

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/27/20: Hurricane Isaias; No Mask, No Fly; Boeing (two stories); Belair Beach Hotel; Oyster Bay Beach Resort; Westin / Marriott; US Tourism Starts Saturday 8/1; Buccaneer Beach; Dolphinarium; Weekly News Needs Your Help [36 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1259 --- Monday, July 27, 2020
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

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Member News

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

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

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

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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.
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***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 342,000 people around the world...***

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



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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://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?>

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and you're in

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

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

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36 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://everythingstxm.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://everythingstxm.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 10/17/2020 10/24/2020 Week 42 **Royal Islander Club La Plage One (1) bedroom unit, in beautiful Maho Village area.** Sleeps four (4) with king bed in private bedroom, and queen sofa sleeper in living room. Has a full kitchen and balcony, and awesome ocean and pool views. Watch the planes arrive and its situated right on the beach in Maho. Completely renovated, well maintained complex with great staff. Steps to a supermarket, several restaurants, beach and casino. Timeshare tax payable to resort at end of the week \$50. Week 43 also available in another 1 bedroom unit. \$900 per week Jennifer 703-303-6094 sales@jenniferspastries.com

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](#)

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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://everythingSxm.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. Developing Storm "Isaias" May Threaten SXM Next Weekend

A developing tropical system about a thousand miles west southwest of the Cabo Verde islands is one of those long-track storms that normally threaten the Caribbean, the Gulf, and the US come early September. They don't usually start appearing until half of August is over.

The ninth named storm of this hurricane season is now developing and it will be called Isaias. When meteorologist Rob Lightbown of crownweather.com talked about long-track storms here and in his message to his subscribers a few weeks ago, he said that 2020 would be an exceptionally busy year for hurricane formation. He also said that by the third week of July, things would really start to get busy. He was 100% right in both respects. Isaias is likely to become a named storm in the next few days, and is currently forecast to track in a generally westward to possibly west-northwestward direction toward the Lesser Antilles (Windward islands toward the south, Leeward islands toward the north).

It is impossible to say at this point how strong Isaias may be or where exactly it may go, but all that information will be posted with official forecasts as well as satellite images and radar loops in our weather center on our main site, everythingSXM.com. We will also post official advisories and forecasts in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as they are issued from early morning to late night; multiple members of our staff are now able to do that directly.

In addition, as always, we continue to urge anyone who is ever in the path of any tropical cyclone to go to crownweather.com and subscribe to Rob Lightbown's very inexpensive private forecasting service, which gives you early, highly accurate heads-up information and details about developing and approaching storms. In our experience [we have used him for years] he is the best out there and is nationally recognized. Definitely check out his site and his services.

2. Long-Track Storms Starting Early

Long-track tropical cyclones are systems that track across Africa from East to West as monsoonal rainstorms, emerging off the coast of West Africa where, this time of year, they often fall apart due to hostile conditions. Right now, that is not the case — and unless more Saharan dust gets blown into their path, it appears that conditions may be conducive to enable these systems to track East to West toward the islands and other potential points of impact in or near the Western Atlantic. Several weeks back, Rob Lightbown, head of CrownWeather.com, said that he expected long-track storms to start earlier this year than usual — which is now happening — and he expected that this hurricane season may be one of the busiest in a number of years. So far, that also appears to be happening.

In this busy storm environment, we will continue to keep you posted on what's going on weatherwise in SXM. Please see story 7 for information on multiple sites that deliver in-depth SXM weather information. To download a free official National Hurricane Center hurricane tracking chart, please see story 8.

What happens when the National Hurricane Center runs out of names one year? Read this section next week and we'll tell you.

3. Airlines Moving to "No Fly" Policy for Passengers Refusing to Wear Masks

Across the US and around the world, increasing outrage is being expressed against people who assert their alleged

"freedom" not to wear a mask in public.

The fact is that there is no freedom in the United States, guaranteed by the Constitution or otherwise, that enables anyone to take any actions that can harm others. In this case, masks have been proven now not only to help protect you from infection caused by others who are carriers of Covid 19, but they also help prevent you, if you're infected, from spreading the disease to others. The straight fact is that people who don't wear masks are endangering everyone around them if they are asymptomatic carriers of Covid 19.

As a consequence of this increasing outrage, growing numbers of US airlines are requiring passengers to wear masks at all times. Some are not offering food onboard planes to help ensure that passengers keep their masks on.

United, which was slow to get on this bandwagon, now says that passengers must wear masks not only on their flights, but also when they are in the terminal — near ticket counters, kiosks, and virtually everywhere else.

If you are thinking about not wearing a mask on any flight in the US aboard any commercial airline, we respectfully suggest you stay home.

4. Got Reservations? Expect Changes

If you live in an area where you routinely see contrails of jets passing overhead, you've probably noticed that the number of aircraft you're seeing seems now to be increasing.

Airlines don't make money flying empty airplanes; the economics don't work. Planes flying with empty middle seats are a compassionate, empathetic move by airlines to help protect their passengers — see story 24 for more information on that.

But in the middle of this tragic pandemic, airlines have to be stoic and do whatever they need to do to keep their passengers safe while flying but also they have to not lose their shirts in the process. As a result, airlines are changing equipment on some flights, rescheduling others, canceling some, and otherwise making changes that are essential for profitable flight operations -- but that don't necessarily make life easy for their passengers.

As we've often suggested in the past — but especially now, check your airline's website frequently to be sure your reserved flight is still flying as and when expected. A couple of days before you plan to depart — regardless of where you're going — phone the airline directly just to be absolutely sure the flight information you have is 100% correct. We recently heard of a number of flight cancellations into August and beyond involving American Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta. In the past we've heard of other cancellations on other airlines, including jetBlue — so please assume nothing about any flights you may have scheduled.

Also inquire about whether seats near you are occupied. For example, if you occupy a window seat and an aisle seat - will they put a stranger between you? Again: we're in a pandemic.

5. FAA Orders Emergency Inspections of 2,000 Boeing 737s

Unfortunately, this article has nothing to do with Boeing 737 Max aircraft, which have not been certified to fly and which won't be until at least October; see story 6. What it does involve is thousands of other Boeing 737 aircraft — around 2000 of them -- plus, we're sure, other aircraft that have been stored recently, mostly in southern Arizona.

Some of those aircraft have suffered corrosion of a fuel valve which is supposed to close after takeoff. If it doesn't close, the result can be severe consequences involving the airplane's ability to stay in the sky. For that reason, the FAA has ordered emergency inspections of about 2000 Boeing 737 aircraft so the affected valve can be inspected and replaced if necessary.

Returning planes from storage to service is not a simple turnkey operation. The planes must be carefully inspected to ensure that they can function as designed even after sitting on the ground for many weeks. If you're flying currently and wonder why your plane is so crowded, passengers are returning but it does take a bit of time for airlines to prepare aircraft for a return to service.

Here's [more](#) on this story.

6. Boeing 737 Max Will Stay Grounded at Least into October

Everyone in the commercial airline business who was anxious to see the Boeing 737 Max returned to service this summer will probably be disappointed to learn that the plane will be back in the sky until at least October — at the earliest.

As you know, the 737 Max was involved in two crashes that took a combined 346 lives. The plane's MCAS system was to blame, authorities believed. MCAS software had to be redesigned and tested to make sure the software did its job but also enabled pilots to do theirs. At the same time, the FAA has found a number of other issues with the 737 Max and has had to create fixes for all those other issues.

Boeing said this about MCAS: "The Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) flight control law was designed and certified for the 737 MAX to enhance the pitch stability of the airplane — so that it feels and flies like other 737s. MCAS is designed to activate in manual flight, with the airplane's flaps up, at an elevated Angle of Attack (AOA). Boeing has developed an MCAS software update to provide additional layers of protection if the AOA sensors provide erroneous data. The software has been put through hundreds of hours of analysis, laboratory testing, verification in a simulator and numerous test flights. Before it is finalized, the software will be validated during in-flight certification tests with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) representatives."

A number of flight resumption dates have been mentioned in the nearly 17 months during which the 737 Max has been grounded and all of them were wrong. The program of testing is continuing. We will keep you posted as to when the 737 Max actually will be returning to the skies; you can then decide whether you actually want to fly in it.

Here's [more](#).

7. 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***

8. 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.)

9. 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.

10. Timeshare Resorts Waxing Immaculate

Top management of two of SXM's most well-respected timeshare resorts appeared on Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin's Fresh Air in the Morning program on Island92 recently to talk about their preparations to make sure their resorts are immaculate from top to bottom -- and that they stay that way when tourists begin to return in the next few days (next Saturday, August 1). On the air were Edna P. "Energy" Evans, Director of Belair Beach Hotel, as well as Ricardo

Perez, general manager of Oyster Bay Beach Resort.

If you are a timeshare owner on SXM, you will want to hear this recording of the show — lots of good information and savvy reassurance from these people who are great representatives of their sector of SXM's economy.

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

11. What's Going on With The Westin?

Back when the Dawn Beach Club — the timeshare arm of the Westin St. Maarten resort and casino — was being completely renovated after hurricane Irma, word eventually came out that renovations of the Westin were taking a backseat to Dawn Beach Club which, we have since been told, was completed a while back.

Columbia Sussex, the developer of this entire complex, has been mum about what is happening at the Westin. We have seen nothing that tells us what delays if any the renovation project has suffered because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Nor, as far as we know, have any Columbia-Sussex officials said anything about persistent reports that the Westin may undergo rebranding.

What we have heard consistently is that the Westin (or whatever it is to be called, perhaps JW Marriott) — whose interior was getting a bit worn before Irma struck — is being upgraded to a five star resort. People who work for the resort have said this to a number of outsiders. Indeed, before the national shutdown on SXM, some restaurants had started to reopen at the property.

The date that had been specified for reopening prior to Covid was December of this year. Although we have no information regarding any changes to their opening date, we would suggest that anyone who has reservations at the Westin in December 2020 or later should contact the resort to see what's want. Bear in mind that Marriott owns the Westin nameplate and that Marriott points are expected to be usable here, as is the case now (we believe) for the Dawn Beach Club.

As soon as we are able to get any more information about the future of the Westin property, we will publish it here in *SXM Weekly News*.

12. 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.

13. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com 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.

14. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted

an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Please check this link to [BrightPath](#) in SXM, a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

15. 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](#). Please see the next story.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

16. 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 appears to be almost at hand -- August 1, the Dutch side island government says.

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 344,000 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.
- **Our Best Offer: 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. You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too. 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. If lines are busy and you get our answering system, you can leave your info on our secure line. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

17. US Tourism On-Track to Reopen 8/1: Covid / Entry Requirements Tighten

Tourism officials on SXM reiterated last week that they do intend to reopen the island to flights from the US effective August 1, as previously announced. However, they also announced that they are tightening regulations currently in effect regarding before-trip RT-PCR testing.

Under the new requirements, you must complete the test in the US and have written negative results all within 72 hours prior to your departure to SXM. The island is doing everything humanly possible to make sure that only healthy people who are not Covid carriers come to the island aboard these newly restarted US flights. Passengers attempting to board flights from the US bound for St. Maarten will not be allowed on board if they do not have proof of negative testing within the 72 hour window.

You must upload the actual negative lab results and complete the health declaration at **StMaartenentry.com**. Print the results and health declaration and carry hard copies with you. You will be using the **St.Maarten Health Declaration Platform** [stmaartenentry.com](#). File the information electronically as required before departing for SXM, but bring a paper copy of both documents. Don't rely on acceptance of digital copies: have digital AND paper: it's simply just wise.

More on this is published in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

18. Masks Required by Law Upon Entering any French side Building

If you plan to visit SXM soon, bear in mind that facemasks covering your mouth and nose are required by law upon entering any French side building. Common sense also dictates that you should be wearing a facemask when you are with other people anywhere on the island or, for that matter, in the US, Canada, or wherever else you reside or work.

Masks have a double effect: they not only help protect you from inhaling airborne Covid 19 virus exhaled by others (even 8 minutes before from people who were more than 6 feet away and who have left the building), but they also help you and others who may have the disease and not know it (asymptomatic carriers) from endangering others by exhaling potentially lethal airborne virus particles without a mask that may infect other people. Wear your mask!

19. Buccaneer Beach Bar May Reopen...

Bernard Fourie who with his wife Jill owns Buccaneer Beach Bar, wants to clear up potential misapprehensions associated with his recent closure of the bar/restaurant.

The restaurant is now closed through the end of hurricane season. Bernard says that there is a possibility that he and Jill may very well be reopening Buccaneer after hurricane season . . . great news for their many friends.

20. Nature Foundation Campaigns Against Dolphinarium

Apparently Alegria resort, built at the site of the former Caravanserai timeshare resort (and currently rebranding itself) is thinking about building a Dolphinarium in the underwater coral reefs adjacent to their resort in the tropical Atlantic. Dolphinariums have been proven to harm the dolphins that perform in them. Dolphins are very smart mammals whose lifespan is considerably shortened when they are held captive to perform for humans.

When a previous SXM government a number of years ago was talking about developing a Dolphinarium as a tourist attraction in SXM, we looked into it and -- based on less evidence at that time that it would be a harmful venture -- we whipped up our readers who started a letter writing campaign in opposition. That was nearly 20 years ago — and since then, the evidence is become overwhelming about how detrimental dolphinariums are to dolphins.

Please read [what the Nature Foundation has to say about this project](#). If you'd like to express your opposition and help some animals that are otherwise defenseless, we strongly suggest you look at the website of the Daily Herald newspaper, www.thedailyherald.sx and write to them at the email address you'll find on their site. We would all be better off taking an offshore cruise and seeing some of these beautiful animals as well as whales in the wild in the waters off SXM. Dolphinariums are a horrible way to treat intelligent animals and a ruthless way to profit on their suffering.

21. Covid on SXM - from Alita Singh

The most important statement from today's COVID-19 update was this:

"So far the majority of the cases cannot be traced back to travel to another country. CPS is currently still investigating what could be the possible source of the infection of the newly reported cases." - Govt. Epidemiologist Dr. Raissa Tjon-Kon-Fat.

Why is that statement important? It means too many of us were/are living in a mythical place where our island was virus free since May. This "once upon a time" narrative omitted key factors such as there were no "active known" cases from May until recent. The focus on "known" was lost or misinterpreted as COVID-19 packed its bags and departed from our shores.

Fast forward to July 23. A cluster of infested people emerges and we are stunned. Yes, some are imported cases, but the overwhelming majority are attributed to "community spread".

What does that mean? Simple: COVID-19 is a resident here. It was never a visitor passing through.

Many people are asymptomatic; their effect on the community only shows when someone with a weaker immune system is infected.

Others don't report they are sick due to fear, stigma or beliefs such as "I don't get sick", "It's just a lil cold and cough", "this (home) remedy does keep Corona away so I ain't got it", etc.

Let's talk fear and stigma. The unknown quantity of COVID-19 brews fear in all of us. When that fear births stigma, we are all responsible for the spread. Remember when HIV/AIDS was riddled by stigma? More people got infected, more people died. Why? Speaking up was to face fear and stigma. This is a similar battle with COVID-19.

Are you contributing to a community where people feel comfortable to speak up when experiencing flu-like symptoms? Or, are you creating or forwarding that WhatsApp message, peddling a name, whispering (without social distancing) because you "in the know"?

Clean your hands. Attend to your mind. Wear a mask. Observe physical social distance (also away from your phone

and/or computer if you are tempted to boost stigma)....

Note: More on current cases of Covid-19 in SXM is in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

22. Dutch Side Prime Minister Vows No Return of Lockdown, But

Dutch Side Prime Minister Responds to Small Increase in Covid Cases Numbers

No Return To Lockdown, However, Public Strict Adherence To Hygiene Measures Essential

Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs hereby takes the opportunity to update the general public on behalf of the Council of Ministers that the Government of St. Maarten continues to monitor the situation closely and is taking all necessary measures to mitigate the rapid increase in reported and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases over the last few days.

While the Government encourages persons exhibiting signs and symptoms to continue to come forward for testing, quarantining and where necessary isolations, Prime Minister Jacobs does express concerns that complacency by all concerned may have led to this resurgence of active cases. Collective Prevention Services (CPS) has commenced contact tracing of positive cases, and therefore we can expect more cases to come to light. However, panic shopping and spreading of negative rumors will not solve the challenges we are currently facing.

The population is asked to remember what steps were taken to diminish the spread not too long ago. It required us all making a concerted effort to ensure our safety when out in the public areas, including frequent washing of hands, wearing face protection and maintaining a social distance of 2 meters from other persons. These measures are still the best way to maintain normalcy and combat COVID-19. Only together by adherence to these new social norms can we again do all that is necessary to bring the number of cases down and continue to live and work within the community.

Though, St. Maarten had no reported cases for almost two months, there was always the possibility that persons were simply not reporting minor symptoms. Persons with underlying health issues are asked to be extra careful, while healthier members of the population should consider weaker ones in their families when going out and about as well.

The Ministries of Justice and TEATT will be increasing controls in order to ensure that businesses are operating under the prescribed guidelines and protocols mandated once they were allowed to reopen. Any businesses found to be in violation will face consequences. "We have been here before, we know what to do and were very successful in combating COVID-19 when it first became a crisis, and now again, this Government will do what needs to be done to ensure your safety. However, this does not include a shutdown of our economy at this time. We urge all residents and visitors alike to adhere to the health measures currently in place in order to ensure that we can remain open for business, while operating in the safest manner and mitigate the spread of the virus. The health of our population is of highest priority and we are all doing all that we can to ensure we can rebound from this quickly," concluded Prime Minister Jacobs.

23. Restaurant of the Week: Isola

Long- time Italian-born SXM chef Marco Ferrante was classically trained and has been in the Caribbean for more than 20 years. He's very well known to everyone who has tried a spectrum of Italian restaurants on the island. Isola -- which is Italian for island -- is a perfect name for an Italian restaurant based on an island. (It's next door to Hollywood Casino in the heart of Simpson Bay Resort, and has valet parking.)

When he took over as GM here a few years ago, he completely remade the restaurant. The place is packed in season and it gets a bit noisy but with food this good, you really don't notice. Seafood, beef, poultry, vegetarian selections -- everything you might want is right here. The pizza is outstanding as well, and the bar is full-service. Air conditioning of course. Try it: highly recommended as always: Tell Marco we sent you.

Isola has been undergoing renovations and expects to reopen in the next week or two.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 7/27/20). Italian. Excellent food, many choices (pizza too), busy, good specials. Lively; busy; entertainment some nights. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. www.isolaristorante.com

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.mariobistro.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.iziristorante.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.
Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.
Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.
Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.
Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.
Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.
Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.
Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.
Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.
Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.
Taloula Mango <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

24. Senator Files Bill to Prohibit Center-Seat Sales During Pandemic

Many people are likely to react favorably to the news that a senator from the Pacific Northwest is filing legislation to require airlines to keep middle seats empty until the pandemic is over.

However the facts don't seem to support his proposal.

First, airlines in the US need to make a profit in order to survive. Their profitability has been severely impacted by Covid and they are expected to lay off tens of thousands of workers in the next several weeks once government emergency funding runs out. They do have a right to survive.

Second, there is no way either to legislate or to redesign passenger cabins to guarantee social distancing inside of airplanes. The person in front of you and the person behind you are both closer than 6 feet. Even if the center seat is empty, the person in the aisle seat is less than 6 feet away.

Third, the good news, however, is that the air inside airplanes is anything but stagnant. Indeed, fresh air from outside the airplane is warmed and enters the cabin through the vents above your head. That air is exhausted through vents on the floor of the aircraft. So the motion of air inside the plane is from ceiling to floor, not side to side — making it a much safer place than, for example, supermarkets or department stores.

Fourth, what's more, air inside commercial airliners is completely changed every 3 to 5 minutes or so and HEPA filters are used and cleaned regularly to make sure that nothing noxious lingers in the cabin.

No one likes the idea of sitting next to a coughing, sneezing stranger on board a crowded airplanes. Covid 19 is highly infectious and an airborne pathogen we can all do without. But this proposal, though it may be attractive to some people, solves nothing and would seriously endanger the financial health of the nation's airlines. Perhaps it is an honest attempt to solve a problem — but it strikes us as an attempt to gain headlines that reflects a lack of research and inattention to established facts.

We do hope that empty center seats last a while, even though their main benefit appears to be psychological. Like you, we look forward to the day when vaccines will be widely available and herald the beginning of the end of Covid 19.

Here is [more](#) on the proposal.

25. Travel and Leisure Picks Top 25 Caribbean Islands

Travel and Leisure magazine recently published a list of the top 25 Caribbean destinations.

Given all the SXM partisans out there, one would've thought that SXM would wind up near the top of the list. After all, its airport is the second busiest in the region after San Juan and its following is fiercely loyal. It also has one of the busiest cruise ship ports in the Caribbean.

But no, apparently that didn't matter to Travel and Leisure. Their number one island was Anguilla — a beautiful place with many very fine resorts and restaurants but nothing remotely approaching the shopping experiences, the clothing optional beaches, the gambling, and the other exhilarating experiences available next door in SXM.

Nonetheless, we congratulate Anguilla on this honor.

On the other hand, we have no idea what ostriches might have picked SXM to be number 23 out of 25. That just doesn't make sense to us....

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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

31. 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.

32. 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](#)

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 7/27/20)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

Celine Charters (Enigma)

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

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

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

MAPS

[Kasprowski Publishers](#)

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)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

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.*

36. 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)

7/27/20 #V3-1259 3P EDT 7/26/20

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