are healthy enough to allow tourists to return, and b) it has developed and is implementing measures to ensure that sick people aren't enabled to visit the island.

Reopening tourism, regardless of how it is done, is a difficult proposition. It appears more and more likely that the

vast majority of people who are afflicted by the Covid 19 virus are asymptomatic but nonetheless contagious. Those people would not be detected simply by asking them questions and taking their temperature. There would need to be free tests taken of everyone to ensure they are not sick before they even leave for the airport, and the results would have to be certifiably linked to the people who have the tickets. All of that represents a huge challenge for an island dependent on tourists for its livelihood.

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## 5. Current Status of SXM Airport

The following info is directly from [sxmairport.com](http://sxmairport.com):

### **SXM Airport remains open and operational**

*The Princess Juliana International Airport Operating Company N.V. (PJIAE), would like to inform the public that the Princess Juliana International Airport remains open and operational.*

*We find ourselves in unprecedented times, as a result of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, with local and international governments introducing measures to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus COVID-19. These measures, including travel restrictions, have resulted in the cancellation of all commercial flights to/from Sint Maarten for an undetermined period; however, the airport remains open and is operational for Medical, Cargo, Military, Repatriation flights, just to name a few.*

*With our preliminary outlook showing little change in the coming months, PJIAE too has introduced some measures aimed at conserving resources, to help us through the upcoming period. We are confident however, that airlines will resume service as soon as the travel restrictions are lifted.*

*We recognize the impact of this pandemic on our island and its people, but wish to remind all that in order for us to bounce back, better and stronger, it is vital that each of us do our part in containing the virus by following all safety and prevention guidelines, so as to minimize any further impact and disruption of our daily lives.*

*At this moment there are no commercial flights scheduled; however, this will change once the travel restrictions are lifted. For updates on any changes please monitor our website [www.sxmairport.com](http://www.sxmairport.com), as well as our Facebook page.*

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## 6. Canadian Air Travelers Ordered to Wear Face Masks

New, significantly more strict rules for flying in the face of the novel coronavirus have are now being enforced for all Canadian flights. Among the new requirements are that all passengers must wear facemasks; Violators will not fly.

Here are [details](#). Here's [still more](#).

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## 7. Docked Cruise Ship Crew Suffers Big Increase in Covid-19

Scores of cruise ships are docked around the world thanks to the shutdown of the cruise ship industry caused by the Covid 19 virus.

If you had thought that cruise lines were spending this time scrubbing the daylight out of every square inch of every ship, testing crewmembers, isolating or quarantining crewmembers who were sick, and otherwise absolutely ensuring the cleanliness of their ships — you had better read [this article](#) about a Costa cruise lines ship docked in Nagasaki, Japan, that is loaded with crewmember cases of the Covid 19 virus.

If you thought that Costa was in an inconsequential little cruise line, you'd be mistaken. [Guess who owns them](#).

Got reservations on any cruise lines in the next few months? Make sure you get trip cancellation insurance that works during pandemics — or you might find it a wise choice to delay cruise ship reservations for year or so until after a vaccine has been approved -- and you have taken it and had time for it to become effective.

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## 8. Cruise Port Busy w/ Provisioning

The Dr. A C Wathey cruise and cargo facilities in Philipsburg, normally busy with cruise ships, are still relatively busier than you might expect. A number of cruise ships still are positioned around the world with their crews ready to resume schedules when appropriate (see previous story, above). Those ships still need provisioning — food, fuel, and other supplies (toilet paper...). St. Maarten is one of the ports that's providing these provisions but it's also policing to make sure that people who are on the ships stay there and don't bring any maladies to the island.

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## 9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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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## **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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)**

## 10. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download [here](#) (that's the NHC download site).

## 11. 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](http://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.**

## 12. 2021 Rentals Available Now at EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters have begun to post 2021 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com). Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page on that site. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 2021. Also please see the unnumbered story at the beginning of section 3 in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

## 13. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## 14. 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*.

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 15. 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](#).**

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### SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

## 16. If You're a US exPat or Tourist on SXM, Tell the State Dept.

If you're an ex-Pat or tourist from the United States on SXM, please make sure the US State Department knows about it. Visit [step.state.gov](#) to receive alerts and ensure that you can be contacted in an emergency.

In an emergency, you should call 1-888-407-4747 from the USA or Canada or call 1-202-501-4444 from overseas or contact the nearest US embassy at [travel.state.gov](#).

**Please share this important information with all friends who travel. If they visit SXM, please invite them to join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).**

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## 17. Where to See The Latest Official Gov't Communications

The Dutch side government — which controls the Princess Juliana international Airport, where all major long-haul flights normally arrive and depart — maintains a continuous flow of official communications at its own Facebook site, [here](#). This is also where you'll find its nightly updates concerning government response to the Covid Pandemic on the island. We also post these updates live as they happen in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where we urge you to become a member for free, immediate access to an enormous amount of current information about SXM (St. Maarten / St. Martin).

You can also ask questions and get answers in our group, or use our site search capability to find answers to almost any questions. The site also contains thousands of images from the last several years on SXM and a vast reservoir of informative FILES on virtually every SXM topic imaginable. We also publish a reasonably current index of the files, to help you find what you want; it's a downloadable PDF.

## **18. Get 6 Months of Free\* SkyMed Protection & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection:**

**N. B. Please do NOT unsubscribe from this list; doing so will terminate your subscription to SXM Weekly News.**

**Get Six Months of SkyMed Protection Free\* & Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of Coverage of Pre-Existing Conditions:  
Get your "66" with SkyMed --  
YOUR ROADMAP TO SAFETY  
=====IMPORTANT TIME-SENSITIVE OFFER=====**

*SkyMed will host a one hour GO TO MEETING presentation on Wed. April 29 at about 11am Pacific time. You may have missed attending a SkyMed presentation event because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now you can attend a very special one hour presentation in the comfort of your own home and earn a terrific bonus in the process.*

Watch on your computer and learn about the importance of at home or away protection with a SkyMed membership.

### **GET your 66 ---**

A FIVE year membership plus a 'SIX month EXTRA bonus'!

### **\*THE BONUS perk:**

New members signing up for a FIVE Year ULTIMATE within 24 hours of being on the SkyMed GO TO MEETING presentation will receive a SIX month additional bonus. **[Note: you can now also get the free six months by phoning Jeff directly. Once you sign up for the 5-year Ultimate membership through Jeff, you get six months free. Limited time offer ends soon. Call today -- number below.]**

### **The EXTRA Bonus perk:**

Attention new and existing members: If you refer a non member to this upcoming call or future calls you as the member will receive an additional SIX month bonus if your referral purchases a five year plan.

Space is limited -- contact your representative to confirm your meeting today:

SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger  
508-747-8281

[www.skymed.com/JMB](http://www.skymed.com/JMB)  
[jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com)

Please use the above email address or phone number to contact Jeff directly and reserve your spot in this coming Wednesday's WEBINAR. Email replies to [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) MAY NOT BE SEEN. Thank you.

Important: If you buy now and won't be traveling for three months or more, the 90-day exclusion of coverage on pre-existing conditions will finish once you travel -- a truly big deal. You also get a 30-day free look on SkyMed memberships. Reserve your spot in the 3/29 webinar TODAY and pick up that unique SkyMed peace-of-mind.

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## 19. Significant Changes Coming to SXM's Current Lockdown

Both sides of the island have been on lockdown for about a month. Although the lockdown is continuing, movements toward a *gradual* reopening of the island economy now appear on the horizon. More details about this are in Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs remarks from late last week, posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You will also see details there of what exactly was said.

The [official Dutch side government website](#) has some of this information, and more is in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). On a day by day basis, you will also find breaking news concerning easing of the lockdown posted in our SXM Facebook group. Extremely urgent news will be posted in flash news bulletins to our JMB Website Supporters island discount program members via email; to our *SXM Weekly News* audience, also via email; and in our Everything SXM Facebook group online.

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## 20. Dutch Navy Ship Brings Needed Supplies for Covid-19 Containment

Although there has been talk over the years by some SXM politicians about seceding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands — or at least totally matching the greater independence of Aruba, that kind of talk disappears in emergencies. It disappeared after hurricane Irma and it has not been heard during the island's current battle against Covid 19.

The Dutch Navy last week sailed its largest ship into SXM, bringing Dutch Marines, other personnel, vehicles, and tons of supplies to the island for use in the battle against the novel coronavirus. Photos of the arrival were published in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The ship is expected to stay in local waters for the next few months — a stay that can be extended if needed.

Here's [more](#) on the ship's arrival and its mission.

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## 21. "Massive" Dutch Side Brush Fire Threatened Homes

A brush fire just Northeast of downtown Philipsburg, described as massive by local standards, burned for roughly 12 hours early last week, at times threatening nearby homes.

Firefighters stationed themselves and their equipment nearby, unable to get much closer because of rugged terrain. The fire was ultimately contained very late at night, and had been pretty much extinguished during the breakfast hour the following day.

The best news was that the fire caused no property damage and no injuries, though local residents for many hours were told to shelter in place and keep their windows and doors closed to avoid smoke inhalation.

It's dry season now in SXM and brush fires can and do occur this time of year. Hurricane season officially starts June 1, but Crown Weather meteorologist Rob Lightbown has said that storms could start swirling in the Caribbean as soon as mid- to late May.

For much more on the forthcoming hurricane season, please see the Weather Center on our main website, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com)

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## 22. From Dutch Side Prime Minister, Words About Covid Responders

Dutch Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs on Covid Responders:

"COVID-19 was unexpected, however, just like all the other challenges St. Maarten has overcome, this too shall pass, and we will have been stronger for the experience. Every storm has its silver lining, and I challenged each and every citizen to find and highlight one good thing that has come out of this period of quarantining ourselves at home. Remember that those front liners have no choice, they must work to save US, protect US, care for US, and provide essential service for US. Let us help them to help us by staying at home, and only going out if it really cannot be avoided.

"God bless St. Maarten and her people as we work together; Government, community, and each and every St. Maarten resident, to keep her safe," concluded Prime Minister Jacobs.

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## 23. How Will Tourists Return to SXM - and When?

Under the strong leadership of Dutch side Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs, the Dutch side of the island — which dominates island tourism since it houses the island's only major airport — has been working hard to control the coronavirus outbreak and put the island in a position to resume tourism in a very measured, methodical way.

Tourism is not now expected to resume in May or (probably) even in June. The decision about when that will happen will depend upon the status of the Covid virus on the island and elsewhere, and without a doubt it will involve measures to ensure insofar as is possible that people coming to the island arrive in good health and stay that way, and don't imperil locals with imported illnesses. Details on how this will be accomplished will be published here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as they become available.

There is lots of speculation about the future of the novel coronavirus after this coming fall — but it remains all speculation. Three key items going forward will be First, the availability of cheap, dependable, rapid means of checking for antibodies among potential SXM travelers, indicating that they have had the virus and will likely be essentially immune to Covid 19 in the near future; and Second, the availability of dependable treatments to control the disease after diagnosis. Third, of course, is the availability of a proven vaccine.

It's also unknown whether the novel coronavirus will mutate, developing other strains as has influenza for many decades — each requiring its own immunizations. We will leave it to others to write in detail about Covid 19/the novel coronavirus. *We'll continue to keep you informed about its effects in SXM and what the future holds for island tourism.*

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## 24. Help Us Continue to Publish SXM Weekly News

*We need your help to continue to bring you all of the significant tourist-related news from SXM every week, as we have since 1992.*

Although *SXM Weekly News* is free, funding makes it possible. Funding comes from readers joining our **JMB Website Supporters island discount program**, signing up for **SkyMed** (for which we receive commissions), and getting our new **purple sand chair SXM euro ovals** (see story 28). *Our office lights and our computers and phone lines can't stay on without your help.* Every dollar helps. Thank you.

For more on all of this, see our main site at [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). A photo of the oval is in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 25. Letter to the Editor: Earth Day in the Age of Pandemic; the Dutch Caribbean Perspective

[Very interesting story about how the pandemic reached SXM, along with much more on our interconnected world. - Jeff Berger]

From Tadzio Bervoets:

The ochre-colored African wind wafts through the Tanzanian veldt, ruffling the low acacia trees that grow scrubily between august Baobabs. The sun is setting and the malarial mosquitoes start their evening hymn. In between the metropolitan mounds of termite nests an animal is waddling. Some would call it an ugly animal; it looks like an anteater: same oblong, awkward body and pointed snout. But unlike an anteater this animal is covered in reptilian scales, somewhat like a large, land-locked and ambling four-legged fish. The animal is called a pangolin and it is being hunted.

Hiding behind one of the termite mounds is Andwele, from the Bantu-speaking Nyamwezi ethnic group, and he is poor. He hasn't been able to provide for his family in some time and his children are hungry: there has been a persistent drought in this part of Africa and Andwele has been unable to make ends meet. Never before has it taken so long for the rains to come. It is as if the climate itself has changed.

As Andwele was returning from his meagre farming plot in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro he stumbled upon the pangolin as the animal was breaking open a termite mound foraging for food. Andwele loves and respects animals but he hasn't eaten and has a cousin that can get almost a month's salary for a live pangolin. He catches the ugly animal but while he does so his heart breaks as it looks at him with pleading puppy-dog eyes. But Andwele is hungry and so are his children so he stuffs the pangolin in his rucksack and the next day travels to Arusha to sell it.

Three weeks later the pangolin has traveled 9300 kilometers and finds itself in a small metal cage in a market in a medium-sized Chinese City. Although the city is considered medium by Chinese standards it is home to eleven million people. The animal is emaciated and covered in sores from being transported across the ocean in unhygienic conditions. It shares its cage with a bat, similarly covered in festering sores and lying listlessly at the bottom of its cage; resigned to its pending demise. Soon the owner of the stall removes the bat, the pangolin's companion for the past four days. The two animals have been sleeping together, breathing together, [defecating] together. But now the bat is gone; it is being skinned after its head has been chopped off; the owner preparing it according to the traditional Chinese method.

Two weeks later a mysterious, pneumonia like disease is spreading rapidly in the densely populated city. But it is the Chinese New Year and people are traveling all over the world to be with their loved-ones. One of those people is Xi-Li who has traveled to Bergamo in Italy to be with her family. To celebrate the Lunar New Year they decide to eat a traditional Italian meal at a trattoria on the Piazza Vecchia. Xi-Li hasn't been feeling well; she has a slight temperature and a dry cough but she has travelled all this way and decided to enjoy the special occasion. In three weeks she'll be dead.

*Also at the restaurant is Massimo. Massimo lives in New York but travels to his home town often. A week after his meal he travels back to New Rochelle and kisses his wife hello. She notices he has a slight temperature but he insists he is fine. It is the eve of their anniversary and tomorrow they travel to Ft. Lauderdale to embark on a ten-day Caribbean Cruise; first Port of Call the tiny half-Dutch half-French Caribbean Island of Sint Maarten. [Emphasis added -Ed.]*

A month after his cruise Massimo lies in an emergency hospital tent. He has been intubated with a respirator because he is too ill to breathe on his own. He might not make it. Ten thousand of his fellow New Yorkers have it. His wife didn't.

All across the globe life has drastically changed. Normal will never be the same again. The world cowers in fear of a new pandemic. Economies are collapsing. Oil prices have collapsed. Governments are struggling. Three billion people are forced to stay inside. And there is only one thing on everyone's mind: COVID-19.

The above is just one of the scenarios for the origin of a virus that has been dictating the human experience for the past three months, but it is the most plausible (5G towers and lab-gown conspiracies aside). The renowned scientific journal *Nature* mentions that researchers have noted that coronaviruses are a possible cause of death in pangolins (and) are a good candidate as a source for intermediate spread. Pangolins are protected but illegal trafficking is widespread. It is almost certain that they are the source, likely having infected a bat with the bat infecting a human in turn.

The global spread of the pandemic and our ability, or inability, to manage the infection has highlighted the role environmental degradation and social inequalities have played in these unusual times. It has highlighted the global nature of the human experience and that an act of wildlife crime (exacerbated by a just as urgent but not as highly publicized climate crisis) has resulted in communities, economies and societies now being on the brink of collapse.

It is no accident that my native Sint Maarten has one of the highest per capita COVID-19 cases and deaths in the Caribbean region. The prioritizing of the bottom line over the welfare of citizens has been the focus for the economic development of the island since the tourism boom in the 1960s, with a reliance on a model dictated by fast economic growth to the detriment of environmental and societal safeguards. Island communities must now place focus on economic, social and environmental sustainability as our guiding principle should we want to survive.

One of the clearest and most obvious mistakes many of the islands in the Caribbean have made is an over-reliance on the Cruise Tourism industry. The Cruise Ship model for development, even before this crisis, has proven to not adequately account for the welfare of island societies and the natural resources critical to our ability to develop sustainably. We should learn from this lesson and not have multinational tour companies dictate the governmental and economic policies of the Caribbean. Mass tourism on the islands, coupled with an unrestrained and ill-planned thrust to develop just for development's sake, has resulted in significant discrepancies between various social strata, discrepancies further highlighted by the virus.

In order to emerge from this successfully the Caribbean has to alter the way we do business. Islands such as Bonaire should learn from what is happening around them, and islands such as Sint Maarten and Aruba should learn from their own experience and move away from an economic model almost solely dependent on mass, lower-income tourism. Islands such as Bonaire and Saba are better positioned to emerge from this crisis scarred but not broken. Islands such as Sint Maarten and Aruba, who have invested significant infrastructure into courting mass cruise tourism and budget-minded travelers, often to the detriment of the population and the environment, will be broken for some time and will struggle to emerge successfully from this crisis.

Now should be the time for a renewed focus on building the resilience of our communities; counteracting deforestation, reigning in unsustainable coastal development, ensuring proper solid waste management, preventing pollution from entering our air and water, are all issues which exacerbate the negative health and economic effects faced by Caribbean residents in a post-pandemic reality. As Caribbean people we cannot afford to lose focus; the region must get rid of the usual economic model that focuses on profit over people, further exacerbating income inequality. When we emerge from our houses we need to place emphasis on a more inclusive, sustainable future. After this crisis there has to, finally, be greater emphasis on the critical role the three pillars of Sustainable Development must play in terms of resiliency, especially considering the potential new crises in what is predicted to be an above average Hurricane Season.

There also has to be closer regional cooperation, cooperation that does not adhere to the usual model defined by former colonial powers who apparently consider a billion euro grant to southern European countries more important than providing relief to former colonies whose natural and human capital have fostered their own economic development. There has been no time in history which calls for a greater Caribbean unity than now as we emerge from one of humanity's most existential crises. The old ways won't work, and despite what we are going through we cannot function in isolation nor can we depend on former colonial countries and western or eastern superpowers to support our development; that much is clear.

But there are encouraging signs. The encouragement provided by seeing our Caribbean environment healing should push us to foster and encourage further healing. Being isolated whilst being unified as a human race, unified by our common human experience of being shut indoors, physically isolated from friends and family, should unify us as global citizens while putting emphasis on local solutions for our societal ills.

We cannot go back to business as usual; let us use the healing of nature to enter into a new phase of economic development, of finally being sustainable. Let us perpetuate that healing. Let us allow it to guide us into a more sustainable future. Let us ensure that wild areas and the animals that inhabit them are conserved. Let us manage our natural resources so that the goods and services they provide will be enhanced and secured. Let us make sure that the climate crisis is sufficiently addressed so that we can end poverty and global hunger so that people like Andwele are no longer forced to hunt wild animals to feed their families. Let us ensure, as we emerge from our cocoons, that we are on the right side of History. That we rise from our confinement a renewed, holistic and reinvigorated Caribbean society. Happy World Environment Day!

Tadzio Bervoets  
Interim Director  
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance  
Sur Salinja 30  
Kralendijk, Bonaire

(former head of SXM Nature Foundation)

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## 26. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB

## Discounts

*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.*

**And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day.** We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

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## 27. 2020 Hurricane Preparedness - Important

Prepared by **Rob Lightbown**, [Crown Weather Services](#)

I wanted to send these various tips out to you as I know many of you are concerned about how hurricane preparations and decisions may be impacted by COVID-19; especially since it continues to look like a very busy hurricane season coming up. In fact, there are signals in the data that suggest we may see our first tropical system of the season as soon as mid or late May.

- If you don't have flood insurance, consider getting it. If you do have flood insurance, but have been recently laid off or furloughed, check with your agent to see if an extended grace period is available to avoid lapse in coverage.
- If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone & will need to stay in an evacuation shelter, make sure you arrive early as social distancing rules may limit capacity. Also, delays may occur due to medical screenings upon entry.
- Make sure to add disinfectant supplies to your hurricane supply kit. Wherever you evacuate to, you will want to routinely wipe down & disinfect your belongings.
- Plan for your pets!! For public health reasons, many shelters don't allow pets. Whether a shelter allows pets will be shelter-specific. If you plan to evacuate to a hotel, line up a pet friendly hotel. Otherwise look for open pet boarding near your shelter.
- Check with your local government and emergency management officials for the latest hurricane season evacuation guidance. Stay-at-home orders and public health recommendations will evolve. Start local for the latest info on shelters and evacuations.

**I will begin sending out regular tropical weather discussions for the Hurricane Season on Friday, May 1 [to Crown Weather Clients -Ed.].** This will not only give you a heads-up on any possible early season tropical activity, but it will also give me a chance to try out some new things when posting our tropical weather discussions, well before things begin to get busy.

Our plans for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season remain the same. First, our discussions and updates will remain the same, although, I'm going to try to post shorter, but more frequent updates when systems are upgraded or when there is a tropical storm or hurricane about to make landfall. In the past, I would rehash/update the entire discussion, which can take an abundant amount of time. So, in addition to the regular long tropical weather discussions that I write, I'm going to try to also send out much shorter updates when needed.

I also still plan on trying video tropical weather discussions & video tropical weather updates. This is something that I have been busy setting up & should be able to do. My thinking is to have both video tropical weather discussions & have a question/answer video session (either I answer your questions live or have you send me your questions to be answered during a video session).

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## 28. Get a Little Bit of SXM in Your Home, Now



[This is our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval.](#) Big shipment just arrived in our Plymouth offices. You can now order them -- they're the successor to our former green "twin palms" SXM Euro Oval.

Price, \$7 each or **THREE for \$15** (multiple orders of three welcome). Pay by PayPal payable to jeff@jmbcommunications.com or by check payable to JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812 USA. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, SHIP-TO ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, & PHONE NUMBER IN YOUR ORDER. All checks MUST be US dollar checks drawn on US banks. Shipped ONLY to USA & Canada addresses, Put it on your car, on mirrors at home, on smooth-sided luggage, over your husband's mouth (just kidding), etc. Fun item for everyone who loves SXM like YOU do! =====PHONE ORDERING IS NOW AVAILABLE TOO! 508-747-8281, 8am - 8pm EDT daily. Secure line, please leave all required info.

The link at the beginning of this story takes you to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you have not yet joined, do so now; it's a community of SXM fans like you.

## 29. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ :::::::::: Updated 4/11/20

### 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](http://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.

### **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 (MST). Messages can be left off hours.*

### **Resources to help you:**

*Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)*

*Canadian government updates [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)*

*National Institutes of Health (NIH) [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)*

*US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)*

*US State Department emergency assistance [coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov)*

*World Health Organization (WHO) [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)*

*SkyMed Travel reservations [www.skymedtravel.com](http://www.skymedtravel.com) or email [info@skymedtravel.com](mailto:info@skymedtravel.com)*

*SkyMed Member Services 1-480-946-5188 or 1-800-475-9633 or [memberservices@skymed.com](mailto: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:

### **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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

## 30. 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 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](http://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.

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## 31. 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 several 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

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

**Mario Bistro** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## 32. 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.

## 33. 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).

## 34. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://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.

## 35. 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](mailto: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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb); please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

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**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](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

**See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)**

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## **36. Are You Military, First Responder, or Nurse?**

*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.*

**And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day.** We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

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## **37. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new site, going live shortly.

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## 38. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 4/27/20)

### **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 protection 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](http://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](http://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 4/27/20

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

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**

**In business since the web began --**

***a unit of JMB Communications.***

## **39. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://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 **JMB SXM Media 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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Or just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.

Tourism will soon return 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 beyond the shutdown. 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](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](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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret) .Your username and password are required.

#### **SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017**

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

4/27/20 #V3-1246 4:00 pm EDT 4/26/20

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