

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 8/24/20: Storm Laura; Delta Exits SXM for Sept. & Oct.; Pandemic Flying; Airport NOT Closing; Villas; French Side Border Closure Protests; Missing Woman is Fine; 70 Stores for Lease; Party Boat Stuck; Your Help Essential to Keep Weekly News Publishing; Huge SkyMed Sale Ends 9/30 [39 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1262 --- Monday, 8/24/20
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

[Member News](#)

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

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

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

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Important Note:

This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News*, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). *You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.*

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 342,000 people around the world...

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Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices. Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

http://everythingxsm.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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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather: Getting Here:

- ***Trop. Storm Laura Causes Some Flooding, Windy Conditions in SXM***
- ***Citing Low Demand, Delta Cancels All SXM Flights in Sept / Oct***
- ***Why Flying in a Pandemic Is Safer Than You Think***

- **Widespread Rumor About 2nd Airport Closure is False**
- **Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**
- **Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart**

SXM Accommodations:

- **Covid Causes Villa Owners to Up Their Cleanliness Game**
- **Villa Clearinghouses Like AirBnB Ban Parties**
- **Yet Another Reason Cited for Buying Your Own SXM Condo**
- **2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingsexm.com**
- **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- **PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE to Bring You Important News from SXM: NOW EXTENDED: Get a Full Year Free Membership in our SXM Island Discount Program Thru "Plus One"**
- **French Side Protestors' Anger Over Border Closure Boils Over**
- **Woman Reported Missing on French Side Is OK**
- **Accelerated Testing Finds More Covid Cases: Curve Flattening?**
- **Nearly 70 Philipsburg Stores Now for Lease: Start a Business?**
- **Saba Stays Closed to Travel**
- **What Tourists Miss Most About SXM**
- **Best Place to Buy Cameras**
- **Party Boat Still Stuck on The Rocks**
- **SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale**
- **How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home**
- #####
- **SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0**
- #####
- **SkyMed's Six Months of Free Protection Offer Must End 9/30**
- **"Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Underway**

 -- **Get SkyMed BEFORE You Need It**
 #####

- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**
- #####
- **SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic**

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

39 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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 1/23/2021 2/6/2021 Week 4, Week 5 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Master and Junior Suites:** together accommodate 6 people. Master consists of a full kitchen, king size master bedroom, 2 Murphy beds,

spacious bathroom with separate double vanity area. Beautiful, large deck overlooks Simpson Bay. Junior suite (lock out) has 2 full beds, small kitchen, and a spacious bathroom with a separate double vanity. The resort has a fitness center, multiple pools, and everything you would expect from a five-star resort. *All boat excursions are located onsite and available directly from the resort. Restaurants, casino and grocery stores are within walking distance. Timeshare tax of \$50.00 due upon check out, is not included in the rental price. \$2,400.00 / week.
6096130728 mess113@yahoo.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](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

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



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

Section One: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather

--Scroll Down To This Section--

1. Trop. Storm Laura Causes Some Flooding, Windy Conditions in SXM
2. Citing Low Demand, Delta Cancels All SXM Flights in Sept / Oct
3. Delta Blocks Middle Seats Into January 2021
4. Flying in a Pandemic Is Safer Than You Think
5. Widespread Rumor About 2nd Airport Closure is False
6. Current Remaining Hurricane Names
7. Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM
8. Why Cruise Ships Are Hanging Out Off SXM
9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

10. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
11. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

12. Covid Causes Villa Owners to Up Their Cleanliness Game
13. Villa Clearinghouses Like AirBnB Ban Parties
14. Yet Another Reason Cited for Buying Your Own SXM Condo
15. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingxsm.com
16. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
17. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

18. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

19. We Need Your Help Now To Keep Publishing SXM Weekly News

20. French Side Protestors' Anger Over Border Closure Boils Over
21. Woman Reported Missing on French Side Found OK
22. Accelerated Testing Finds More Covid Cases: Curve Flattening?
23. Nearly 70 Philipsburg Stores Now for Lease: Start a Business?
24. Saba Stays Closed to Travel
25. What Tourists Miss Most About SXM
26. Best Place to Buy Cameras
27. Party Boat Still Stuck on The Rocks
28. SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale
29. SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends 9/30
30. Restaurant of the Week:
31. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

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

33. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

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

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

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

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

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

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

How To Get a GROWING LIST of 300+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://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. Trop. Storm Laura Causes Minor Flooding, Winds in SXM

Contrary to what she is poised to do on the US Gulf coast, Tropical storm Laura, which we told you about here in *SXM Weekly News* last week and about which we kept you updated during the week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), visited SXM Friday night and Saturday, causing no unexpected or unusual problems. Its arrival was accompanied by stiff winds, though the winds were only about 50 miles per hour or so and did relatively minor damage. There were also loud thunderstorms and the rain was heavy enough to cause some minor street flooding.

As of Saturday morning, we had heard of no injuries or other significant issues. A conga line of storms is lined up across Africa headed west to the tropical Atlantic — the exact same level of hyperactivity that Rob Lightbown, now our Chief Meteorologist and head of [CrownWeather.com](#) — had predicted here and elsewhere for the last several weeks. For much more on current and coming SXM weather, please see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and see the weather center of our main SXM website, [everythingXSM.com](#). For even more, go directly to [CrownWeather.com](#)

If your home or business is in an area that may at some point be visited by a tropical system, we urge you to seriously consider signing up for Rob Lightbown's surprisingly inexpensive private forecasting service, which we've used for years. It gives you his best in-depth analysis of where storms are likely to go and when they will be there — as well as their potential effects on land areas. It is indispensable information for anyone who may be affected by any tropical weather system. [Click this link](#) to learn more about Crown Weather Services.

2. Citing Low Demand, Delta Cancels All SXM Flights in Sept / Oct

If you have flight reservations to SXM from anywhere aboard Delta airlines during either September or October — or very early in November, read this article:

Citing low demand, Delta Airlines has canceled all of its flights to/from SXM from anywhere in the United States for the entire months of September and October and the first few days of November as well. The airline will be resuming seasonally limited flights to SXM from all its normal ports of embarkation early in November.

Know that this decision has nothing whatever to do with Covid: it is purely a business decision based on demand, officials said.

3. Delta Blocks Middle Seats Into January 2021

In a move believed designed to help boost safe travel during the upcoming lackluster holiday travel season, Delta Airlines has announced that it intends to keep middle seats empty on its flights into January of next year.

Here is the announcement, directly from Delta Air Lines:

If you're considering holiday travel this year, Delta is your choice for safer space.

We're extending one of our key health and safety protocols this winter holiday season by blocking the selection of middle seats and limiting the number of customers per flight through at least Jan. 6, 2021.

"Medical experts, including our own partners at Emory Healthcare, agree – more distance on board makes a difference," said Bill Lentsch, Chief Customer Experience Officer. "We believe that taking care of our customers and employees and restoring confidence in the safety of air travel is more important right now than filling up every seat on a plane. We'll continue taking a thoughtful, layered approach ensuring customers know to expect the highest standard of care as they prepare for their holiday travels."

As customers consider upcoming travel, we know flexibility is more important than ever. That's why Delta is also extending our change fee waiver for [new flights purchased through Sept. 30](#).

4. Flying in a Pandemic Is Safer Than You Think

Professional pilot Jackson McFarland, who flies for both a major US airline and the United States Air Force, is a frequent contributor to airline- and airplane-related threads in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Both there and here, in *SXM Weekly News*, he has pointed out on multiple occasions that the airflow aboard passenger aircraft goes from the top of the cabin to the floor — not side to side, making it a bit difficult to facilitate the movement of germs side to side in aircraft cabins.

Now, his claim is further bolstered in this [story](#) from CNN, which points out that flying in a pandemic is safer than most people might think. Masks, of course, as has been well documented in recent months, absolutely help protect the wearer and those around her/him from the transmission of diseases including Covid. You'll be interested in this article.

Also bear in mind that the safest seats on an airplane from a current health perspective may very well be window seats. There, as in other seats, fresh air comes in from the ceiling and exits through the floor — but in window seats, you have the added advantage of not interacting with people walking down the aisle next to you.

Finally, if you're two people in a row with three seats, for the reason expressed in the previous paragraph it is probably unwise for one of you to sit on the aisle and the other on the window — the aisle seat gives you more exposure to other people without any social distancing -- not a good thing.

5. Widespread Rumor About 2nd Airport Closure is False

For as long as we can remember, SXM has been rumor central. As is the case in the rest of the world, most of the rumors are false.

One persistent recent false rumor has been that the Dutch side government will again close SXM Airport to flights from the US. That rumor has been around ever since the airport reopened earlier this month, and it seemed to gain popularity as a result of the increase in the number of Dutch side Covid cases announced in recent weeks thanks to increased testing.

The rumor is false.

The island continues to work hard to control the local spread of Covid, which apparently was aggravated by non-US visitors from another island several weeks ago. The island's restrictions and requirements for US citizens entering the country by air from the US are working and island representatives have said repeatedly that no consideration is being given to closing the island to US tourism under current circumstances. The Pandemic continues, of course, and as always, we will keep you posted if there are any changes affecting tourism.

Please also see story number 19 which involves [you](#).

6. Current Remaining 2020 Hurricane Names

As of Saturday when this article was written, there have already been 12 named storms with (climatologically) about

80% of hurricane season still to go and only nine names left to use.

The National Hurricane Center has already said that it would not be surprised if it completely exhausts all remaining 2020 hurricane names during this exceptionally busy season.

If/when all those names are used, the National Hurricane Center will start using the Greek alphabet which at this point seems almost a sure bet.

September still has a good chunk of time left and September and October are normally two very busy hurricane months — particularly September. As many Meteorologists have said, this season could easily shatter all records for numbers of named storms.

Some Meteorologists including Rob Lightbown have said that the figure of 25 expected named storms could very well wind up being surpassed. Boldfaced names below already have been used this season.

Arthur
Bertha
Cristobal
Dolly
Edouard
Fay
Gonzalo
Hanna
Isaias
Josephine
Kyle
Laura
Marco
Nana
Omar
Paulette
Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

If all of these names are used before the end of the season and more storms form, the NHC will switch to the Greek alphabet, which includes these letters / names:

Alpha
Beta
Gamma
Delta
Epsilon
Zeta
Eta
Theta
Iota
Kappa
Lambda
Mu
Nu
Xi
Omicron
Pi
Rho
Sigma
Tau
Upsilon
Phi
Chi
Psi
Omega

7. Current Requirements for US Citizens Going to SXM

The island recently instituted new requirements to help ensure that people with Covid 19 are not permitted to enter the country. Those requirements state that Americans flying to SXM must have taken in RT – PCR test for Covid 19 and have been given a written complete negative report which they take with them on the trip. Details on exactly what information must be in the written report is in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You can also look directly [here](#), which is the Dutch side government site listing requirements.

There are also requirements for your trip to be approved in advance by the island government. To obtain such approval, you must go to SXM's special online website and fill out online forms regarding your health. The site where this information must be entered and the timing of such an entry are both listed in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

All this information is subject to change.

8. Why Cruise Ships Are Hanging Out Off SXM

A significant number of cruise ships have visited SXM in recent weeks, particularly the last week or two. In fact, even in recent days, a number of them have been hanging out anchored offshore of SXM.

Ever wonder what they're doing there considering the fact that cruises to SXM from the US won't be resuming until October at the earliest? These ships still need to be maintained and cleaned, and to do that requires crewmembers to be cycled in and out, provisions to be bought, fuel to be bunkered, etc.

It's not as simple as just letting ships sit anchored during hurricane season...

There are no passengers aboard, just crewmembers.

9. 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***

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

Blank hurricane tracking charts similar to those that have been used by the National Hurricane Center for many years are now available for download [here](#) (that's the NHC download site). Also noted above; republished in case you missed it.)

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

12. Covid Causes Villa Owners to Up Their Cleanliness Game

Covid has caused the owners of rental villas around the world to take sanitization to new levels. That's particularly true for larger villas accommodating multiple couples or families.

Before reserving any villas while this global Pandemic continues, be sure to ask exactly what steps they take to ensure that their Villa accommodations are pristine when you arrive and that they stay that way; also ask what they supply during your stay to help you keep the interior in perfect shape for the duration of your stay.

Much of that information should be on their website, which should be updated with ample information about Covid — but for your own safety, you need to verify that info before agreeing to stay there.

13. Villa Clearinghouses Like AirBnB Ban Parties

If you are in a villa or if you are invited to go to a party in a villa in SXM, please remember the rules of social distancing — you need to stay at least 6 feet away from other people to help avoid being a victim in this Pandemic or carrying the disease asymptotically to others.

AirBnB is doing something right at the moment — banning parties at villas they have rented. We all need to become involved in flattening the curve and doing everything possible to stop this murderous global Pandemic and temporarily avoiding parties is a step in that direction.

14. Yet Another Reason Cited for Buying Your Own SXM Condo

If you're looking for a place to stay that is spotlessly clean and perfectly sanitized — or as perfectly sanitized as you can make it, why not also be certain that other people haven't stayed in it recently and mucked it up? [One way you can do that is by owning the condo that you are visiting.](#)

Many new condos are either under construction now in SXM or were recently completed. The array is substantial as is the demand which, we are quite convinced, is accelerating even while this Pandemic continues. We list the names of many top island realtors in every edition of *SXM Weekly News*: this week, you'll find it in story 38. We urge you to contact the realtor of your choice and get going on realizing your dream of having your own condo in SXM.

[We also urge you to get in touch with Vivian Chamas at Bright Path SXM](#) who can greatly facilitate and simplify the process of acquiring SXM residency, essential if you're going to live more than six months a year on the island. [Much more information about BrightPathSXM is in story 17, below.](#) Contact Vivian regardless of what condo or realtor you are choosing. She gets things expedited, done properly, and saves you an enormous amount of time and energy.

You should also check out both Drake Residences, on the beach at the northern end of Simpson Bay, and the new Phoenician condos. These brand-new units have the same developer who you probably know: we can put you in direct touch with him. A number of our readers have already bought at these properties and it won't be long before Drake actually opens to welcome its first condo owners. You can call Jeff directly at 508-830-3456 and he will make sure you get the information you need about both properties directly from the developer.

15. 2020 - 2021 Rentals Available Now at EverythingSXM.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page on that site. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for 2021.

16. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our

main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingxsm.com.

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

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

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

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

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

See the video [here](#).

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

18. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Once the island reopens to tourism, we will be working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program. As these additions are made, they will be reported in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

JMB Website Supporters currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#). Please see the next story.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

19. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW TO KEEP PUBLISHING SXM Weekly News every week:

*****THIS OFFER HAS JUST BEEN EXTENDED TO TUESDAY 9/8, THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY.*****

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 here; travel restarted 8/1, with requirement shown elsewhere in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

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 334,000 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 9/8/2020, 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 9/8/20 (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 everythingsexm.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 9/8/20.
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free.** Offer ends 9/8/20.

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, everythingsexm.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 9/8/2020, 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 9/8, 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.

If you already did this and have not yet received your membership materials, we're moving as quickly as we can with a Covid-reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up by the end of the day Monday 8/ 24.

Jeff Berger / Tracy / Susan / Michael / Greg and the entire JMB team.
JMB Communications
P. O. Box 1812
Plymouth, MA 02362-1812

20. French Side Protestors' Anger Over Border Closure Boils Over

There have been peaceful protests recently on the French side of the island over the Préfet's decision regarding closing the borders with the Dutch side over the prevalence of Covid there (see related story, # 22). Last week, the protests were infiltrated by people who wanted to do more than simply get across their dissatisfaction over the severe financial impact that the border closure is having on the northern side of the island: three cars of the Gendarmerie (the French national police, part of their military) were set afire in downtown Marigot while parked in front of a Gendarmerie location. The cars were destroyed and the building nearby suffered some apparently cosmetic damage.

Gendarmes are continuing their search for the arsonists. Fortunately, Marigot has a fair number of video surveillance cameras so it should not take long for these individuals to be found, arrested, and thrown in jail — if that has not already

happened by the time you read this. We'll keep an eye on this story for you.

Here's more information from the SXM [Daily Herald](#).

21. Woman Reported Missing on French Side Found OK

A young woman reported missing on the French side earlier last week came to the Dutch side police station late in the week to tell everyone she is okay and it simply left where she had been on the French side after something of an apparent confrontation with her partner.

Here is the police statement on the matter:

From: Interim Head of Communication Department Inspector E.S Josepha Philipsburg, August 22th, 2020 On august 20th 2020 the police of Sint Maarten KPSM send out a press release, requesting information about the whereabouts of the Arina KLYGUINA, a Canadian citizen who went missing since august 17th 2020. We would like to inform the public that Ms. KLYGUINA appeared at the police station in Philipsburg on Saturday afternoon about 02.00 pm. She informed the officers that she is in good health and left the family residence on the 27th due to a misunderstanding with her partner. Ms. KLYGUINA also explained to the police officers, that she is staying with a family friend at the moment and will be in contact with her partner in the near future. The police of Sint Maarten KPSM would like to thank the community of St. Maarten for their assistance in locating Ms. KLYGUINA.

22. Accelerated Testing Finds More Covid Cases: Curve Flattening?

As we've mentioned here over the last few weeks, testing on the Dutch side has been greatly accelerated over the last several weeks, resulting in the discovery of a significant number of Covid cases. The count at one point last week had risen to over 200 cases when cases soon started declining and went back under 200, only to rise again on Saturday.

Is the curve flattening? We all hope so, but the island appears to be preparing for mass screenings to find and take out of circulation all individuals who may be asymptomatic carriers of Covid. Clearly, it wants everyone who tests positive to be quarantined and treated and not infect anyone else.

Testing in SXM is clearly going in the right direction. As most readers are probably aware, a new quick, inexpensive, and reliable test involving saliva has been approved in the US. We do not know what steps may be underway, if any, to bring this test to SXM. Were that to happen, it would seem that testing would be faster, easier, cheaper, and just as reliable as the more complicated and expensive current testing.

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

23. Nearly 70 Philipsburg Stores Now for Lease: Start a Business?

A story in local media within the last several days pointed out that nearly 70 Philipsburg stores are now available for lease.

Some people reading that might assume that Front Street is shut down but that is not the case: Philipsburg is a very big town spread over a large area. It's not just Front Street, it's also Backstreet, with many more stores, plus lots of other downtown streets and many other businesses in that entire region.

Although it's true that Front Street has lost a number of businesses, the businesses that have been there for a long time know how to survive during lean periods — even during pandemics, which are excluded from business interruption insurance. So you can rest assured that the vast majority of your favorite SXM businesses are still alive and kicking and will be here to greet you with open arms (figuratively speaking) when you return to the island.

If you've been thinking about starting a business on SXM, realize that getting started in that process now might just be a smart move. There are plenty of places available for the business you've been thinking of; rental rates may be a bit more advantageous than before thanks to the number of spots available; and you will find the island's best

realtors listed among our sponsors, in story #38.

If you are interested in possibly starting a business in St. Maarten, bear in mind that BrightPathSXM offers a complete line of services that enable you to fast-track every aspect of business formation on the island at very reasonable rates. They know the ropes and can save you an enormous amount of time and energy so that you can concentrate on doing your thing and they can concentrate on all the necessary behind-the-scenes details. See story #17 -- applies to buying a condo in SXM and also starting your own SXM business.

24. Saba Stays Closed to Travel

Saba — that unique mountainous island well off SXM's southwest coast -- as different from SXM as Fargo is from Fort Lauderdale — has chosen to take the slow approach and remain closed to travelers for a while longer, not a decision seen in many places recently.

Here is that [story](#).

25. What Tourists Miss Most About SXM

Our news partner on Facebook — our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), a news and information portal where nearly 27,000 fans of SXM like you share advice, information, pictures, and more about the island every day around-the-clock — occasionally posts interesting polls about the mood of our by-tourists, for-tourists SXM FB site.

A while back, for example, we did two polls about airlines — one asking which airline of those serving SXM from the US was the favorite among our readers, and another asking about their least favorite airline. JetBlue emerged as the favorite airline by a wide margin, while American Airlines triumphed in the dubious distinction of being the least favorite airline among our readers.

The polls are not scientific but are nonetheless interesting.

This past week, we asked what tourists miss most about SXM, offering several options and enabling our readers to add more. Choices included the people, restaurants, jewelry shopping, clothing optional beaches, textile beaches, etc.

By far, our readers chose *the people* as what they miss most about SXM. That says a lot about tourists and the people who live on this very special island.

If you aren't already part of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), what are you waiting for? Please join us today. The group asks only three very brief vetting questions; answer them and we'll be delighted to welcome you to our group.

26. Best Place to Buy Cameras

Despite the fact that there have been major advances in the quality and versatility of the cameras built into both android and iPhone wireless phone technologies, there is no question that for maximum capabilities and versatility, you can't beat the current crop of digital SLR cameras which, for years, have also offered sophisticated video capabilities.

Some people are concerned that buying a camera in SXM may mean that you don't get US consumer protection warranties. You should ask that question regardless of where you go and make sure that the cameras you buy have the full US warranty in the package.

There are many good electronics stores in downtown Philipsburg. If you're shopping for a camera, we urge you to check out Klass Electronics at 40C Front Street in Phillipsburg, or www.klass-electronics.com and ask for Paul, who we used for a recent purchase there. The service was outstanding as was the price. You can also call them at 721-542-3242; their email is electronics@klass-electronics.com. Mention Jeff Berger when you talk to Paul.

27. Party Boat Still Stuck on The Rocks

Many of you will remember seeing the very large black D boat at anchor inside Simpson Bay lagoon not far south of the lagoon Causeway. When in operation, it ventured into Simpson Bay lagoon.

Last winter, it was at anchor in Simpson Bay when it tore loose overnight from its anchorage and wound up stuck on rocks on the southeastern shore of Beacon Hill not far from SXM Airport.

Well-known SXM restaurateur Jay Time lives on that shore and ever since the boat got marooned, he has been able to see it close up simply by looking out his window. It's safe to say that he doesn't particularly like the view and wants the boat removed: it's still there.

Here are Jay's comments:

I've tried to get the owners to remove it; they don't care to. I even offered to buy it for \$1 and remove it myself and they still don't care. I guess they [sic] rather leave it rot or have it smash all the houses on the cliff including mine during the next big storm. It's a total mess with nobody moving it. It's definitely gonna sit there forever. With each and every day the holes in the hull get bigger and bigger and costlier to remove.

28. SkyMed Launches Huge Fall Sale

Authorities are saying that within the next few months, a vaccine will be introduced that is expected to substantially deflate the Covid 19 pandemic. **SkyMed is launching its biggest sale ever but that sale will end on September 30.** It offers people who buy a new SkyMed ultimate medical evacuation membership up to six months free of additional protection. That's a big deal for when you start traveling again.

You'll find an overview of all key **SkyMed Features & Services** here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

And you'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/2020SkyMedFAQ.pdf>

Under this SkyMed Fall Sale, you can get up to six months of free protection when you buy a new five-year SkyMed Ultimate membership or upgrade to one from another annual or longer SkyMed membership. There are also offers for annual membership renewals. There will never be a better time to obtain SkyMed medical evacuation protection than now. Remember too that for the first three months of new annual or multiyear SkyMed memberships, protection for pre-existing conditions is briefly excluded during the first 90 days. Get an Ultimate membership now, and you can get up to six months free; if you're not traveling for at least 90 days, even pre-existing conditions will be covered according to the provisions in your membership once you do travel.

SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when you travel anywhere the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available on an optional basis

For answers to questions or to sign up, please call Jeff directly on his private line, 508-747-8281 weekdays from 8 AM until 8 PM EDT. He'll return your call as quickly as possible. Again, SkyMed *TAKES YOU HOME*® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. What else matters?

29. 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.

30. Restaurant of the Week:

This series is temporarily suspended for the next few low-season weeks. Please see all our recent selections below.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's just outside Philipsburg (featured 8/10/20) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

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.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.

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.lavistaesort.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) Closed permanently.
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.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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

34. 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.

35. 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](#)

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

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year, the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everything.sxm.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.

37. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

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

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See www.skymed.com/jmb, our new site, going live shortly.

38. 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.

39. 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://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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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<http://www.everythingsxm.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only *secret* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

8/24/20 #V3-1262 2P EDT 8/23/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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