

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 9/28/20: Caravanserai Timeshare Owners Lose to Alegria, for Now; Hurricane Season Pause is Temporary; Masks Mandated; Mario's Bistro at The Cliff; Frenchy Ludo's Open; Sublime Moves to Maho; Kalua Beach Bar / Restaurant Opening [39 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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

Vol. 3, #1266 --- Monday, 9/28/20
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

Shanah Tovah!



[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

[Member News](#)

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

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

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

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

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

Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 344,000 people around the world...

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



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



Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:

Weather; Getting Here:

-- Don't Be Fooled by Record Hurricane Season's Current Pause

- **Port of SXM Wants Cruisers to Lobby CDC to Reopen Cruising**
- **Watch Airline Schedules Closely: Demand Likely to Increase**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**
- **Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart**

SXM Accommodations:

- **Dutch Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Alegria in Timeshare Case**
- **2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at EverythingSXM.com**
- **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- **Poll: SXM Won't be a Ghost Town Very Long...**
- **Reminder: French / Dutch Borders Open**
- **Reminder: Dutch Side Has Extended Entry Requirement Testing Period to Five Days**
- **French / Dutch Sides Working on Joint Health Protocols**
- **Masks Mandated Across All of SXM**
- **SXM's Kids Need Tablets for Remote Learning, And You Can Help**
- **About Scott Berger's Brain Tumors...**
- **"Mario's Bistro at The Cliff"**
- **Updates on Sublime Restaurant and French Ludo's Restaurant**
- **SkyMed Huge Fall Sale Ends in Two Days**
- **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.

40 News Stories This Week

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 2/20/2021 2/27/2021 8 **Simpson Bay Resort Villas** Ocean Front large One bedroom totally renovated in the villas. king bed with large bathroom. two Murphy's living room. dining room fully furnished kitchen. Large Balcony ocean front unit next to parking. casino, restaurants, gym, marina,pools, tennis, entertainment other weeks available. photos available access to entire resort. maid service \$1,577.00 Lynn 5072190594 lynnCunningham49@gmail.com

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 5/15/2021 5/22/2021 Week 20 La Vista Beach Resort Deluxe studio, sleep 4, (every year use) full kitchen, dining area, living room, bath with shower, veranda. Ocean view, ground floor, steps to pool and beach. Restaurant on site as well as an infinity pool. Walking distance to beach bars, restaurants and grocery store. 2021 maintenance fee paid \$3,600 Patricia 412 427-3303 pattybrodd@yahoo.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

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

"Like" Our "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group:



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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

1. Airlines To Furlough Tens of Thousands Without Aid from US Congress
2. Airlines Want to do Antigen Tests for All Int'l Flights
3. Whistleblower: Boeing 737 MAX Changes are Not Enough
4. Jet Fuel Prices at Record Lows; Some Ships are Using It
5. Don't Be Fooled by Record Hurricane Season's Current Pause
6. Port of SXM Wants Cruisers to Lobby CDC to Reopen Cruising
7. Watch Airline Schedules Closely: Demand Likely to Increase
8. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
9. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart
10. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

- 10a. Dutch Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Alegria in Timeshare Case
11. High Demand for Condos, Villas: Book Now (Repeat)
12. Guidance on Buying Property in SXM (Repeat)
13. Guidance on Starting a Business in SXM (Repeat)

14. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingsxm.com
15. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
16. 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--

17. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

**18. BACK FOR JUST TWO WEEKS ONLY:
-- How to Keep WEEKLY NEWS coming & Get a Free Full Year of JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Membership Too -- WE NEED YOUR HELP *NOW***

19. Poll: SXM Won't be a Ghost Town Very Long...
20. Reminder: French / Dutch Borders Open
21. Reminder: Dutch Side Has Extended Entry Requirement Testing Period to Five Days
22. French / Dutch Sides Working on Joint Health Protocols
23. Masks Mandated Across All of SXM
24. SXM's Kids Need Tablets for Remote Learning, And You Can Help
25. About Scott Berger's Brain Tumors...
26. "Mario's Bistro at The Cliff"
27. Updates on Sublime Restaurant and French Ludo's Restaurant
28. Restaurant of the Week:
29. SkyMed's Huge Fall Sale Must End 9/30 - NO Extensions
30. SkyMed Offers Extra Months of Protection for \$0; Ends 9/30
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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

1. Airlines To Furlough Tens of Thousands Without Aid from US Congress

Despite recent improvements, airline flights and passenger loads are down two thirds from their pre-Covid levels. Although many thousands of airline employees have taken early retirement, tens of thousands of other airline employees have been kept on the payroll of US airlines thanks to \$25-billion in aid provided several months ago by the US government.

That money runs out two days from now, on September 30, and airlines are saying that unless Congress can give them another \$25 billion, they will be forced to furlough tens of thousands of employees as soon as later this week. The employees aren't currently needed because of the Covid-caused massive drop in passenger levels. The employees to be furloughed include pilots, flight attendants, maintenance workers, ground personnel, and office workers, press reports say.

We will continue to watch this and keep you posted.

2. Airlines Want to do Antigen Tests for All Int'l Flights

Airlines are saying now that they want to do Covid antigen testing before all international flights. That story is [here](#).

For people bound for St. Maarten, this would have no effect on the island's current entry requirements. It would "simply" add another level of administrvia to the airport experience.

3. Whistleblower: Boeing 737 MAX Changes are Not Enough

According to a story published by Bloomberg, a whistleblower is saying that the Boeing 737 Max changes currently being contemplated by the Federal Aviation Administration are not enough. [Here is more](#) on that story.

4. Jet Fuel Prices at Record Lows; Some Ships are Using It

The collapse in the demand for jet fuel has led to record-low jet fuel prices — so low, in fact, that some kerosene typically used to create jet fuel is now being used in blends for shipping, something unthinkable year ago. Here is that [story](#).

5. Don't Be Fooled by Record Hurricane Season's Current Pause

After a dizzying several weeks during which all the customary hurricane names allocated for this year were exhausted, there's a noticeable pause now in tropical cyclone activity — but it won't last, says hurricane expert Rob Lightbown, our chief meteorologist and head of CrownWeather.com, a major private forecasting service.

He expects tropical development to resume early next month — just a few days from now, and in fact is predicting the development of a system around October 4 in the Western Caribbean.

We have for years recommended that anyone who is ever in the path of any storm see CrownWeather.com and subscribe to Rob's very low cost private forecasting services. We've done that for several years: he has been our go-to source of tropical cyclone information and we highly recommend his services. They can be enormously valuable in case a storm heads for your area.

6. Port of SXM Wants Cruisers to Lobby CDC to Reopen Cruising

The Port of St. Maarten is asking cruisers to lobby the US CDC to reopen cruising. Here is that [story](#). All we'll say here is that the CDC should continue to do what science tells it to do — and that certainly does not include allowing dozens of ships back into service while a lethal pandemic continues around the world and there is no vaccine to help prevent it.

7. Watch Airline Schedules Closely: Demand Likely to Increase

Thanks to the successful pre-testing of arriving passengers who must meet strict entry requirements to fly to SXM, and to the reopening of the borders between the French and Dutch sides of the island, tourism should rebound to an extent in the coming weeks. Moreover, the looming high season may well not be as economically dismal as many people on the island had recently expected. (See full entry requirement information in the FILES area in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).)

Airlines of course watch travel trends very closely, and there is no doubt that they are already aware of the recent ease in testing requirements (120 hours ahead of departure versus the prior 72) and the reopening of the border between both sides of the island. Both of those factors mitigate issues which had been a major concern to prospective tourists, which is why the demand for airline seats to SXM should increase significantly starting later in October and through the winter. Watching airline schedules closely, as the season progresses, we do expect them to add or restore a number of SXM flights.

8. 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***

9. 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.)

10. 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

10a. Dutch Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Alegria in Landmark Caravanserai Timesharing Case

In an altogether stunning decision, the Supreme Court of the Netherlands has ruled against long-suffering timeshare owners victimized by what we've called the Caravanserai Debacle.

But the fight may not be over for former timeshare owners.

Credit card processing magnate Ray Sidhom purchased the Caravanserai resort out of bankruptcy several years ago and immediately send an email to timeshare owners telling them that their contracts were null and void. That move was widely regarded as illegal — in contravention of strict SXM timesharing law that requires subsequent owners to maintain contracts with relationships with timeshare owners. The timeshare owners lost millions of dollars in SXM investments at Caravanserai as a result of the nullification of their contracts.

This case has been in litigation for years and it is stunning after all this time that timeshare owners -- at this point -- may have lost.

You can see news about this decision [here](#). We have asked a number of people in the critically important SXM timesharing sector about their reaction and about whether they will seek to have laws strengthened to prevent this from ever happening again. A timeshare ordinance has been sitting in the parliament for a long time -- still not enacted.

Although the Supreme Court has acted, don't assume this is over. We do believe there will be more to this story.

11. High Demand for Condos, Villas: Book Now (Repeat)

Despite the fact that hotels and timeshares have been bending over backwards to make sure their properties are as well protected as possible from virus contamination, increasing numbers of tourists — particularly those who are well-heeled — are looking into renting villas or privately owned condos for an extended period during this high season.

There are two reasons: first, fewer strangers are there to encounter, which means less potential Covid exposure; and second, tourists can take their extended families or closest friends on a multifamily trip were their main location is a beautiful villa or expansive condo.

If that entices your thoughts, we strongly suggest you make a move quickly to pin down optimal locations. Check out our Sponsors, listed in this edition in Section 3 — there, we list recommended sources of both villa and condo accommodations (among other businesses), many of which now offer extended vacation periods.

This winter in North America is expected to be cold and snowy: why shiver or shovel when you can spend the time sunning here in St. Maarten?

12. Guidance on Buying Property in SXM (Repeat)

Buying property on a foreign island — either on the Dutch side of the French side — requires Americans to go through processes with which they may be entirely unfamiliar. Owning property would also enable you to become a resident of the island and that, too, requires lots of paperwork.

As we've occasionally noted here, a company was formed several years ago to expedite and facilitate all of that activity. We know the owner and we know her capabilities. People who have used her services tell us she is highly efficient, very informative, incredibly helpful, and knows the ins and outs of all legal requirements for buying property in SXM.

She is Vivian Chamas of [BrightPath SXM](#). You can reach her directly through her website or by calling 721-526-2771
See the next story.

13. Guidance on Starting a Business in SXM (Repeat)

Starting a business in a foreign island — either on the Dutch side of the French side — requires Americans to go through processes with which they may be entirely unfamiliar. Owning a business would also enable you to become a resident of the island and that, too, requires lots of paperwork.

As we've occasionally noted here, a company was formed several years ago to expedite and facilitate all of that activity. We know the owner and we know her capabilities. People who have used her services tell us she is highly efficient, very informative, incredibly helpful, and knows the ins and outs of all legal requirements for starting a business in SXM.

She is Vivian Chamas of [BrightPath SXM](#). You can reach her directly through her website or by calling 721-526-2771.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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

17. 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

BACK FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY:

-- How to Keep WEEKLY NEWS coming & Get a Free Full Year of JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Membership Too -- WE NEED YOUR HELP *NOW*

GET A FULL YEAR FREE OF JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU HELP US CONTINUE PUBLISHING SXM WEEKLY NEWS BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING A MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS ISLAND DISCOUNT PROGRAM:

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

*****THIS OFFER MUST END MONDAY OCT. 12*****

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 10/12/2020, 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 (possibly way sooner), since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available during the coming 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.

a) 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 10/12/20. 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 everything.sxm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us.

b) 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 10/12/20.
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free**. Offer ends 10/12/20 so please ACT NOW.

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.

c) 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 10/12/2020, so please ACT NOW.

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 10/12, 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 temporarily reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up shortly

THANK YOU!

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

=====
MORE NEWS FOLLOWS THIS MESSAGES:
=====

**THE COLORS OF SXM BELONG
ON YOUR CAR AND IN YOUR HOME:**



**Ordering information for our
SXM Euro Oval stickers is in this section, below.
Get yours today -- they make great
holiday gifts! Orders end
for the season on October 10.**

19. Poll: SXM Won't be a Ghost Town Very Long...

Periodically we conduct polls in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The number of people planning to visit the island has noticeably increased since the recent announcements increasing the window for Covid testing in advance of departure to SXM (120 hours instead of just 72; now five days) and its companion announcement that the borders between the French and the Dutch side have now reopened. So, we asked members... "If (and only if) you are now planning your next SXM trip, when are you coming, and for how long?"

The expectation has been that SXM would have a financially disastrous winter thanks to the lack of travel because of Covid. But many people have now concluded that they can protect themselves from Covid as well in St. Maarten as they can anywhere else by wearing protective face masks, avoiding crowds, and washing their hands frequently — just as most people do at home.

They also realize the obvious fact that this won't be a usual winter in SXM — it will still be quieter than usual which for visitors, is even better because it makes social distancing less of a challenge. The lack of shoveling and of mind-numbing cold in SXM also remains attractive.

If you go to the site you will see the poll and note that many people in our microcosmic sampling are indeed coming to the island, giving themselves a great vacation and giving the island much needed help.

20. Reminder: French / Dutch Borders Open

As reported here over the last couple of weeks, the borders between the French and Dutch sides of the island have been reopened and are expected to stay that way long-term. You can travel freely across the island as usual, as has been the case for hundreds of years....

21. Reminder: Dutch Side Has Extended Entry Requirement Testing Period to Five Days

As we've reported here previously, the Dutch side has eased its entry requirements by giving visitors more time to be tested for Covid prior to departure from the US. The period of time prior to departure during which visitors must be tested using the RT – PCR test protocol is now 120 hours or five days, versus the 72 hours or three days that had previously been enforced.

For complete details on this see the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Complete information is there as well as a link to the SXM site where you must preregister for your travel.

In thousands of cases, tourists who had intended to visit St. Maarten during recent weeks found it impossible to get the required RT – PCR nasopharyngeal test for Covid and have the final detail report in hand **within the three days prior to travel that had been specified by the Dutch side of the island**. In response to that major problem, the island has now increased the amount of time during which US tourists can be tested and receive results from three days prior to departure (72 hours) to five days prior to departure, or 120 hours.

We immediately posted that information in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as well as in special Bulletins to our JMB Website Supporters members and to all recipients of *SXM Weekly News*.

Many readers quickly responded that they have jumped off the shelf and are planning returns to the island, pending determination of flight availability.

(Come on down, folks.)

22. French / Dutch Sides Working on Joint Health Protocols

The French and Dutch sides are determined to avoid a repetition of the counterproductive and financially disastrous border closure that took place recently. The borders have been reopened but the financial scars to island businesses will take some time to heal. These are the comments from French side president [Daniel Gibbs](#).

This is another story about progress at making these joint health protocols happen:

* Prime Minister Silveria E. Jacobs & Préfète Déléguée Sylvie Feucher meet to discuss joint health protocols *

On Wednesday, September 23, 2020, Prime Minister Silveria E. Jacobs, Head of Collective Prevention Services (CPS) Eva Lista-de Weever and Interim Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs Patrice Gumbs together with President of the Collectivité of Saint Martin Daniel Gibbs attended a cooperation meeting held by Préfète Déléguée of Saint-Martin and Saint Barths Sylvie Feucher along with her Secretary-General Mikael Dore and Director of the Regional Health Agency (ARS) Valerie Denux to discuss matters of public health in regards to COVID-19.

During the meeting, Director of the ARS Denux and Head of CPS Lista-de Weever discussed the status of COVID-19 on both sides of the island. Both health professionals also elaborated on the possibility and conditions necessary to enhance further cooperation on joint health protocols for both sides of the island in order to combat COVID-19 collectively. The result of these discussions will be to further build on the already existing cooperation as was established in the MOU. Among the various areas of collaboration that were discussed. The creation of a joint testing center with the capacity to test both our visitors and residents was the main focus of the discussions.

Prime Minister Jacobs is very satisfied with the outcome of the meeting held as much agreement and willingness for collaboration was expressed by both parties. Prime Minister Jacobs looks forward to the technical outcome of the follow up meetings which could lead to the establishment of a framework that can improve synchronization of measures and ensure free movement around the island. "As commonly agreed during the meeting, despite our two parts, we are one island, thus, the need for coordination of our approach to combatting COVID-19 is paramount.

Throughout the varying measures taken by both our sides, our health agencies have continued to work together diligently based on the parameters of our Memorandum of Understanding. As we move into this new phase, we both mutually agreed that finding common reference points and indicators to addressing the pandemic is best for the long-term health and socio-economic relationship between our two sides," stated Prime Minister Jacobs.

St. Maarten's active cases decreased tremendously over the past several weeks due to raising awareness in the community as well as the commercial business closures that lasted one month. "Though testing capacity remains more of a financial and human resource challenge, the St. Maarten Medical Center's COVID-19 related admissions have

been consistently low over the past 7 weeks. As such, it is now known that to overcome the fight against COVID-19, it is not about not moving, but more about moving smart," concluded Prime Minister Jacobs.

[End government comments.)

Governments of both sides also want to create an island-wide "Congress" to enable cooperation on a spectrum of issues. If that actually happens, it could give the island enormous benefits from every perspective.

23. Masks Mandated Across All of SXM

The use of facemasks has been mandated by both the French and Dutch side governments across the entire island wherever people gather. For your safety and the safety of those around you, wear masks; wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer; and of course observe social distancing. Doing all of these things will help protect you and everyone around you. It's not political; it's hard reality about staying alive to see the end of this pandemic.

24. SXM's Kids Need Tablets for Remote Learning, And You Can Help

From Melanie Daboul:

Many children on our island have not been to school since March. Please help give them the opportunity for an education. So far we have donated 22 tablets but we have many more children in need. Thank you for those that have already donated to this worthy cause!

For details on how to donate, look [here](#).

25. About Scott Berger's Brain Tumors...

Our son Scott Berger has suffered through two brain tumors. As a result, our family passion is the National Brain Tumor Society. On behalf of Scott and millions of others who have suffered through this scourge, we ask that you [please visit this website and help the battle against brain tumors](#). NBTS leads the fight to stop brain tumors and develop better treatments. Any size donation is gratefully appreciated. Please go [here](#) for more information — and Thank you.

26. "Mario's Bistro at The Cliff"

When we recently reported here that Mario's Bistro was moving to The Cliff, we said that the name of the restaurant would be Mario's at the Cliff. That was an error: thankfully, the name will change but only in the slightest way: the new restaurant will be called **Mario's Bistro at the Cliff**.

Expected to open late in October or early in November, the restaurant will feature its traditional menu in a beautiful new setting every evening except Monday. A new lounge will be serving Tapas for lunch as well as some appetizers and other items from the regular restaurant menu (they're amazing). You will be able to make reservations by phone — and reservations will be required.

Watch for more info here in *SXM Weekly News* as the new Mario's Bistro at the Cliff comes closer to opening!

27. Updates on Sublime Restaurant and Frenchy Ludo's Restaurant

First, big news from Sublime, the outstanding restaurant by Surendra Lal Das, former chef at Temptation.

After the new restaurant he had put together at Summit Resort in Cupecoy was completely destroyed by hurricane Irma only a few weeks after he had opened it after leaving Temptation, Mr. Das was desperate to find a property to use for his restaurant — any property, so he took an old building on a back street in Simpson Bay. Although the restaurant served extraordinary food — as most people agreed, the building was kind of a dump.

The great news now is that Mr. Das is moving Sublime into the Maho area where Bamboo Restaurant was once located. You can park in the garage or use the valet parking at the casino or simply park yourself somewhere in the area.

Mr. Das is also opening a second location with a different concept on the boardwalk in Philipsburg; it's called Kalua Beach Bar and Restaurant. We will be telling you much more about Kalua in the coming weeks.

About Frenchy Ludo's... A false rumor has been circulating in social media saying that Frenchy Ludo's, the restaurant in Simpson Bay in a building that formerly housed Charterhouse, had closed. It has absolutely not closed — it like many other restaurants on the island has temporarily limited its days of operation because of slow tourism over the last several weeks. It's open Thursdays through Saturdays.

Frenchy Ludo's expects to resume more nearly normal hours in the coming weeks.

28. Restaurant of the Week: Returns Soon

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mario's at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ **9/14/20** Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are relocating effective in late October to the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they will serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations are required.

Emilio's: 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.

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 Sushiiitto) (7/8/19) is the new name of Sushiiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

Emilio's at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go...
IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.
Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.
Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?
La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.
Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.
Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.
The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.
Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.
Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.
St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.
Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) 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.

29. SkyMed's Huge Fall Sale Ends 9/30 (NO Extensions)

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>

More info: 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 or standard in Ultimate multiyear memberships.

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?

30. 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.

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 will shortly again be thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few weeks 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 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.

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 9/12/20)

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 9/12/20

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://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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL:

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

9/28/20 #V3-1266 6am EDT 9/27/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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

###