

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 6/29/20: SXM's Reopening: Your Questions Answered; Tropical Development / Saharan Dust; Delta, jetBlue, Spirit, American, & United; Proposed Dolphinarium Has Lots of Opposition; SECRETS Reopens October 16; Cost-Free Full-Year Membership in our Island Discount Program [35 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1255 --- Monday, June 29, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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



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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.

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<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

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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LEAD = STORY

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- **Get a Full Year Free Membership in our SXM Island Discount Program Thru "Plus One"**
- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends Soon**
- **How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home**

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- **JMB Island Discount Program Promotion Underway**
- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0**

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- **SkyMed's Six Months of Free Protection Offer Ends Soon**
- **"Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Underway**

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- **Get 6 Months Free SkyMed Protection (ENDS SOON) & Beat SkyMed's 90-Day Exclusion for Pre-Existing Conditions Protection; New Military Discounts, Too, for Americans & Canadians**

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- **Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It**

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- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

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

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35 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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps

keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/19/2020 12/26/2020 Week 51 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort Christmas Week! Beautiful 2 bedroom/2 bath fourth floor unit overlooking Simpson Bay. Master suite has a full kitchen with dining space, living room with flat screen TV and 2 Murphy beds, master bedroom with king size bed, spacious bathroom with separate double vanity area. Junior lockout suite has 2 full beds, full bath with double vanity, small kitchenette with a mini refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and coffee maker. Each suite has its own patio with spectacular views of the water and surrounding hills. Extra nights, 12/26 and 12/27 are also available, \$600. Renter is responsible for the \$50 Timeshare Tax upon checkout. \$2,800.00 Sharon (315) 682-6141 scoolic1@twcny.rr.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 7/4/2020 7/25/2020 Weeks 27, 28, 29 Simpson Bay Resort & Casino Marina penthouse, 1 of 5 suites on top floor, incl. dedicated parking space; sleep 6 w. 2 bedrooms, king beds, 2 twin Murphy beds, 2 full baths, 2 convenience safes; recent renovations incl. stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; spacious living space, approx. 1700 sq. ft., includes seat-6 dining table, living room w. TV, enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, add'l seat-4 table/chairs; large balcony w. hot tub overlooks Simpson Bay; easy access to beaches, pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to restaurants in Simpson Bay; pictures available on request; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; \$16,500 per week Pat (347)387-2294 patc4226@gmail.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsxm.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. Tropical Dev't. Likely to Accelerate by mid-July; Saharan Dust

For the moment, the biggest plume of Saharan dust witnessed in the last 50 years is crossing the Atlantic headed for both the northern and central Caribbean islands and then the Gulf of Mexico, where it will be swept north into the eastern half of the US, causing respiratory issues, major-league haze, and pretty sunsets.

The only good thing about Saharan dust is that it has a temporary inhibiting effect on the development of tropical systems. However, the inhibiting effect will end well before the middle of July and according to Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of CrownWeather.com, tropical activity could materialize in the Western Caribbean at about that time.

For much more, see CrownWeather.com as well as our Weather Center on our main site, everythingxm.com.

2. SXM Now Requires Pre-Arrival COVID Tests

When it first announced it was re-admitting visitors from North America effective July 1, SXM said it was *recommending* them to get pre-arrival Covid testing done and bring the results with them to SXM for admission. Now, pre-flight testing is required.

Here are the details:

An SXM government graphic we've posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) says this:

"Passengers are required to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR test, with proof of negative results no older than 72 hours prior to day of travel. Children age 10 and under are exempt from testing."

Our page adds: "As long as you *get the results* within 3 days of arrival you will be ok per the Dutch side government. It doesn't say you must be TESTED within 72 hours of arrival, just that your results must be ISSUED within 72 hours of arrival. The test required is the RT (RAPID TEST) PCR, RT-PCR, which uses nasal swabs."

This test is becoming very widely available throughout the USA and is either free or paid by insurance. It is likely that over time, SXM will revise its protocols and policies as conditions warrant. We will publish such information in Bulletins like this to our JMB members; in posts in our Facebook Group (link above); and of course right here in *SXM Weekly News*. (Passalong readers and others can subscribe free at sxmweeklynews.com.)

We are repeating this story in our main news section in case anyone misses it here.

3. Delta Changes its Tune, Requires Face Masks

Quite recently, Delta Airlines said that it would request passengers to wear facemasks aboard its planes — but not eject people who refused.

There has been speculation that the airline was doing this to motivate the US government/FAA to require facemasks aboard all US airline flights, but that didn't happen. There was, however, major outrage among passengers, with many reacting in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) that they would no longer fly Delta because of this decision.

Flash forward to a few days ago: Delta has now changed its tune and is *requiring* facemasks for all passengers on all of its flights. The first airline to do this was JetBlue several weeks ago. Both Delta and JetBlue are also keeping middle seats empty in an effort to help halt the spread of the Covid 19 virus.

Here is [more](#) on this story.

4. Bad Idea: American, United, and Spirit Vow to Fill Planes

American Airlines, United Airlines, and Spirit have all announced that they would rather pay attention to their pocketbooks than to the health of their passengers: they're going to attempt to sell out all their flights, including middle seats on all their aircraft.

Other airlines, acting in a more socially responsible way, continue to keep passengers out of middle seats on their flights. That cuts their revenue but it also helps protect the health of their passengers, which is exactly what American, United, and Spirit aren't doing.

No matter what airlines do to clean their airplanes, working to create social distancing on their aircraft is an important step by airlines to do what's right for their passengers. *We urge our 342,000+ readers worldwide to remember this social irresponsibility on the part of American, United, and Spirit the next time they make plane reservations.*

5. Right Idea: Delta, jetBlue to Keep Middle Seats Open, for Now

Two well-run airlines are doing the right thing for passengers as the Covid 19 Pandemic continues to rage around the world and in much of the US: Delta and jetBlue are continuing to leave middle seats open for now, to help realize social distancing aboard their aircraft. Doing this creates a negative hit to their bottom lines but apparently they feel that doing the right thing is more important than collecting a few extra bucks from additional passengers.

We laud Delta and jetBlue for their conscientiousness in looking out for the health of their passengers during this Pandemic. On the other hand, we strongly suggest that AA, UA, and Spirit do the right thing and leave middle seats empty until this Pandemic is under control: see story 4. Those three carriers are vowing to completely fill their aircraft, a dangerous and thoughtless anti-consumer move by airlines who say "passenger health" is at the heart of all they do. That is a lie: filling planes with people who may have Covid endangers passenger health and should not be tolerated by any airline passengers.

6. jetBlue Introduces "Cash + Points"

JetBlue has introduced a new cash plus points program which enables its passengers to buy tickets and fly using a new, smaller amount of cash and/or points to buy tickets. Here is more on the program from JetBlue:

As things open up and you're ready to reconnect with all your favorite people and places, our new Cash + Points¹ payment option can make it easier than ever. Stretch your cash, make the most of your TrueBlue points, or both —starting with as little as 500 points.

Cash + Points benefits:

- Pay for your flight with almost any combination of dollars and TrueBlue points—starting at just 500 points.
- Use Cash + Points for any JetBlue-operated flight, any time—with no blackout dates—just like when you pay for a flight with only TrueBlue points.
- The cash portion of your Cash + Points flight will earn TrueBlue points, so you can maximize your point-earning

potential.

Cash + Points is available when booking on jetblue.com or the JetBlue app. Just select TrueBlue points from the booker when searching for your next flight, then select your flights and use the slider at the bottom of the page to customize your payment combination.

It looks like you already have at least 500 points, so you can think of them as a discount off your next flight when you use Cash + Points. [Book a flight](#) now or take a moment to give this new option a test drive.

Questions? You'll find answers in the FAQs [here](#).

Thanks, as always, for your loyalty. We look forward to welcoming you on board again soon.

Yours TrueBlue-ly,

Don Uselmann
Vice President, Loyalty

7. jetBlue Plans European Expansion Beyond London: Why It Matters

JetBlue announced a couple of years ago that it plans new service from both Boston and New York to London, starting as soon as next year. That would enable passengers from Europe to fly through London to SXM inexpensively via a JetBlue connection in New York or Boston. The airline plans to use A321XLR (extra long range) aircraft for these new London flights. The airline has not yet announced what London airport it will use, but here is another interesting tidbit:

JetBlue this past week said that it plans to expand in Europe beyond London. It appears likely that the airline will serve cities that it regards as underserved and overpriced now throughout Europe — the same tactic it has used to grow over the past 20 years across the United States. There have never been regularly scheduled flights from London to SXM that we know of, nor will JetBlue be introducing such flights. However, its service will make it possible for passengers to come from London and other cities in Europe to SXM with a change of planes in either New York or Boston, which will introduce an entirely new source of added business for SXM. UK passengers wanting to come to SXM now must go to either Paris or Amsterdam. Since JetBlue has international arrival capabilities in its own terminal at JFK, UK passengers will be able to fly from any JetBlue cities in Europe to SXM from London through that change of planes in New York at a single terminal. It's a big deal.

Here's [more](#).

8. Cruise Lines Won't Resume Caribbean Sailings Until Fall

Cruise lines have decided not to resume Caribbean sailings until fall — September or October, according to cruise industry sources. Here are [details](#).

The decision makes a great deal of sense, since few people are traveling and demand for cruise seats during the pandemic would likely be infinitesimal given the fact that cruise lines acted as petri dishes for the Covid 19 virus until they finally shut down this past spring. Hopefully they will learn how to better prevent the arrival of Covid on their ships before they start accepting passengers again.

9. Want a Boat? Carnival Selling Used Cruise Ships

If you've ever had a hankering to buy a boat but could never find one that had quite everything you wanted, take heart: Carnival Cruise Lines just might have a solution for you.

They are selling a number of used cruise ships. Now, we know, these things are kind of big — like a few football fields

long. But they all come with big anchors, so you can always put them somewhere in the ocean. If you can afford to buy a cruise ship, you can afford to install a helicopter landing pad on it anyway, which would give you a neat, no-traffic way to get to work — or to get anywhere on land if you decided to live on the boat.

If you're concerned about having enough people to look after the boat, one good piece of news is that a lot of people in the cruise industry are looking for work — so there you go. [Read this detailed story](#) and invite us on your maiden cruise — to St. Maarten, of course.

Important P. S.: The truly shocking news here is that some 42,000 crewmembers are stuck on their ships now and can't get home. That is covered in this story and is far more important than ships for sale. But we did get your attention....

10. Pullmantur Cruise Lines Is Insolvent

A small cruise line that is part of Royal Caribbean is insolvent and may be sold or simply go out of business -- Pullmantur cruise lines. Some of its ships already appear to be in the process of liquidation.

Here are the full [details](#).

11. 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**

12. 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). Also noted above; republished in case you missed it.)

13. 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.

14. SECRETS Reopening Now Set for October 16

Secrets Resort in Anse Marcel opened earlier this year near the beginning of March, before much of the facility was ready for prime time. Visitors gave the employees high marks for trying to make visitor experiences pleasant and memorable. But visitors commenting on our site and notifying us privately were not happy that the resort was not fully ready for occupancy and that many of its amenities were incomplete and unavailable at the time of the opening. Despite that, no one who visited to our knowledge was given refunds, although some people who had reservations in advance of the actual opening date were given vouchers for future occupancy. Like most of the resorts on the island, secrets closed quickly when the island shut down Thanks to Covid at the end of last winter.

Because the island was shut down completely, even to the point of police warning some people who were out walking

their dogs that they needed to go back home — very little work was done at secrets during the islands shut down. It should be correctly assumed that work on getting secrets finished continues — especially since the resort is now saying it will not reopen until October 14 of this year, which should give them adequate time to everything that had been left undone at the time of their original opening.

The only events that could derail the October 14 opening are all beyond the control of the resort. They are whatever happens with Covid 19 in the next few months; and how this hurricane season, forecasted to be one of the busiest in recent years, actually plays out and whether there are any effects later this summer in the Northeast Caribbean.

Will keep an eye on secrets for you and will keep you informed of any further news of consequence.

15. 2020 - 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. 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.

16. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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

17. 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

18. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Once the island reopens to tourism, we will be 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](#).

JMB Website Supporters 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

19. SXM Ready for Returning Tourists

Ever since the island started to open up after its long-duration shutdown, business owners have been readying their restaurants, stores, car rentals, and other businesses for the return of tourists, scheduled to start this Wednesday, July 1.

Changes have been made practically everywhere to ensure social distancing. As has been the case for the last several months, masks are recommended whenever you go anywhere public.

It's particularly important that you observe social distancing in bars and restaurants. You'll find many tables removed from restaurants to provide the six feet of social distancing space officials are recommending. In some places, where seating may be a bit denser, Plexiglas screens have been installed to limit exposure from others nearby.

There is no Covid currently on the Dutch side, and one unconfirmed case on the French. **Visitors are required to being proof generated within 72 hours of their return to the island of a negative result from a Covid 19 RT – PCR nasal swab examination.** See the next story for more information on testing.

We urge everyone returning to the island to be especially sensitive to the need for wearing masks almost everywhere in public. Officials have discussed overwhelming evidence that facial masks covering both the mouth and nose work to substantially cut the chance of becoming ill from airborne pathogens exhaled by other visitors. Wear your mask properly; wash your hands frequently, including both sides, between the fingers, and wrists; and observe social distancing, during which you stay at least 6 feet away from others.

Until sufficient doses for everyone of a new Covid 19 vaccine become widely available, Covid 19 can continue to wreak havoc on populations around the world. Please do your part to stop it, regardless of where you are.

20. SXM Now Requires Pre-Arrival COVID Tests

Dutch St. Maarten, where the big international Airport is located, requires all arriving passengers to undergo a Covid 19 RT – PCR (nasal swab) test before leaving the US for SXM. They must possess a valid negative result of those tests, and that result must be issued within 72 hours of their arrival on the island.

Anyone arriving without the proper negative Covid test credentials will be required to take an immediate Covid 19 RT – PCR test at their own expense, then will be required to quarantine for 14 days also at their expense. What that means is that if you don't do the testing in advance and don't bring the required credentials, you will probably wind up spending all your vacation in quarantine.

Here is official language from the Dutch side government. An SXM government graphic we've posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) says this:

“Passengers are required to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR test, with proof of negative results no older than 72 hours prior to day of travel. Children age 10 and under are exempt from testing.”

Our page adds: “As long as you *get the results* within 3 days of arrival you will be ok per the Dutch side government. It doesn't say you must be TESTED within 72 hours of arrival, just that your results must be ISSUED within 72 hours of arrival. The test required is the RT (RAPID TEST) PCR, RT-PCR, which uses nasal swabs.”

This test is becoming very widely available throughout the USA and is either free or paid by insurance. It is likely that over time, SXM will revise its protocols and policies as conditions warrant. We will publish such information in Bulletins like this to our JMB members; in posts in our Facebook Group (link above); and of course right here in *SXM Weekly News*. (Passalong readers and others can subscribe free at [sxmweeklynews.com](#).)

We are repeating this story in story 2, above, in case anyone misses it here.

21. Proposed Dolphinarium Royally Slammed by Nature Foundation, Others

Years ago, widely located dolphinariums — usually outdoor parks where trained dolphins performed for rewards of fish — attracted thousands of people across the US, in Florida, in Southern California, and in the tropics.

It ultimately became painfully obvious that these profit-making institutions were a very bad deal for the dolphins — highly intelligent mammals who have an established social order in the wild. Animals held in captivity for human entertainment died at much younger ages than those in the wild.

When a Dolphinarium was proposed for SXM about 20 years ago, word spread rapidly and overwhelming opposition derailed the proposal.

Now, it appears that the people who took over the Caravanserai timeshare resort several years ago and who sent an email to timeshare owners telling them their investments were null and void — are apparently behind this effort to build a Dolphinarium at the shore of the resort, which has been renamed twice — first to Alegria and more recently to the Morgan. Litigating timeshare owners have won all of the cases they have brought against the owners of the Morgan and their efforts at derailing this proposal seem to be turning heads now and winning widespread opposition to the project.

As we hear more about this proposal and about those who are opposing it, we will publish that information here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). It seems to us that innocent, highly intelligent mammals should not be exploited for human entertainment and the enrichment of people who don't seem to be interested in doing anything to help animals instead of destroying wildlife in its native habitat.

Here is much more about the Dolphinarium and the way it harms dolphins from the SXM Nature Foundation, an environmental defense organization:

Adverse Impacts of Dolphinarium Explained by TNF:

The Nature Foundation St. Maarten Explains the Negative Effects of Marine Mammal Captivity and Dolphinariums.

To spread awareness about the negative impacts, both ethically and environmentally, that can result from marine mammal captivity the Nature Foundation St. Maarten would like to make the public aware of these serious negative impacts regarding these establishments and the effect on the environment and tourism. Dolphins in the wild swim up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) per day, regularly dive up to 46 meters (150 feet) and can reach max depths of 300 meters (nearly 1000 feet). Confining this species to a shallow enclosure for their entire lives is cruel and can have serious physical and psychological effects to the animals.

Dolphins are highly social and intelligent creatures that live in groups called pods working together to hunt, play and raise their young. Dolphins have been known to show empathy, grief, problem-solving, teaching skills and many more traits similar to that of humans.

Enclosed in small spaces and trained with food deprivation dolphins are forced to preform tricks that can be hazardous for their health and live in constant stress due to forced physical interaction with humans. While wild dolphins will spend their lives with family members and social groups, those in captivity often behave aggressively towards one another due to the limited and restricting lives they lead. They can also become aggressive towards the visitors to the attraction with the most recent recorded attack in November, 2019 of a 10-year-old in Cancun, Mexico.

In addition to the lack of space to roam and explore, when living in tight quarters dolphins cannot escape things that would be avoidable in the open ocean. None-stimulating environments coupled with damaging chemical, physical and noise pollutions result in a very low quality of life for dolphins in captivity. Tricks like "beaching" are unnatural and can cause damage if done for extended periods, as can tricks that involve pushing or pulling humans with their beaks (noses). Forced to preform for their food dolphins may give the illusion of being happy, but after the visitors leave many are seen floating unmoving and lifeless in pens with their fellow captives.

Aside from the negative treatment of the dolphins, these dolphinariums can have several negative environmental effects. Building a dolphin enclosure on the existing shore line can damage and destroy coral or native sea grass in the area. In addition, large amounts of sediment will enter the water along with potential building materials, debris and chemicals. As the dolphins will remain in these enclosures at all times their waste will be concentrated to the area, which will lead to an increase in algae blooms due to the excess of waste nutrients. Algae blooms will significantly affect

our coral reefs, as these algae will overgrow the already threatened and disappearing vulnerable coral ecosystems. As a Caribbean tourist island we depend on our corals as it causes storm protection, clear waters, healthy fish stocks and attracts millions of tourists.

In addition to the environmental impacts the controversy surrounding such institutions is abundant, something that St. Maarten cannot afford in this period of re-growth and damaged the image of our island. All around the globe dolphinariums and dolphin entertainment parks are being shut down and emptied due to the moral and ethical issues surrounding them. Protests and boycotts of such establishments are on the rise. In several areas around the world legislation is being introduced to ban the captivity of marine mammals for breeding and entertainment purposes.

For those that would like to learn more about dolphins the Nature Foundation recommends you visit our website, <https://naturefoundationsxm.org/portfolio/bottlenose-dolphin/> which has information and several educational resources. We are lucky to be able to spot wild bottlenose dolphins throughout the year in the waters of St. Maarten/Martin. While these sightings are rare, at least these dolphins are in their natural habitat. Where they should remain.

22. Last Call: Free Additional Year of Membership for Members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program

Literally thousands of JMB members in recent weeks have told us they're ready to return to SXM as soon as it's safe to do so. Well, SXM is Covid-free right now and since it requires arriving passengers to be Covid-free as well (see story #1), this may well be that time.

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. That's why we're giving all members who do multiyear renewals or reinstatements of their JMB memberships from now through next Friday, July 3, 2020, a free additional full year of JMB membership.

You'll certainly return within a year, since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available by early next year. So, take advantage of this unique, about-to-end offer and renew or reinstate today. Military / First Responder membership renewals and upgrades are included.

Here are the rates: remember, you get "Plus One" in all of these -- a full year on us in addition to the years stated:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement does not offer "Plus One"... it remains \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89, plus you get an additional fourth year free. Offer ends 7/3/20.
- **Six-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free. Offer ends 7/3/20.

You can do both renewals and reinstatements [right here](#), in our membership reinstatement center (prices are identical to renewals). Of course, your renewal begins when your current subscription ends. Reinstatements of expired memberships take just a few days to process. We email you a new membership card once processing has been completed.

Military and First-Responder memberships offer you the usual four years for just \$67.96 (\$16.99/year paid at inception) plus you get an additional fifth year free. That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly basis. DD215 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Additional year offer ends July 3, 2020, next Friday, so please act quickly.

New Memberships Get Great Benefits too:

All our **new membership rates** except one-year new memberships have this same "Plus One" enticement, but it must end 7/3/20.

Here are our low regular new membership prices:

- **1 year \$59 (no "Plus One" one-year bonus)**
- **3 years \$109 plus they get an additional full Plus One year free.**
- **5 years \$139 plus they get an additional full Plus One year free.**

Sign up by going to everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl.

Have a great weekend but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away.

23. SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends Soon

In recent weeks, SkyMed international has offered six months of free protection as a bonus to people who opt to sign up for their top global membership, the five-year SkyMed Ultimate. This membership provides **SkyMed takes you home®** medical evacuation protection throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus a suite of additional benefits for protection in the rest of the world. A complete list of all SkyMed Features is [here](#). And answers to frequently asked questions concerning SkyMed are [here](#). (These are both PDFs.)

SkyMed's offer of six months of free protection when you opt for a five-year SKYMED ultimate EXPIRES soon. You can sign up for it after watching a SkyMed webinar or simply by calling Jeff directly during regular office hours at JMB Communications on his private number, 508-747-8281.

If you are renewing an existing annual SkyMed membership, Jeff can help you get a free three-month bonus on your renewal with no increase in cost. Call Jeff daytimes at 508-747-8281 for more information or to get this bonus. SkyMed memberships can be renewed as much as 18 months before they expire.

24. How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in your Home or Office

From Laura Richardson:

A picture speaks a thousand words, and what better way to transport yourself to the beautiful shores of St. Martin than with a liquid turquoise seascape painted from life on location by Sir Roland Richardson. This June and July, Sir Roland's brilliant flamboyants resound the burst of RED that dominates St. Martin's landscape with all its Royal Poincianas in bloom.

Take time to go through [Sir Roland's new website](#) to discover new and more beautiful colors of the rainbow evident throughout his works now displayed on each page of the site.

His YouTube videos on the site are natural and full of generous insights to an amazing world that the artist explores in each of his works.

From sea to hillside, flora to fauna, most special are his sensitive portraits of his island neighbors which are his favorite subject of all.

If you've been considering one of Sir Roland's artworks for your home or office or as a gift to someone special, think of supporting them now through the pandemic closures that have so rocked the island. See www.rolandrichardson.com and send them a nice message through his caring wife, Laura at roland.laura@wanadoo.fr.

25. Going Anywhere? Pack Peace-of-Mind With SkyMed

In recent weeks, SkyMed international has offered six months of free protection as a bonus to people who opt to sign up for their top global membership, the five-year SkyMed Ultimate. This membership provides **SkyMed takes you home®** medical evacuation protection throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus a suite of additional benefits for protection in the rest of the world. A complete list of all SkyMed Features is [here](#). And answers to frequently asked questions concerning SkyMed are [here](#). (These are both PDFs.)

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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 everythingxml.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.

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

[This](#) is our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval. Big shipment recently 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.

28. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

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.

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

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 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 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

29. Restaurant of the Week: Mario's Bistro

When he started Mario's bistro at its original location in Marigot more than 25 years ago, his restaurant became an enormous instant hit, requiring reservations months in advance. The building was nothing to write home about, but its location was great — right next to the pristine canal leading to the inner harbor at Marigot.

That rented building with its tilted cement floor was long in the tooth a year or two before Irma hit, when Mario decided it was time to move to Porto Cupecoy on the Dutch side. About a year later, Irma hit but left barely a scratch on his Porto Cupecoy location: Porto Cupecoy was built to withstand storms like Irma and stood firm while some other nearby buildings were blown completely away.

Located next to the yacht harbor at Porto Cupecoy on the main plaza, today Mario's ranks among the absolute best restaurants in the entire Caribbean. It offers an eclectic, frequently changing menu delivering flavors, textures, and aromas from throughout the world. Though nominally Continental, the restaurant is clearly a fusion of global tastes, offering something for every palate.

The only problem you're going to face is deciding which of his fabulous meals you want. The only solution is to go early in your trip so you can return for the next craving on your list. Appetizers are wonderfully creative and delicious, as are entrées. As pescatarians, we love fish but I also occasionally have beef. Absolutely everything we've tried here is extraordinary. Mario's legendary pear tartlet with thinly-sliced pear in a delicious homemade sauce is a great favorite for dessert. Beautiful setting with pleasant tropical breezes, exemplary service, and absolutely exquisite dining make Mario's one of the absolute best in the Caribbean and one of your first stops when you next visit SXM. It has our highest recommendation and has been a multi-year winner of our **Everything SXM Award of Culinary Excellence**.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 6/29/20 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.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 6/22/20). 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 6/15/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

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..

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.

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 Sushiiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiiitto, 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.

30. 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.

31. 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).

**[Get The Current Low Price](#)
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[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](#)

32. 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 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.

33. 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.

34. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 6/15/20)

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](#)

Oro Diamante

[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: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

[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 in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 6/15/20

**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.

35. 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 **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 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://everythingxsm.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://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)

6/29/20 #V3-1255 6PM EDT 6/27/20

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