

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/2/20: SXM Entry Requirements & How to Meet Them (Simple/Easy); Delta Restarts Flights to SXM; Beach Weddings / Vow Renewals in SXM; Royal Palm, Flamingo Reopen in January; French Side Hotels Reopening; SECRETS Reopens Next Week; Flying During a Pandemic; Hurricanes; Many More Major News Stories [43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1271 --- Monday-Wednesday, 11/2-4/20
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

WEAR YOUR MASK!
WE WANT YOU BACK SAFELY IN SXM!



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

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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; Covid-19:

- ***Delta Resumes Flights From US to SXM This Sunday: All The Details***
- ***Our Experience Returning To SXM (BOS-JFK-SXM) via jetBlue***
- ***Repeating: On The Safety of Flying In The Covid Era***
- ***What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport***
- ***SXM Entry Requirements***
- ***What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")***
- ***Finding and Taking RT-PCR Tests in Your Area***
- ***Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice***
- ***What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)***
- ***Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days***
- ***Watch Flight Reservations Closely: Airlines Keep Changing Them***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***
- ***Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart***

SXM Accommodations:

- ***Royal Palm, Flamingo, SECRETS All Reopening***
- ***Why Move to SXM? (FEATURE STORY)***
- ***Guidance on Buying Property in SXM***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- ***True, Unique Relaxation at Azure Hotel & Art Studio on S/B Beach***
- ***Plan Your 2020/2021 Beach Wedding or Vow Renewal Starting Now***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***
- ***How to Put Incredible Caribbean Colors in Your Home***
- ***"Plus One" JMB Membership Promotion Final Week is NOW***

 -- ***Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It***
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-- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***
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 -- ***SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic***

Please see our complete Table of Contents below.

43 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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.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 Rentals of The Week -- Christmas In The Caribbean:

RENTAL 12/19/2020 12/26/2020 Week 51 **Simpson Bay Resort 2 bedroom apartment in the Allamanda Building** (can be used as two separate one bedroom units since it has a lockout feature). One bedroom unit on the first

floor with king size bed and with Murphy bed in the LR and a separate lockout one bedroom unit on the second floor with king bed and sofa bed.- Each unit, upstairs and downstairs, has full kitchen and AC with TVs in each room. There are very few units at Simpson Bay Resort that have the lockout feature so it offers a great alternative to a traditional two bedroom unit. Week 51 rental is \$2,000 and we have a Week 52 for \$2,200. For both 51 and 52 rate is \$4,000 (resort taxes are paid by renter). \$2,000 Joe 508-277-7702 orgdims@aol.com Posted 10/20.

RENTAL 12/26/2020 1/2/2021 52 **Simpson Bay Resort 2 bedroom apartment in the Allamanda Building** (can be used as two separate one bedroom units since it has a lockout feature). One bedroom unit on the first floor with king size bed and with Murphy bed in the LR and a separate lockout one bedroom unit on the second floor with king bed and sofa bed.- Each unit, upstairs and downstairs, has full kitchen and AC with TVs in each room. There are very few units at Simpson Bay Resort that have the lockout feature so it offers a great alternative to a traditional two bedroom unit. Week 52 rental is \$2,200 and we have a Week 51 for \$2,000. For both 51 and 52 rate is \$4,000 (resort taxes are paid by renter). \$2,200 Joseph 508-277-7702 orgdims@aol.com Posted 10-20.

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 3/6/2021 3/13/2021 **Week 10 Simpson Bay Resort Penthouse unit**, great corner unit in the Marina Bldg. Very large 2 BR 2 bath unit sleeps 8. Each bedroom opens onto a balcony. There is a separate area off the LR that contains a sleeper sofa and two Murphy Beds are located in the living room. One bedroom opens onto the balcony that overlooks the marina and has a hot tub while the other bedroom opens onto the front balcony. Full kitchen, living room and dining room plus outside dining table. Great unit in a great location \$17,500 Glenn (508)274-1130 vnyrdlady@aol.com Updated 6/20.

SALE 3/7/2020 4/4/2020 **Week 10 11 12 13 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort Sleep 6, Floor 4, close to Marina building**. Master suite can be used as sleep 4 with junior suite as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balcony has full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. Unit to be completely refurbished during low season in 2019. \$14,500 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 d_henle@msn.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

Complete Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, COVID-19

--Scroll Down To This Section--

Getting Here:

1. Delta Resumes Flights From US to SXM This Sunday: All The Details
 2. Our Experience Returning To SXM (BOS-JFK-SXM) via jetBlue
 3. Repeating: On The Safety of Flying In The Covid Era
 4. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport
- See *COVID-19 Section*

Weather:

5. Hurricane Season Goes On and On and...
6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
7. Where to Download the NHC's Hurricane Tracking Chart

COVID-19:

8. SXM Entry Requirements
9. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")
10. Finding and Taking RT-PCR Tests in Your Area
11. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice
12. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)
13. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Etc.:

14. Watch Flight Reservations Closely: Airlines Keep Changing Them
15. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

---Major Stories About Royal Palm, Flamingo, & SECRETS Are In Our Main News Section---

16. "Fourteen" West Tower Should Top Out Soon
17. In SXM Resorts, Lots of Room to Roam
18. The Urge for Going to SXM Is Getting Stronger...
19. Come to SXM & Sleep in the Unique Azure Hotel & Art Studio
20. Even More Space: Rent a Villa from Our Sponsors
21. 2020 and 2021 Rentals Available at Everythingsxm.com
22. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
23. 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--

24. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

25. Help Keep WEEKLY NEWS Publishing: Join JMB Website Supporters Today!

26. French Republic Shutdown Has No Impact on French Saint Martin
27. Superyachts Making an Early Return to SXM
28. Renowned SXM CIA Chef Dino Jagtiani Returns to The Neighborhood
29. Royal Palm Beach and Flamingo Resort To Reopen in January
30. SECRETS Resort Set To Reopen
31. Top Reasons To Consider Moving to SXM
32. Start Planning Your 2021 SXM Wedding or Vow Renewal on the Beach
33. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...
34. Renting a Car in SXM

35. Restaurant of the Week:

36. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

37. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

38. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

39. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

40 Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?

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

42. Please Patronize our Sponsors

43. 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://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml . Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

1. Delta Resumes Flights From US to SXM This Sunday

Delta Airlines begins the gradual resumption of its flights from the US to SXM this Sunday. The airline told *SXM Weekly News* that it will start flights from Atlanta initially three times a week, then five times a week, then daily in the coming weeks. The airline also said it hopes to resume nonstop flights from New York to SXM sometime during December.

We will continue to watch this situation and report on future flight re-introductions as they happen.

2. Our Experience Returning To SXM (BOS-JFK-SXM) via jetBlue

We've often said that the best two domestic US airlines serving SXM are Delta and JetBlue, both of which are agile, responsive, customer oriented, and focused on doing what they need to do to keep passengers happy. We've been flying JetBlue for years and chose them for our return to SXM from Boston. Our original flight was a seasonal nonstop on Tuesday, October 27, but it was one of many flights that airlines canceled due to a low passenger count. They changed us without charge to a connection to SXM via JFK last Saturday.

At the top of all passengers' minds is whether it is safe to fly during the Covid 19 pandemic. As we've mentioned here in the past, airflow aboard passenger jets is constant, changing cabin air in about three minutes on many jetliners. The flow of air is from the top of the cabin to the bottom — not side to side, which also helps with the safety of passengers. Airlines disinfect airplanes deeply every morning and between flights -- so passengers needn't worry about surface contamination in high touch areas.

We were impressed with the thoroughness of all of JetBlue's procedures. In the new Covid section (immediately below) of our Getting Here portion of this week's *SXM Weekly News* (you're in Getting Here now), [we list all the documentation you must take with you to get through the airport quickly](#). We also tell you about the entire process of preparation, offering you [step-by-step instructions on what you need to do to get your Covid test within 120 hours of departure to SXM, obtain the negative results, apply to SXM for admission while sending your negative test documentation to SXM as part of your application, and so on](#).

Although the process sounds daunting when you're first aware of it, it is actually elegantly simple and quite fast and easy when you do it step-by-step as we explain. The airlines know what they're doing with regard to ensuring that all passengers have the proper documentation at the airport for their trips to the island. SXM is not the only island that has special requirements for incoming passengers. Everything you need to know is right here... in this Special Issue.

3. Repeating: On The Safety of Flying In The Covid Era

As we've noted here before, modern airliners suck fresh air into aircraft through engines, circulate that clean air in the cabins where it enters from the ceiling and leaves through the floor — finishing a complete change of air about every three minutes or less. Since the air does not circulate side to side, and since everyone is required to wear a mask aboard passenger jets in the US, there is little danger -- experts say -- of anyone catching Covid 19 from the air aboard an airliner, particularly with the middle seats empty, media reports say. HEPA filters — the same kinds of filters used in operating rooms in hospitals across the country — are also used to filter cabin air, airlines say, another advantage.

At the end of the day, it appears that taking a flight to St. Maarten may be much less likely to expose you to Covid than a long lingering look through your favorite aisles in your neighborhood supermarket. A significant number of commercial airplanes arrived in SXM on Saturday with hundreds of passengers.

To see many more tourist observations about getting to SXM and what the island is like right now, please see the discussions in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

4. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport

The second floor of SXM Airport, where the jetways go, is still not open, but the airport says the work on them is progressing. It's our intent to get with the people of the airport to obtain the latest information about the status of the jetways in the second floor as well as preclearance — and to find out when the airport will actually reopen as it was before hurricane Irma hit more than three years ago. For now, all services continue to be conducted on the first floor of the airport — both departures and arrivals.

Unless your arriving plane parks a very short walk from the current arriving passenger entry to the terminal, you'll exit your plane and walk directly to one of the shuttle buses that will take you to the terminal entry. Wear your mask, of course: there is no such thing as social distancing aboard the bus — but the trip is only about two minutes long and everyone is required to wear a mask anyway. People should maintain social distancing on their way through immigration and into the baggage claim area.

[It is essential for you to have all of your documentation in hand when you go to immigration](#). We explain what that documentation is in the Covid section, immediately below. Keep it handy because you will be asked for it. Your temperature also will be taken by a touch-free monitor and you will be asked the usual health questions to which you

will be accustomed by the time you get to immigration.

Although it may or may not be mentioned to you as you go through immigration, you will be receiving email daily or thereabouts from Sint Maarten EHAS, requiring you to report your temp and to indicate whether you have any symptoms of Covid. You then click the appropriate button to send the documentation back to the island government. Filing these reports for 14 days is required by all visitors regardless of whether you receive the email from Sint Maarten EHAS. Consequently, it's important for you to save the emails you receive from the government and reply to them first thing every morning: you can use the first email you receive for subsequent replies even if you don't receive daily emails. The form you fill out online will nonetheless change to reflect the day of your vacation (day one, day two, day three, etc.) Your finish filling out and sending the form within about seven seconds — and a thermometer is shown in our list of things you must take to St. Maarten to record your temperature. EHAS expects you to take your temp and submit your info daily first thing -- before breakfast.

WEATHER:

5. Hurricane Season Goes On and On and...

Officially, hurricane seasons extend from June 1 to November 30. The current record-breaking season — now featuring storm Eta — so far shows no sign of abating, although climatologically it should soon start to wind down.

Storm Eta information is being published as usual both in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and in the weather center of our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#).

Our chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown of [Crown Weather](#), the leading supplier of private forecasting information about tropical weather, has been busy forecasting storm after storm this year throughout the tropics so we have not yet had an opportunity "during a lull" to ask him for his thoughts about whether there may be some limited activity after the season officially ends on November 30. That's certainly possible, and it has happened before.

As always, we'll keep you posted.

6. 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***

7. 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.)

COVID-19:

8. Exact Current SXM Tourist Entry Requirements

See them in the Covid area of the FILES in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) or:

For current information on exactly what the entry requirements are in SXM, please see [this site](#). It's operated by the SXM government and **it also includes individual forms you must fill out online in advance to get advance approval to enter the country, and where you also are required to upload your RT PCR negative test results.** If you don't do that, or if you send results in a form that is not acceptable to the island, you will not be allowed to board your flight.

9. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")

"PCR" is an acronym for **polymerase chain reaction**, and "RT" refers to **reverse transcription** -- NOT "real time". The only type of test for Covid-19 currently acceptable to the government of SXM is RT-PCR, though most labs simply refer to it as PCR.

Although it is the case that RT-PCR testing is being turned around faster now than it has been, do not confuse it with "real time" tests which are not the same. When in doubt, see the second paragraph of article 8 and click the link for exact current government requirements.

10. Finding & Taking RT-PCR Tests in Your Area

You must have a negative RT-PCR test taken less than 120 hours before your departure to SXM. If you're on a connecting flight, this requirement relates to the departure of the final leg of your trip.

Where do you find a test in your area that will be able to deliver results to you within 120 hours? There are a number of ways to find out. You can ask friends who travel from your area; you can ask people on the site in your community where local people discuss local goings-on (that often works well); and you can also ask your primary care physician.

Covid tests taken for travel purposes are not always paid for by insurance. You might ask your PCP to send an order in to a local laboratory for a test for you — those will often be covered by insurance and results are very often posted at once when ready on the lab's or hospital's portal; you can then download those negative results in PDF format.

The SXM Entry Requirements referred to in this section specify what information must be in these reports — things like the name of the lab, lab location, date and time of test, type of test (RT-PCR), your name, and the result of your test. (Look here for complete specifics.) Once you get the negative result PDFs from the lab for you and all of the people traveling with you, print them out and keep them with all the trip documentation that you will be taking with you — you will need them.

More on the application for entry into SXM and how the PDF relates to that application is below.

11. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice

The government of SXM wants to keep out people who are sick with Covid — that's what all this is about. You must apply online for admission to SXM once you have negative results back of your PCR test.

Go to the same website where you learned about entry requirements, [here](#), to apply for admission. It is absolutely required and if you are not preapproved for admission you will not be able to get on your plane to go to SXM. The application will take you only a few minutes to fill out. It asks for your name, email address, the usual questions about whether you have any Covid Symptoms or have been near anyone diagnosed with Covid recently, plus where you plan to stay on the island. It also asks you for the airline and flight number of your flight departing to SXM. (Remember the 120 hour requirement.) You then submit the application form from the website to EHAS by clicking a button. You will usually hear back in a few hours or overnight if you submit the form fairly late at night.

To make sure you get the paperwork approved as quickly as possible, we suggest you get your test taken several hours below the 120 hour threshold ahead of the time of your departure to SXM. That should give the laboratory plenty of time to get things to you so you can immediately file the application and get the information to EHAS, giving them as much time as possible. Their responsiveness is usually excellent. If two or more people are going, we strongly suggest that you send the applications each using a different email address — that way, when you report your temperature every day as required, you will know which person in your party is being asked to reply to a specific email from EHAS.

Overall, though you may be put off by the thought of having to do this, the process is quick, simple, and easy — and as we said the responsiveness is outstanding. Just do it — not a big deal at all.

12. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)

Everything on this list is essential for you to get on your airplane and fly to St. Maarten. You may wish to print this and use it as a checklist before leaving for the airport:

- a) Your passport and boarding passes (per usual);
- b) Printed negative test results on laboratory stationery (this is the PDF form at the lab should send you to inform you of the results of your test); the test results form must include the information specified as required by Sint Maarten EHAS)
- c) The travel Pre-Approval form emailed to you by Sint Maarten EHAS in response to your submission of the negative Covid test (assuming your application was preapproved);

d) A thermometer, which you will need to take your temperature and that of your traveling companions during the first 14 days of your trip.

13. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Once you have arrived in St. Maarten, EHAS will email you a notice with a link to their site. You are required to click the link which takes you to a very brief online form which asks you to record your temperature and whether you had flu like symptoms that morning before having breakfast. You then click a button in the online form to send its results back to EHAS.

The form specifies what day of your vacation the report is for — day one, day two, etc., as we noted above. If you receive an email the following day, follow it just as you did the first day. If you don't, however, go back to the email you received the first day and click that link again — it will take you to the form you can use for day two or subsequent days. You must take your temp each day, and report it to them online each day, which is why we said to take a thermometer with you. The current requirement is that you do this for 14 days. It takes less than 30 seconds each time and is simple, easy, and fast.

During a global Pandemic, SXM is doing everything possible to ensure everyone's good health.

Etc.

14. Watch Flight Reservations Closely: Airlines Keep Changing Them

Again we remind all passengers to watch your flight reservations very closely since they can change overnight. If airlines have flights with a lot of open seats and they can move people to other available flights in their system, they are highly likely to cancel less-full flights. That explains why almost 800 people came in on Saturday. The airport was busier than it has been since last March, though still well below normal. We expect things to get busier particularly during the second half of November; significant numbers of people are now returning to SXM.

Check your flight reservations closely and call the airline for new reservations if your flight is canceled.

15. 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

---Major Stories About Royal Palm, Flamingo, & SECRETS Are In Our Main News Section---

16. "Fourteen" West Tower Should Top Out Soon

The first of the two twenty-story condominium towers being built at Cupecoy Beach, a project dubbed "14" by its developers, is nearing the point at which it will top off. It's now about 18 stories high so it's highly likely the first tower will finish basic construction this winter, enabling internal finishing of the lower stories to be well advanced by spring.

Ground site work continues on the second tower, to the immediate east of the first tower, at the same site.

As always, we'll keep you aware of progress on this major Cupecoy-area residential condominium construction project. For more information, see mulletBayResidences.com.

17. In SXM Resorts, Lots of Room to Roam

It's Fall, usually the low season on the island. This year, it is particularly quiet for obvious reasons — although it is becoming clearer by the day that increasing numbers of tourists will be returning to SXM during the next several weeks. The current usual small numbers of tourists on the island makes social distancing across SXM, including of course in all restaurants, easy — relieving a key point of concern for prospective visitors.

So if you have been concerned about that, realize that major precautions are being taken across the island to ensure all Covid guidelines for social distancing are properly observed.

Come on down -- It's way easier than you think.

18. The Urge for Going to SXM Is Getting Stronger...

Many people had long since made up their minds: because of Covid, they were *not* going to SXM this winter. But as things got crazier in the US over the last several months, and now as the colder weather closes in and a bad winter is generally forecast, *many people are getting the urge for going* — and looking for seriously into a trip to SXM during the next few months.

The more we hear about this, the more we hear the echoes of the old Tom Rush song about "get the urge to going" until it constantly bounces around in our head even though we're here in SXM right now.

[Listen to it](#); you might just get the urge for going.

19. Come to SXM & Sleep in the Unique Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Remember the kind of off-the-road place of accommodations where people smiled at you and meant it, where you felt completely at home, and where you knew after a single day that you would love to return?

Michael and Fawnette Angelides have created just such a place at the Azure Hotel and Art Studio directly on Simpson Bay beach in, of course, Simpson Bay.

Each room is delightfully decorated with art created by the Angelides family, and all rooms have all the amenities you need for a great vacation. Even better, every room is just steps from the beach and from total relaxation. Very simply, there is no better small, intimate beach hotel on the beach on the island enabling you to relax as totally as you can at Azure, which is why we have long recommended it.

You'll feel even more romantic than might otherwise be possible because Azure is the site of a number of small beach weddings and vow renewals. In fact, Fawnette is fully qualified to be the officiant at all those events -- and both she and Michael are delighted to put together the entire ceremony and beach celebration in one beautiful, memorable package.

Go to sleep with the sound of waves caressing the shore of Simpson Bay beach just feet from your room, and wake to that same beautiful sound and breathtaking sunrises and sunsets. We've enjoyed ourselves there and highly recommended Azure to all of our readers. For reservations or information, you can contact Fawnette Angelides on Facebook messenger or by phone through WhatsApp at 721-586-9680.

20. Even More Space: Rent a Villa from One of Our Sponsors

Our sponsors include some of the top vacation rental/Villa rental companies on the island. Contact information for all of them is in our sponsor list in story 43 in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

For lots of space all to yourself, rent a villa on the island — possibly with members of your extended family or your closest friends. When coming to SXM, you will have been pretested for Covid so you should have a worry-free vacation on the island. Do check article 43 now.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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

-- Help Keep WEEKLY NEWS coming by joining our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Membership -- PLEASE HELP *NOW*

HELP US CONTINUE PUBLISHING SXM WEEKLY NEWS BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING A MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR "JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS" ISLAND DISCOUNT PROGRAM:

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

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 ask all readers to buy a multiyear new, renewal, or reinstated JMB membership. You get about 300 discounts and other benefits while you enable us to keep the lights on -- literally.

You'll certainly return within a year (possibly way sooner), since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available during the coming winter. So sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

Military / First Responder memberships available, too.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

Here are our low regular new membership prices:

- 1 year \$59
- 3 years \$109
- 5 years \$139

Sign up by going to everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us.

b) Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement remains \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89.
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$149.

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 DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required.

We hope you are having a pleasant summer, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today.**

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

26. French Republic Shutdown Has No Impact on French Saint Martin

The French Republic shut down ensuing in France does not currently have any impact on French St. Martin. Local officials including the Préfet have underscored that until something compels them to change course, French St. Martin and St. Maarten will continue their traditional roles as separate-country partners on a single island with open borders.

There is no expectation of the border situation changing nor of the ability of tourists to move freely throughout the island. Indeed, major French side hotels are already starting to make announcements about reopening, as you read in our accommodations section. The situation in France is not currently a matter for any real concern among tourists contemplating visits to your favorite island.

We'll keep you aware of further developments concerning the availability of French side hotels to accommodate US citizens, and of additional openings.

27. Superyachts Making an Early Return to SXM

Normally, in relatively calm hurricane seasons, superyachts start returning to SXM during the third week of November or toward the end of the month.

But this year, when the hurricane season has been historically busier, superyachts started returning on Halloween at the end of October — and that is continuing.

In fact, one of the returning superyachts this past weekend was the late Steve Jobs' renowned superyacht Venus, which was launched just after his death a few years ago and has been a familiar wintertime visitor to SXM ever since.

A number of cruise ships have also been in port recently — as many as six one day last week. No, cruise ships are not coming with passengers. But the return of cruise ship visits to SXM appears not to be that far off, and some cruise ship lines are getting ready for the resumption of cruises during the coming months. Ship crews continue to stay aboard and be cycled off the ships periodically from ports including SXM. And of course, SXM also provides fuel and provisioning for those ships and their crews — good revenue for the island until passengers return.

28. Renowned SXM CIA Chef Dino Jagtiani Returns to The

Neighborhood

Cuisinart Golf resort and spa on neighboring Anguilla has made the following announcement concerning renowned chef Dino Jagtiani who for many years, before leaving the island, owned both the Temptation and Rare restaurants and was in charge of all culinary activity at the prestigious Emilio's Restaurant near Philipsburg.

Now, he's returning to the neighborhood; this is from Cuisinart:

We are proud to announce a prominent new culinary talent at the helm. Meet Executive Chef Dino Jagtiani, a 22-year haute cuisine veteran with experience overseeing sophisticated culinary programs at top Caribbean restaurants, hotels, and cruise lines. Let Dino and his team entice you with their delectable epicurean creations!

Welcome back to the neighborhood, Dino! Keep us posted!

29. Royal Palm Beach and Flamingo Resort To Reopen in January

After a wait of nearly 3 1/2 years since Royal Palm and Flamingo Resorts were practically obliterated by hurricane Irma, it has been announced that both resorts will reopen on a somewhat limited basis this January. At night this past weekend, we could see Royal Palm fully lit up, as it was in the days before Irma — bright and looking like perfection. We will have much more on this in the coming weeks.

Across the street, the Nowhere Special restaurant is about to reopen on a limited basis and is expected to be fully open by the time Royal Palm and Flamingo reopen their doors.

30. SECRETS Resort Set To Reopen

Secrets Resort in St. Martin, which first opened early last March, closed just a matter of days later when the island was first hit by Covid 19 — but it reopens November 13.

Here is [full information](#) on the resort.

31. Top Reasons to Consider Moving to SXM

by Vivian M. Chamas

If you are a citizen of the United States and you are considering starting a business, working, or retiring in the Caribbean, here are some reasons **Sint Maarten** should be on the top of your list. As the most recognized regional immigration services provider, operating throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, the team at **BrightPath** can offer you objective advice, as well as reliable immigration and relocation services in order for you and your family to safely move to the Caribbean.

Here are some important facts that make Sint Maarten a very attractive destination for US nationals wanting to relocate abroad:

1. **The Dutch-American Friendship Treaty:** Under article 3 paragraph 1 sub f. of the National Ordinance on Admission and Expulsion, Dutch citizens born outside of Sint Maarten (or the former Netherlands Antilles), will be legally admitted to Sint Maarten under the following two conditions – (i) Certificate of Conduct; and (ii) Housing and sufficient means to provide in their own livelihood.

What does this mean? In summary, if you can prove no criminal background and that you have sufficient verifiable funds, BrightPath can start your immigration process to get you legal residency.

Why does this benefit US nationals? Because under The Dutch-American Friendship Treaty, US Nationals are given equal privileges as Dutch citizens born outside of Sint Maarten and/or The Former Netherlands Antilles

Will obtaining residency affect your status as a US passport holder? The answer is no. You keep your US passport and you also acquire the right to live, work, retire, or even start your business on Sint Maarten.

1. **Tax Benefits:** Sint Maarten has **no property taxes**. Yes, that means you can purchase real estate here and not have to worry about annual property taxes. It's absolutely property tax-free. There are also **no taxes on goods or services** and **no capital gains tax**. You can also import all your personal belongings free of any taxes because there are **no custom duties on imported goods**.
2. **Real Estate and Banking:** Sint Maarten's real estate sector is holding strong with retained values on property, and in many cases, showing appreciation over time. Although the official currency is the Netherlands Antillean Florin (NAf), transacting in United States currency is widely practiced with no licensing required for bank accounts in US dollars. Internationally recognized banks still continue to operate on island, offering a stable banking system, with little to no sign of change in the foreseeable future.

For more information on our services or to learn more about how BrightPath can assist you in obtaining legal residency on the island of Sint Maarten, visit our website at www.brightpathcaribbean.com

Disclaimer:

Our newspaper and blog articles are not intended as (legal) advice and do not take your personal circumstances into consideration. BrightPath does not accept any liability for damages resulting from using the provided information. We highly recommend you to seek personalized advice from us or before you act or fail to act because of the content of our articles. BrightPath is a privately-owned consulting firm that assists clients with filing applications for residence permits and/or business licenses at the relevant government departments. None of our directors, employees or agents hold or have held any position with the government of Sint Maarten and our service does not provide for any preferential treatment with regards to any application. All information provided and statements made only serve to provide you with a general understanding of immigration, residence and business incorporation procedures on Sint Maarten.

32. Start Planning Your 2021 SXM Wedding or Vow Renewal on the Beach

SXM is beginning to see some real planning now for full-scale weddings and vow renewal ceremonies on the beach. Of course, small-scale ceremonies have taken place in recent months and that will continue during the few weeks remaining of this year but it is clearly going to expand during 2021 — especially after winter ends and hopefully vaccines will start to be widely used worldwide.

One of the most desirable locations for the ceremonies is beautiful unobstructed Simpson Bay beach. It's convenient for the entire Dutch side; it is never bustling with people, so it's quiet and an ideal setting; and we have one perfect setting in mind on the entire length of the beach....

That setting is at the site of Azure Hotel and Art Studio (see story 19), where your guests may just be able to stay at very reasonable prices. Fawnette Angelides is in charge here, and she and her husband Michael know how to make all of the perfect arrangements you need to ensure that everything goes as you dream it will. Plus, Fawnette is fully licensed to perform your ceremonies on the beach (or elsewhere), taking the cue from you — or offering you a number of attractive suggestions if you like.

Want a sunset wedding? Sure! Sunrise wedding? Even better. For reservations or information, you can contact Fawnette Angelides on Facebook messenger or by phone through WhatsApp at 721-586-9680.

33. Want an SXM Vacation? How to enter our Vacation Giveaway

During our "Paradise SXM" Event, we'll be giving away several SXM vacations, including weeks at Simpson Bay Resort, Belair Beach Hotel, Adonis Cupecoy hotel, Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach, and El Zafiro hotel and restaurant on Simpson Bay beach.

The giveaway celebrates JMB SXM Media surpassing 7,000,000 visits. Most of the weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries late in March. All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

In addition to vacations, we expect to give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, a car rental, and possibly some major gifts on one or two neighboring islands - all to be announced soon.

Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway. To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at everythingxsm.com. That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners

MUST be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers.

Paradise SXM will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

34. Renting a Car in SXM

Renting a car in SXM is fast and easy. You can select from the companies in our Sponsors list (scroll down to see it). Most can take your reservations online and meet you at the airport, then complete paperwork in just a few minutes and have you on your way.

If you're curious who we use, for years we've used Leisure Car Rental at www.leisurecarrental.com. They are located closest to the airport terminal and offer excellent quality cars, dependable service, and great prices. It's a family owned business owned by Jacqueline and Jimmy Fitzpatrick. Definitely tell them that we sent you — especially if you're a JMB Website Supporters member since they offer substantial discounts to members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program.

[You must have your membership card and present it at the time you're picking up your car in order to get the JMB Website Supporters members-only discount.](#)

35. Restaurant of the Week: Vesna Taverna

We first visited Vesna Taverna on a Sunday morning when it was located across the street and was known as the Bagel house (yes, they still serve bagels with breakfasts on request). A blonde woman sitting near the open window to the small kitchen there said, "Hey you're my Facebook friend." That was how I met Vesna and learned about the restaurant: we were looking for coffee and get a lot more.

Today, Vesna Taverna is located across the street from the old Bagel house and serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week with great dinners served currently Thursday through Saturday evening.

The food is an interesting fusion of American, Greek, French (Vesna's husband Yannick is French), and virtually anything else that Vesna and Yannick think of that they believe their many loyal customers and friends would enjoy.

We've often thought that a theme for the restaurant could be "flavors from around the world" with a specific touch of Caribbean flavors too — lots of fruits and vegetables and of course fresh delicious Caribbean lobster in salads and other dishes.

Vesna Taverna has been a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence. They're located just north of the Simpson Bay drawbridge on the lagoon side of airport road. Go, but remember to save room for dessert -- many desserts are on display even during breakfast and lunch and you can certainly order them then if you like, too. Easily Vesna Taverna is one of our most favorite SXM restaurants.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnataverna.com (featured 11/2/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is currently offered Thursday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

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 November 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.

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.

36. 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 everythingasm.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. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

This document contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements – plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day “Free Look period,” so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual “SkyMed Takes You Home®” protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current “Do Not Travel” list – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination – or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

Q2. Who is protected?

1. “Single” protection is available for individual travelers. “Family” protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, “G.E.T.S.” protection is an inexpensive option.

Q5. What's the difference between “short term” and “Annual” or multi-year protection?

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it “Takes You Home®” to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the “SkyMed universe,” SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a “HQ” (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

Q16. Can I sign up online?

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, www.skymed.com/jmb. But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm (MST). Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

SkyMed Member Services 1-480-946-5188 or 1-800-475-9633 or memberservices@skymed.com

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can.

Regular member

services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President

SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:

JMB Communications

Membership Services

support@jmbcommunications.com

38. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 25,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

39. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our SXM Weekly News PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing 2018 April Fools' Day parody and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It 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](#)

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

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

And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day. We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit everythingxsm.com and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

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

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

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

42. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 10/25/20)

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

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 10/25/20

**Your Business
Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused
Website That Works.**

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began -- a unit of JMB Communications.

43. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingSXM.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our **JMB SXM Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Or just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.

Tourism will soon return and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases beyond the shutdown. Contact us today for more information.

St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):

[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)

Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

11/2/20 #V3-1271 6am EST 11/4/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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