

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/20/20: SXM Welcomes US Tourists Effective 8/1(?); jetBlue/AA Hookup; Winair; Buccaneer Beach Bar; Three New Hotels; Hurricane Season; Airbnb Issues; Captain Oliver's Saga; Boardwalk Extension [43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1258 --- Monday, July 20, 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.*

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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://everythingshm.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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43 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 1/17/2021 5/24/2020 Week 3 **Divi Little Bay Beachfront 2 bedroom unit 1st floor with 2 full baths, 1 with jacuzzi tub.** There are 2 king beds and a queen pullout in living room. 2 kitchens and a washer and dryer off the living room. 3 decks overlook Little Bay and unit is close to the multilevel Pure Ocean pool which has a swim up bar. Resort has 2 other pools, 4 restaurants, a small gym, a deli, market, Spa, watersports, and other stores as well as being close to Phillipsburg. \$1600 for the week Karen (413) 4431958 mzdayzee@aol.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/13/2021 3/20/2021 Week 11 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina This is an upper floor one-bedroom unit in the Upper B bldg.** It overlooks the B pool and has the best sunset views in the complex. It has a king bed in the bedroom and 2 pull down Murphy beds in the living room. The Simpson Bay Resort has one of the best reputations on the island. \$7,000 or best offer Donna 865-458-0426 tbirdbill@yahoo.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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How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares

to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather

1. CDC No Sail Order Extended; No Cruising Until At Least October

The Centers for Disease Control has extended its no sail order through the end of September, which means that no cruise ships should be plying Caribbean waters until at least the beginning of October.

Considering the current severe upward trend in Covid 19 cases in the US, complicated by the politicization of the facemask situation and the lack of any Federal mandate in the US requiring facemasks, infection rates in the US may well continue to accelerate for some time. Anyone considering going on a cruise ship between now and next spring might want to consider other alternatives: there is no telling when any ships will be able to go back in service or how safe cruise ship travel during this Pandemic could be in the near future.

Here is the [CDC announcement](#).

2. Date "Hard," Tourism Minister Says: US Flights Resume Aug. 1

When pressed last week concerning the reopening date for US flights to SXM of August 1, Dutch side Tourism minister Ludmila de Weever described August 1 as a hard date — meaning it is firm and final. Local SXM media are also quoting her as saying that the island can't keep changing dates since it's highly unfair to airlines that are trying to plan flights.

Of course, the situation in the US described in story #1 -- skyrocketing rates of Covid-19 infections in many states -- could force SXM and other destinations to think twice about their positions, which may be "hard" but are not cast in stone.

We'll keep you posted here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) in case there are any changes.

We want you and all your SXM tourist friends to get all the SXM news of crucial importance every week. Please tell your friends they can subscribe free to SXM Weekly News at sxmweeklynews.com. After signing up, they'll receive an emailed copy of our latest issue, with future copies emailed as they're transmitted.

3. jetBlue, American Form "Strategic Partnership" To Fight DL, UA

In a move which we never saw coming, American Airlines and jetBlue — respectively (according to an unscientific poll we took in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) last year) the lowest regarded and highest regarded carriers (among our readers) providing air service from the US to SXM -- have formed a strategic partnership which will use codesharing to enable passengers of each carrier to make connections with the other in a seamless way. Passengers will be able to use either carrier's website to create through flights involving jetBlue and/or American.

The cooperation between these two airlines is not new. Neither is the notion that jetBlue would work closely with other carriers. In fact, jetBlue for years has had alliances with numerous carriers around the world, enabling its passengers to connect in New York and Boston with its international airline partners for flights worldwide.

jetBlue, in fact, itself currently serves the USA, the Caribbean, Central America, and a few points in South America. It has recently made a lot of noise about its plans to expand its route network by adding flights from New York and Boston to London starting in the next year or so, and very recently said it will be expanding beyond that in southern Europe. It has ordered aircraft with trans-Atlantic capability (A321XLR), as well, as we have reported here in *SXM Weekly News*. We said that these new flights from New York and Boston would enable more Europeans and others to get potentially lower-cost ticketing to SXM from overseas.

In light of jetBlue's European expansion plans, the hook up with American was surprising. But as we noted above the airlines have cooperated before. jetBlue for years has allowed some American pilots to deadhead on its planes to get to their flights in other cities — a service which we imagine is reciprocal for JetBlue pilots on some AA flights.

When this story broke this week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), partisans who love jetBlue but don't like AA reacted with hostility, fearing that there is some long-term harm that could come to their favorite airline, jetBlue. jetBlue is fiercely independent and always has been. Though it's getting a bit "smaller" currently thanks to Covid, long-term it has major growth plans and lots of new aircraft on order which will enable it to implement them.

We will keep an eye on this story as it develops and especially as it relates to air travel from Europe to SXM, which is the reason we're publishing this story.... It definitely matters.

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

Here is what jetBlue told its frequent flyers when it announced this hookup this week:

Today we're announcing some exciting news and as always, we want to share the details with you directly.

Pending regulatory approval, we will be entering a strategic partnership with American Airlines that will provide you with even more travel options.

A few highlights of what you can expect:

- **Seamless connectivity** — *Our partnership will make travel easy between JetBlue's and American's complementary route networks, including integrated website booking capabilities, convenient connections, and an improved on-the-ground experience.*
- **Expanded network** — *JetBlue will grow in New York City, adding flights in LaGuardia (LGA) and Newark (EWR), while also increasing our presence at JFK. With improved schedules and competitive fares, you will be able to access 60 new destinations across American's global network.*
- **More options** — *We are working with American to bring TrueBlue members additional opportunities to earn and redeem TrueBlue points.*

We hope you are already dreaming of the adventures you want to take with us and all the ways you plan to use your TrueBlue points, when the time is right for you to begin to travel again. We have a lot more work to do behind the scenes, but will keep you posted as we solidify additional details about our partnership over the coming months.

Here is what AA said to its passengers when announcing this:

Today, we're excited to announce a new partnership with JetBlue to bring you more choice, more benefits and the opportunity to reach more destinations with ease.

This new relationship brings:

Improved Experience

Get to your destination with ease by booking a single ticket with either airline for one-stop check-in and seamless connections. You'll also enjoy an improved on-the-ground experience and more comfort in transcontinental service with access to JetBlue's Mint and American's three-class Transcon service.

New Routes

Beginning in 2021, this new relationship gives you access to more destinations from New York (JFK) including Tel Aviv (TLV), Athens (ATH), and the return of seasonal service to Rio de Janeiro (GIG). In the future, this new partnership is certain to facilitate American adding new long-haul markets in Europe, Africa, India and South America.

Loyalty Benefits

We're always looking for ways to expand value for our AAdvantage® members. We look forward to sharing information about new loyalty benefits for AAdvantage® and TrueBlue members soon.

We're proud to bring you this opportunity to plan new adventures when you're ready to travel, and help you get even more from your relationship with American. Thank you for your loyalty.

4. Winair Cuts Service to Aruba & Curacao

WINAIR, the national airline of SXM which flies mostly small STOL aircraft to nearby islands, has temporarily canceled service to both Aruba and Curaçao, which it had been executing through wet leased propjet aircraft. It is expected that the airline will resume these flights or similar service once the Covid epidemic's effects on air travel have subsided.

5. New Airline from Canada, OWG, Could Wind Up Serving SXM

A new, relatively small startup airline from Canada seems to have scrappy inclinations about competing with the big boys in Canadian air travel. It wouldn't surprise us at all to see this airline possibly provide service to SXM within a couple of years after it launches.

More information about the airline, OWG, is [here](#).

6. JB, DL, & Spirit Commit to Empty Center Seats Thru Labor Day

JetBlue, Delta, and Spirit have committed to empty center seats aboard all their aircraft at least through Labor Day — welcome news to passengers skittish about returning to the air anytime soon. Commercial pilot Jackson McFarland has pointed out in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) that the flow of air on passenger planes is from the ceiling to the floor — not sideways. With that kind of airflow, and fresh air inside the cabin being changed about every two minutes, air quality in cabins of passenger jets is far superior to that in most supermarkets, for example.

Though now-traditional social distancing is almost impossible aboard modern commercial aircraft, it sounds to us like airflow and unoccupied center seats — as well as the required use of facemasks aboard all flights — should do a lot to set passengers much more at ease.

7. AA, United Work to Completely Fill Their Airplanes

In contrast to the positive attitude shown by jetBlue, Delta, and Spirit as explained in the article above, American and United apparently are filling a lot of their aircraft completely. They are telling passengers when aircraft they are booked on are filled to capacity, to give them the option of re-ticketing to another flight — but that's often inconvenient.

Thanks, AA and UA, but we'll stick with airlines that keep middle seats empty.

8. New Safety Protocols Now In Place at SXM Airport

Princess Juliana SXM airport has now put in place a number of new safety protocols designed to ensure that the airport terminal achieves maximum sanitization for all passengers. Their intent is to maximize the safety and good health of all passengers, arriving or departing. You'll find details [here](#).

9. Expect The 2020 Hurricane Season To Ramp Up Again Soon

As we mentioned here in recent weeks, the already exceptionally busy 2020 hurricane season is expected to ramp up once again toward the end of this month. In fact, that ramp up may already have begun, as a tropical system was forecast today to enter into the Gulf of Mexico where, during this week, it may develop further. Another system may head toward the central Windward islands by next weekend; neither is expected to affect SXM.

For much more information on tropical weather, please consult the sources listed in the next article.

10. 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***

11. 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.)

12. 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.

13. Planet Hollywood Gets Construction Permit; 2023 Completion Possible

The Canadian air carrier Sunwing is the organization behind the development of the new 452-room Planet Hollywood Resort/casino which just got the green light to begin construction on the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel on the beach just West of downtown Philipsburg. The property had been sold just before hurricane Irma struck almost three years ago. More information on this project is [here](#).

The island as a whole for the last several years has been coping with the need to attract a younger, more affluent clientele here. Planet Hollywood, along with the SECRETS resort on the French side, expected to reopen this Fall, will help bring that objective from concept to reality.

Although some timeshare owners — who constitute a majority of the islands current stayover tourists-- pooh-pooh all-inclusive resorts, the reality is that both cruise ship tourists and all-inclusive resort visitors have this in common: they bring more first time visitors to the island than any other attractions. Those visitors leave their AI compounds to explore the entire island, including the commercial districts of Philipsburg and Marigot, the beaches, and the restaurants.

In fact, it is common for all-inclusive visitors to make it a point to visit a number of the island's more popular restaurants when they are here; such travelers frequently return as visitors to non AI hotels or as timeshare or villa renters with the express intent of spending more time at the island's fabulous restaurants and in its inviting shops.

Places like both SECRETS and Planet Hollywood are a huge win for SXM. Please see stories 14 and 15, below, for information about additional new hotels that are coming to the island.

The completion date expressed in our headline is frankly our best guess based upon previously announced completion dates. We have heard no firm completion date yet from Sunwing, though we are sure that the developers would like to see this property completed and opened as quickly as possible.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

14. Second "Adonis" Hotel To Be Built in Anse Marcel

When owner/developer Patrick Bataille opened his first new SXM hotel on the Dutch side in Cupecoy, he told us — and we told you — that it was the first of three hotels he was planning to build here on SXM. He has now announced that construction will soon begin on his second hotel — this one, in Anse Marcel on the French side.

For information on his first SXM hotel, please look [here](#). The next hotel is expected to follow a similar pattern, but we don't know the exact number of rooms or the exact location. We'll find it during our next trip to the island in a few months. Mr. Bataille fast-tracked his original hotel, enabling it to open a few weeks before the island was shut down last Spring thanks to Covid 19.

Adonis properties feature customary amenities most visitors expect, but significantly lower prices than most other SXM properties. They normally don't offer pools or restaurants, since the ocean is nearby and so are multiple fine restaurants. The lowest priced rooms are the smallest inside, ideal for singles or very small, young families. You'll find all the bells and whistles in the bigger rooms, which despite their size remain quite reasonably priced.

As soon as we have an opening date and a formal size and location for the new Adonis hotel in Anse Marcel, we'll release that info here in *SXM Weekly News*. We'll also pass along information about Mr. Bataille's third promised SXM Adonis hotel as soon we have info on its location and when construction is expected to start.

15. Upscale Major New Hotel Planned for Cay Bay

Cay Bay, the legal name for the Indigo Bay residential villa area, will be the site of a new large upscale resort hotel, near the water just northwest of the current beach bar on the Indigo Bay property.

While we don't have many details, we do know this property is expected to be one of the most upscale on the island — something the island seriously needs to compete effectively with resorts on its closest neighbor, Anguilla. It also may have in excess of 100 rooms — possibly as many as 300 rooms. We have not seen any artist's renditions or details about amenities/acoutrements. When we have more information, we plan to publish it here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Once construction begins, we also plan to publish photography in our FB group.

We are trying to arrange a conversation with the developer so we can get more information to our readers soon.

16. Airbnb Draws Fire after Bizarre Request for "Contributions" for Hosts

Airbnb, the large online rental organization, recently drew fire from many villa renters after Airbnb sent notice to them asking for contributions to be donated to its hosts, which Airbnb said were going through a rough time thanks to Covid 19.

When news of this reached our SXM FB site, it drew sharp criticism from renters who seemed to regard it as an arrogant overreach. One said to us, "We pay a lot of money for our rentals, money which goes into the pockets of Airbnb and its hosts. It's a buyer/seller relationship certainly not requiring any form of additional compensation for hosts. It's the most unsettling request," that renter told us.

More on this request for contributions by Airbnb is [here](#).

17. SXM Timeshare Resorts Working Hard to be Ready for Tourists

Energy Evans, Dir. of timeshare resort Belair Beach Hotel, and Ricardo Perez, general manager of Oyster Bay Beach Resort, two of the most prominent timeshare properties on the island, both appeared recently on Jeffrey "Dr. Soc" Sochrin's Fresh Air in the Morning program on Island92 radio (island92.com), where they spoke about their preparations to ensure that their respective properties are in the absolute best/most healthy condition as timeshare owners and others prepare to return to the island on August 1. Their appearance included special insights and useful information not only for timeshare owners, but also for all visitors coming to SXM.

You can hear the entire appearance [here](#).

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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

21. 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

22. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW to continue to send you *SXM Weekly News* every week:

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, that time may be coming ... very soon.

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. Our business has been adversely affected by Covid-19 as have most businesses worldwide and we need your help now to continue be able to research, write, produce, and distribute *SXM Weekly News* to you, its more than 342,000 worldwide readers every week as we have since 1992. That's why we're giving all readers who do multiyear new, renewal, or reinstated JMB memberships from now through August 15, 2020, a free "Plus One" additional full year of JMB membership. That's our thanks to you for helping us make it through this challenging period.

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

New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

All our ***new membership rates*** except one-year new memberships have this same "Plus One" enticement, but it must end 8/15/20 (just extended). Here are our low regular new membership prices:

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

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

Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members: 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 8/15/20.
- **Six-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free. Offer ends 8/15/20.

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 (at \$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. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Additional year offer ends 8/15/2020, so please act quickly.

We hope you are having a pleasant summer, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away 8/15, which is not far away.**

Don't want to use PayPal to sign up or renew (even though you need not be a PayPal member)? Just call our office any day from 8am to 8pm EDT at 508-830-3456 and we'll be happy to take your info by phone. You can leave it on our secure line if your call goes to voicemail. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

23. Captain Oliver's Saga Drags On; Cactus Tree Files Lawsuit

Over the years, SXM has had more than its share of dramatic sagas.

The latest, which began well before hurricane Irma hit the island in 2017, involves what country Maggi Shurtleff's Capt. Oliver's resort is in. It has long been presumed by the Dutch side government that it is in Dutch territory, despite being located just to the north of oyster pond at the French side border. Virtually everything around it is on the French side. French authorities entered the establishment a few years ago and basically told owner Maggi Shurtleff that she had to pay up on past due taxes on the French side.

Since she has long believed her business resided on the Dutch side — as does the Dutch side government — thus began what amounts to a small island international incident. Capt. Oliver's resort has always acted in good faith as a Dutch side company, doing exactly what all Dutch side companies are supposed to do. But because of this French side-initiated international fracas, it has had no ability to rebuild after it was virtually destroyed by hurricane Irma almost 3 years ago — and the reason is that two countries are continuing to squabble about whose country the property is on.

Maggi Shurtleff has had it with the delays, so the company that owns the property, Cactus Tree, filed suit against the Dutch side last November with the hope of finally getting things resolved -- but so far, nothing substantive has happened.

For her part, Maggie just wants resolution, as she told us a couple of years ago. She simply wants to get on with her life, fix the property, and get back in business, but insurance companies won't pay until they have an assurance about what's going on regarding the property and the governments that are in a tug-of-war about it.

We will continue to update our audience as the lawsuit progresses and hopefully gets resolved. More on this is [here](#).

24. Buccaneer Beach Bar Closes Permanently

Bernard Fourie and his wife, owners of the very popular Buccaneer beach bar, have decided to call it a career. They have closed the beach bar permanently and have the property up for sale.

Here is their formal comment posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

[Bernard Fourie](#) Hi guys, myself and my wife own Buccaneer Beach Bar. We chose to close, since we own the land and the business. Once we've packed it up there has been great interest in buying our piece of paradise. So yes we are considering selling.

25. New Murals Now Adorn Philipsburg

A number of very attractive Caribbean-flavored murals were recently added to the street scene in and around Philipsburg. The project was an effort of the Be the Change Foundation and several local artists.

If you'd like to see many of the murals, please click [this Facebook link](#). Also, if you haven't done so already, we strongly urge you to get into our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes lots of useful information and island pictures every day, around-the-clock.

26. Gift World Closes, But...

When the king of England dies, we've heard that it's an idiosyncratic tradition for British people to say, "the king is dead; long live the king." It sounds like a contradiction in terms, but the reality is that they're saying one king has passed, and the next one should have a long life.

What does this have to do with Gift World closing, you ask?

Everything, we answer.

We'll let "Juggie" explain:

End of An Era!

The Corona Crisis claims another victim. GIFT WORLD aka Juggie's Wife Store closed today after 24 years (June 1 1996 to June 30 2020). All the wonderful things, (Magic Spice, Vanilla, Chocolate Rum, Hot Sauce and all the other Spices and Rum,) that y'all bought at Gift World are still available at Jaggies Place (the bar on the Great Bay Beach Promenade [boardwalk] in Philipsburg). When the time is right, Anita will be back. Gift World will be reincarnated in a new Avatar at new location... Stay in touch, we will keep y'all posted.

27. 125 Students, Residents Finally Repatriated Home to SXM

When SXM slammed the door shut on flights from the US to the island last March, it left outside that door a number of island residents and students who happened to be living or working or visiting in the US at the time of the slamming. They've been stuck there ever since, but thanks to a Repatriation flight offered by Spirit airlines, the US no-frills airline, some 125 passengers returned to the island this past Saturday.

Unlike US residents, which must've taken a recent Covid test and are required to present results issued within 72 hours before their flight, the returning locals didn't need to bring anything medical with them. However, they were required to submit to an RT – PCR test in the terminal at Princess Juliana airport, then quarantine, and take the steps required by the island once they heard the test results within two days of arrival. Congrats to the returning residents, many of whom have been out of the country and away from home most of this year. The bad news: they're all still waiting for their test results.

Here's [more](#).

28. Boardwalk Extension from Great Bay to Cruise Port Progressing

The Great Bay Beach Promenade (boardwalk) along much of Great Bay beach provides a great place for scenic stroll along one of the island's largest beaches, with quick access to dozens of Front Street shops and popular bars/restaurants. (Wear a mask every day, folks; SXM is paradise, not Utopia.)

But getting from the cruise ship terminal to the Promenade has always been a chore, requiring cruise ship passengers to navigate narrow sidewalks along a very busy and not particularly pristine street to get to town. A few years ago, Dutch side officials said that they were going to extend the Great Bay Beach Promenade just about the entire way to the A C Wathey cruise and cargo facilities, giving cruise ship passengers a much more comfortable, relaxing stroll from their ship along Great Bay beach directly to the Promenade (boardwalk).

We are delighted to pass along the news that — despite Covid, occasional collapses of sitting governments, and other factors -- development of the extended Great Bay beach promenade really is underway and making significant progress — *a tribute to the well-known stick-to-itiveness and focus of Dutch side government leaders.*

In fact, on Sunday evening, we posted recently shot pictures of the progress of the new stretch of the Great Bay beach promenade as it starts to take shape; you'll find those pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). By all means take a look.

29. SXM Car Theft Precautions

In recent months, for whatever reason, there has been something of an increase in car thefts across the island.

To prevent your rented car from being stolen, take the following simple steps: 1. Lock your car and take the keys. 2. Leave nothing at all inside the car or in the trunk. If we see you leave pocketbooks, cameras, and other valuables in

your car trunk, so do people who would like to permanently borrow them. Don't do it. 3. At night, park your car only in a well lit area commonly used for tourist parking — never in a desolate, poorly lit area. 4. Never flash wads of cash or gaudy gold jewelry in public places.

Much more on protecting yourself from crime is on a special page in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); see that page and look up "Crime" in its search window.

30. About The Sand on Maho Beach

People who occasionally visit the island often lament the status of the amount of sand they see on various island beaches, which varies day to day. Bottom line, don't worry if Maho beach, Cupecoy beach, or even parts of Orient beach change shapes. Currents change, and when they do, mother nature moves sand to or from various island beaches.

Nowhere is this more in evidence, perhaps, than at Maho beach. There, sand and sometimes disappears altogether, revealing a rocky shore unfit for human habitation. At other times, rough surf can throw tons of sand over the short beach fall where it can pile up on both sides of Beacon Hill Road, where it can block the only access road that goes to the Beacon Hill residential area plus the various hotels there. It's great fun to shoot pictures here when that happens, but the surf can be so intense that you could ruin a good camera in the process — so be careful.

Last word, Don't Laurie about the sand on Maho beach, Cupecoy, Orient, or elsewhere. It's a natural part of life that it comes and goes, and those cycles are often just a few days apart.

31. Update on Covid-19 on SXM

The following update on the status of Covid 19 on SXM was written by former daily Herald reporter Alita Singh. It was posted late last week on social media on SXM and is reproduced here with permission:

Alita Singh: Covid-19 Update - St. Martin Two new locally acquired cases of Covid-19 recorded on French side. The appearance of cases contracted locally means there is a reservoir of the virus on the territory. Therefore, it is essential not to relax preventative measures against the virus. The new cases bring the French side total to 46, of which 39 have recovered and 3 are deceased. To date, 1,056 PCR tests were administered on the French side. Of those 77 were done between July 10 and 17. It is from that batch the two cases were detected. Adding the Dutch side total cases to date (79) and that of the French side, brings the island's combined cases to 125. Of that total, there are three new cases (1 Dutch side and 2 French side).

32. Restaurant of the Week: Sale & Pepe

Sal & Pepe used to be near Kim Sha beach in a small and unexciting building, but they moved to a gorgeous new setting overlooking yachts at the edge of Simpson Bay lagoon.

So the setting is beautiful, but is the food equal to the setting? We first visited the new location toward the end of last year, and was impressed with the dynamism of the staff which was always on the move getting things done. They had to: the night we visited it was very busy. There was a small gap in the glass wall separating us from the outside -- the gap yielded a pleasant breeze which suddenly became rather stiff, followed by a quick shower, but we were quickly moved along with a few others to a dry table. It didn't matter: our dishes were fine. The swordfish special was cut thin, which normally is not my thing, but it was absolutely delightful in its preparation and the portion size was more than ample. Ilene's favorite dish practically everywhere is spicy shrimp. Most people don't realize that Ilene regards Tabasco as colored water so spicy to her really must be flamethrower-hot. We're talking a genuine desire for ghost-pepper heat. They delivered. She was happy.

On its busiest nights there can be a wait here, and parking (as is the case throughout Simpson Bay) is when you find a spot, grab it, no matter what it's in front of. (Do heed tow zone warnings). Bring your camera and use the yachts as an enviable backdrop. Sicilian seafood is their specialty but the menu is extensive and good...make sure Sale & Pepe is on your list.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Sale & Pepe (featured 7/20/20) Cool location among breathtaking megayachts, cool decor, knowledgeable staff, and extensive menu, good service, and delicious food. Chef Davide Zagami stays mostly in the kitchen ensuring things go just right. <https://www.facebook.com/saleandpepemarina/>

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, 7/13/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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...

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.

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.

33. 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.

34. 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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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.

35. 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 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.

36. 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.

37. 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

38. 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.

39. 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](#)

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. 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?>

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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)

7/20/20 #V3-1258 8P EDT 7/19/20 13.2

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