

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/6/20: SXM Closed to US Flights Until 7/15; 737 Max Jets are Flying; Tropical Systems Development Likely; LIAT; Health Declarations; Pre-Arrival Covid Testing; Mullet Bay Beach Resort; LAST CALL for Memberships [34 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Can't see this newsletter? Go [here](#) for our *SXM Weekly News* PDF Archives.

Vol. 3, #1256 --- Monday, July 6, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

Member News

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

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

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

*******Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter.*******

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://everythingxsm.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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather: Getting Here:

- In Our Main "Island" News Section: Major News About Getting to SXM**
- LIAT Airlines May Be Dead - Perhaps**
- Fifth Named Storm of 2020 Season Forms**

- **Airlines Likely to Require Health Declarations from Americans**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**

SXM Accommodations:

- **Our SXM Rental Page Adjusted to offer Rentals from July 15 On**
- **2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at EverythingSXM.com**
- **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

LEAD = STORY

- **SXM Postpones Passenger Flights from US Until July 15; Pre-Arrival COVID Tests Required for Arriving Passengers**

- **Look, Up in the Sky: 737 Max Test Flights May Be There**
- **Airport Workers Strike for Back Pay**
- **Airport Terminal Work Continues; What About Preclearance?**
- **Restaurant of the Week: AVANTIKA**
- **25 Years Later, Mullet Bay Property Not Redeveloped**
- **LAST CALL: JMB SXM Discount Program Sale Ends Friday 7/10**
- **Some St. Maarteners Still Stuck Overseas**
- **Seven Ways to Bring Some of SXM Home**
- **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**

#####

- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0**

#####

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

#####

- **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**

#####

- **Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It**

#####

- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**

#####

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

Please see our [complete Table of Contents](#) below.

35 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://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 9/12/2020 9/26/2020 Week 37 and Week 38 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Two bedroom, two full baths, sleep-eight top floor Penthouse Unit overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Super location. Marina building (elevator building,so handicap accessible). Spacious Penthouse unit has long balcony overlooking the water for sunning and spectacular sunsets. Two King size beds , two Murphy beds, plus queen-size sleep sofa, sleeps eight total. Full a/c, full kitchen, large private jacuzzi, flat screen TVs, dvd players, free Wi-Fi and much more. Free reserved park spot just feet from your door. All amenities of SBR, two beaches, five pools, swim-up bars, several restaurants, including beach bar/restaurant, sports bar, casino, nightclub, deli, tennis, exercise facilities. Full Marina with watersports, snorkeling, scuba, sailing excursions etc.. A Five-Star, Resort of Distinction Award Winner. Convenient to airport, shopping, entertainment and restaurants in SXM. \$1600 per each week individually, or \$3000 for both weeks rented together Gerald 856 392 7049 GWILLIAMS6@COMCAST.NET

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/30/2021 2/6/2021 week5 also see weeks 3,4,6 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina corner unit in Bougainvillea building with panoramic vistas sunsets west and island north. 1 bedroom suite with king size bed and two pullout Murphy bed sleeping four featuring flat screen TVs full kitchen open plan dining area with living room. Full bath with walk-in shower. Building location at highest point poolside. Complete resort amenities-pools. beach with beach bar/cafe water-sports Casino restaurants entertainment and more. back to back weeks available. \$8,000, multiple weeks purchases discounted Jim 5083622187 jbhegarty@comcast.net

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](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group:](#)



<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

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather
--Scroll Down To This Section--

1. In Our Main "Island" News Section: Major News About Getting to SXM

2. LIAT Airlines May Be Dead - Perhaps
3. Fifth Named Storm of 2020 Season May Form
4. Airlines Likely to Require Health Declarations from Americans
5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
6. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
7. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

Section Two: Accommodations (*Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.*)

--Scroll Down To This Section--

8. Our SXM Rental Page Adjusted to offer Rentals from July 15 On
9. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingsxm.com
10. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
11. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

12. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

13. News About What's New In This Section
14. SXM Postpones US Passenger Flights Until July 15
15. Look, Up in the Sky: 737 Max Test Flights May Be There
16. Airport Workers Strike for Back Pay
17. Airport Terminal Work Continues; What About Preclearance?
18. Restaurant of the Week: AVANTIKA
19. 25 Years Later, Mullet Bay Property Not Redeveloped
20. Last Call: JMB SXM Discount Program Sale Ends Friday
21. Some St. Maarteners Still Stuck Overseas
22. Seven Ways to Bring Some of SXM Home:
23. SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends Soon
24. How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home

#####

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

#####

26. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

27. Get a Little Bit of the Island in Your Home, NOW

28. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

29. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
30. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
31. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
32. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
33. Please Patronize our Sponsors
34. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section 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 . 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. In Our Main "Island" News Section: Major News About Getting to SXM

Although we usually put all news about getting to SXM in *this* section (Section 1), the news this week is of such transcendental importance that we are placing it in our main island news section, Section 4, which you will find below. We just wanted to give you a heads up here in Section 1, where this type of news traditionally appears.

2. LIAT Airlines May Be Dead - Perhaps

Leeward Islands Air Transport, more familiarly known as Liat, has been teetering on the financial break for years. Although it has sometimes been treated derisively, it is a profoundly important air link for travelers in the southern Caribbean that also serves SXM in the Northeast Caribbean.

Or it did.

The airline recently stopped flying and most observers gave it figurative last rites. Even its employees found out that the airline appeared to be dying by reading about it in various Caribbean news media.

We don't know whether Liat will ever fly again -- under its own name or a different one. But the positive news that's coming out now points to interest on the part of a number of [other airlines](#) in stepping in to provide services Liat may no longer is able to execute.

As always, we'll keep you posted as this story unfolds.

3. Fifth Named Storm of 2020 Season May Form

Although it is still less than a week old, the 2020 hurricane season is living up to its advance billing: Meteorologist Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather has said that this will be one of the busiest seasons in recent years, with up to 20 named storms.

The fifth named storm of the 2020 season, Édouard, was expected to form NE of Bermuda yesterday (Sunday). But if that doesn't / didn't happen (this story was written Sunday shortly after noon) -- or even if it does, yet another storm emerging into the Atlantic off South Carolina Wednesday or Thursday could become a tropical storm as well. Worse, it

could hug the US coast as it moves NNE toward southern New England, according to meteorologist Rob Lightbown of crownweather.com.

Although the storm near Bermuda was not expected to cause serious problems for any land area, it is nonetheless unsettling that this many storms have formed so far ahead of the statistical height of the season, which doesn't happen until the beginning of September.

You can see much more about Édouard and Fay, the next two storms, in our Weather Center at everythingxsm.com. If you are ever in the track of any tropical system, we strongly recommend that you sign up for the emailed tropical weather forecasts offered by Rob at Crown Weather, crownWeather.com. Membership subscriptions there are very inexpensive, highly accurate, and very useful to anyone whose home or business is ever in the crosshairs of an approaching tropical system.

4. Airlines Likely to Require Health Declarations from Americans

Airlines are on a tightrope. Although their business is slowly recovering, they nonetheless lost a fortune over the last several months because of people staying home due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. They temporarily mothballed hundreds of airplanes in southern Arizona and elsewhere, some of which they are now returning to service.

Nervous would-be passengers want airlines to leave middle seats empty so they can feel safe with social distancing, but airline bean counters want the planes full — which of course would inspire many passengers to stay home. So, airlines are talking things over now — and appear likely to adopt a requirement to obtain health declarations from prospective passengers, starting soon. Here is [that story](#).

As we previously wrote here, American, United, and Spirit are among the carriers vowing to fill their airplanes - including middle seats. Vowing not to do so - at least until September - are both Jet Blue and Delta. They say for now they will keep middle seats empty.

5. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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

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

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

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

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

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may

well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

6. 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.)

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

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

8. Our SXM Rental Page Adjusted to offer Rentals from July 15 On

Since the earliest US airlines will be flying passengers back to SXM won't be until July 15, we have updated the condo

rental ad page on our main site, everythingSXM.com, so it now lists only units available on or after that date. Should SXM decide to make further modifications in its schedule for the resumption of travel by Americans to SXM, we will update our listings accordingly.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. 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

13. News About What's New In This Section

For years, we've been publishing news about air travel to SXM exclusively in section 1 of this newsletter, which we call *Getting Here*.

Although we will continue to put most news about air travel related to SXM in that first section, when there is transcendental news about SXM air travel we will now headline it here in our main island news section. That's the case this week with the following article (story 14).

We're making another editorial change this week. For many years, we've been publishing a feature titled *Restaurant of the Week* here in our main island news section. Because it has often appeared toward the end of this section, you may have missed it — and if so, you can check all our *Restaurant of the Week* stories since 2014 in our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#). Just click the hyperlink and you be able to find dozens of stories on featured SXM restaurants. *We're changing where those stories appear effective this week: they will now appear earlier in this section, plopped in the middle of a number of major news stories.*

We know it's news you are interested in seeing and reading and we wanted to make it a bit easier for you to find items of interest. We're doing this in response to multiple reader requests.

If you ever have story ideas for *SXM Weekly News* or other comments, please address them to SusanK@JMBCommunications.com. Thanks.

14. SXM Shuts Down US Passenger Flights Until July 15

In response to both raging increases in the numbers of Covid 19 cases in the US — and the European Union's decision to slam the door, for now, on US travelers who had hoped to go to Europe — SXM has temporarily shut the door itself on all US commercial flights to the island for two weeks, ending on July 15, when flights are currently scheduled to resume.

In addition, last week we wrote the following article concerning the requirement now that SXM is imposing on Americans to make sure they have received negative responses to recent Covid 19 testing near home. Here is that story, with current requirements. These requirements could change further as conditions warrant. Should that happen, we will send an immediate Bulletin to all the members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program; publish the information at once in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (which you should certainly join, if you haven't already); and will also publish an update in the next regular issue of *SXM Weekly News*, or in a separate Bulletin to weekly news subscribers if the seriousness of the news requires it.

Again, here is last week's story on current requirements:

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-PCR, [which is an acronym for *Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction*,]

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.)

15. Look, Up in the Sky: 737 Max Test Flights May Be There

Some Boeing 737 Max airliners — the same model that crashed toward the end of 2018 and early 2019 killing all 346 passengers aboard — are now [back in the skies](#) with FAA and other test pilots aboard who are hoping to make certain that the changes Boeing has made in the airplane mean it can be operated safely and return to service.

Even if it gets glowing reports, it is unlikely according to experts' comments in stories appearing in leading aviation magazines that it will come back into service much before the end of this year, if then. The Pandemic and the cancellation of thousands of flights have led to billions of dollars in canceled orders to Boeing, but the testing continues.

What you see in the skies over the US could very well be one of those test airplanes. Is it safe? We certainly hope so.

16. Airport Workers Strike for Back Pay

Although on July 1 no flights were going to SXM Airport from the US, nonetheless there were international flights headed there — Air France cargo, for example.

SXM airport employees left their posts inside the building and went outside to pick it peacefully asking for back pay that they say is owed to them. The protest continued for some time, but later in the week flights appeared to be coming and going as usual, according to media reports we've seen.

Hopefully this situation will be solved permanently. Please see this coverage from the [Daily Herald](#).

17. Airport Terminal Work Continues; What About Preclearance?

Although work on the Princess Juliana SXM airport terminal to get it back in the shape it was in prior to hurricane Irma three years ago is continuing, the island right now is focused on staying Covid-free and dealing with the financial impact it's feeling along with the rest of the world.

Later on — when it's sensible to do so — we'll get the answers about when the terminal will be back to normal. More important to travelers in the long range, we'll also find out what the current timetable is for completion of building facilities for US customs preclearance in the terminal, which unfortunately is a separate process for many practical reasons. Our best guess is that it won't be possible for preclearance to be a reality until perhaps 2022 – 23, but that's just a guess.

We will continue to follow up on this.

18. Restaurant of the Week: AVANTIKA

Without a doubt, the single best Thai restaurant on the island is Avantika in Simpson Bay across the street from Toppers.

You can sit outside on their alfresco elevated deck or inside the cozy restaurant and its lively bar. The service is exemplary, the food is truly outstanding (delicious and attractive), and the pricing is very reasonable.

The menu is sizable. Whether you crave vegetarian dishes or are a carnivore, you'll find plenty of selections that will suit you to a "T" (as in Thai, of course). This is a place where people of all ages bring friends (not a lot — social distancing). It's that kind of friendly. Beautifully decorated, too.

Avantika never disappoints: we visit it many times on each trip to the island. Just go. Avantika has been a multi-year winner of our **Everything SXM Award of Culinary Excellence**.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 7/6/20) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

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

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.

19. 25 Years Later, Mullet Bay Property Not Redeveloped

In September, 1995, seemingly the most powerful storm ever to hit St. Maarten until that time raked the island. It was hurricane Luis, and after it hit, in those crazy pre-social media days, wild stories abounded, including Front Street gone; Grand Case gone; the hill gone; and so on. The storm was tough, but nowhere near as tough as Irma, which hit 22 years later. Power was out on the Dutch side for weeks and the recovery of the island in general seemed to take forever.

One part of "forever" continues today. Mullet Bay Beach Resort (MBBR), formerly the biggest and busiest resort hotel on the island, was SXM's top tourist mecca in those days with many buildings each containing multiple condos, many restaurants serving a spectrum of different foods, its own shopping area near the current golf cart rental facility for the Mullet Bay golf club, its own bustling casino, and a busy convention center. MBBR was truly SXM's mecca for tourists. Massive seas laid waste to it all in September, 1995, when Luis hit.

Because some of the buildings were separately owned, there was no easy fix. Consequently, the property has been undeveloped now for 25 years. The only progress was perhaps 10 years ago when some remaining derelict buildings were finally demolished.

With Covid the island's current prime focus, there has been little word lately about what might be the future of that massive tract of land near Mullet Bay beach. The property remains undeveloped while massive developments are flourishing next door on or near Cupecoy beach. The preference for island residents seems to be for low-rise condominiums on the Mullet Bay property, not any cinderblock-shaped Behemoth or another high-rise. What will happen is anyone's guess but our hope is that this property will again become a mecca for both tourists and locals to enjoy together.

So far, is no indication of what that future will be or when it might happen. As we've done for the last 25 years, we intend to keep our eyes on this and will keep you posted.

20. LAST CALL: Free Additional Year of Membership When Joining 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 earlier in this Section), 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 new, renewal, or reinstated JMB memberships from now through next Friday, July 10, 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 sign up for, renew, or reinstate today. Military / First Responder membership memberships are included.

Here are all 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 7/10/20.
- **Six-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free. Offer ends 7/10/20.

You can do both renewals and reinstatements [right here](#), in our membership reinstatement center (prices are identical to renewals). For new memberships, click the page curl on our main site, everythingxsm.com, for info or to sign up. 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 10, 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 7/10/20.

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 everything.sxm.com and clicking the page curl.

We hope you had a **great holiday weekend but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away this coming Friday.**

21. Some St. Maarteners Still Stuck Overseas

We don't know the exact number, but a substantial number of SXM residents and property owners are still stuck overseas because of the effects of Covid 19.

A number of young people who were in college at the time Covid hit have been stuck where they were ever since the shutdown started in March. They are still in the USA, Canada, Europe, China, and elsewhere. Some are even dealing personally with Covid.

One happy aspect about the reopening of US tourism for the island, scheduled currently for July 15, is that a number of these people expect to finally be able to return home after many months away. They are in addition to many others — Americans, Canadians, Europeans — who own property on the island and have not been able to visit their property in months.

To everyone affected by Covid, we wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

22. Seven Ways to Bring Some of SXM Home:

Regardless of when you plan to return to SXM there are many ways for you to bring some of SXM home — now — even before your next visit.

Here are a few ideas for very special ways to do precisely that:

a) **Roland Richardson paintings or Giclees:** there is nothing quite as spectacular as a Roland Richardson painting in your home or office. Bursting with color far more vibrant than the most memorable Fourth of July fireworks display, Sir Roland's paintings literally enlighten your visual senses like nothing else. See his new website, www.rolandrichardson.com, to get a general idea what we're talking about. But realize that colors you see on an electronic device can't and don't do justice to the colors you see in his actual oil paintings. They will be family treasures for generations.

b) the **Kasprowski family of Cartographers** — first Michal, now Rafal — provide Caribbean maps that are unparalleled in their print quality, completeness, authenticity, and accuracy. They are printed on heavy paper and will last for years. In fact, you can talk to the publisher himself, Rafal Kasprowski, and even have him mail maps to you in tubes so you can put them up in your home or office as wall hangings: they really are that spectacular.

The Kasprowskis have offered SXM maps for many years. But they also offer maps of most other Caribbean islands as well as the entire Caribbean, so if your warm-water interest extends beyond SXM — no problem. For much more information, go to their site, www.midok.com.

c) **Get our all-new copyrighted purple sand chair SXM Euro Oval** for your car - or anywhere else. Just one for only \$7 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 ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE TOO: 508-747-8281, 8am - 8pm EDT daily. Secure line, please leave all required info. Delivery is now (as of 6/2) only roughly two weeks.

d) Whether you go to **Zhaveri Jewelers, Caribbean Gems, Ray's Jewelry, JN Jewelers, Alpha Jewels, Majesty Jewelers** or any of the great jewelry shops listed under Sponsors in story 33, these are places for exquisite gems and a spectrum of gifts for loved ones and your closest friends. This is where you get your family keepsakes: many fine selections.

e) **Island92 radio** (91.9FM and island92.com), our on-air partner for more than 10 years, is operated by xPat Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin. It offers rock, blues, and good-time music as well as unique insights into what's happening in SXM. Since they stream live on the web, you can hear them live anytime at island92.com and you can message them too by clicking "listen live". Our Jeff Berger is live on the air with Soc every Monday between about 945 and 10am.

f) **Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case** opposite Spiga, www.tijon.com. Tijon is a fantastic place for SO many reasons. First, it's one of the few spots on the planet where you can schedule a time to learn how to make your very own perfume or cologne -- and actually do it on the island in their perfume lab. It's a great experience; you get to take your perfume home, and they keep the formula on hand so they can create and ship refills whenever you need them. Great for women and men (Jeff and Ilene have done it), family, friends, celebrations, etc. Contact John Berglund and tell him we suggested it.

g) **Pet Adoptions from SXM**: Pet rescues enable you to adopt an island dog, and you don't have to be on the island to do it. Contact Ursula Oppikofer at I Love My Island Dog Association for info / details. Site: www.ilovemyislanddog.org.

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.)

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.

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 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. 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.

30. 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
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership
and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.
That's a 10-year price guarantee.
More benefits... same price.

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

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

31. 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 everythingsexm.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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

To unsubscribe, go here: www.sxmweeklynews.com. You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the *spam* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

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

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2019. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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)

7/6/20 #V3-1256 NOON EDT 7/5/20

| [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2020. World rights reserved.

###