

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/16/20: Minor Earthquake (on Friday the 13th); Hurricanes; SXM Entry Requirements; SECRETS; La Samanna; French State; IZI Reopens; Mario's Reopening; Sublime Reopening; Topper's; Buying Property / Working in SXM; Our Biggest / Best Black Friday / Cyber Monday Event Ever [43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1273 --- Monday, 11/16/20
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

Member News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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.

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingssxm.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://everythingssxm.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:

RENTAL 11/28/2020 12/5/2020 48 Divi Little Bay This deluxe suite offers two private balconies overlooking the ocean and beautiful Caribbean sunsets. Our suite features a king size bed with a queen sleeper sofa in the bedroom as well as an additional queen sleeper sofa in the separate living area. The unit sleeps six and has two full bathrooms. Amenities include full kitchen, washer/dryer, internet access with two flat screen TV's. There is also a fully equipped fitness center, a spa, a water sports center with equipment rental, a shopping promenade, and Thrifty car rental. There are three freshwater pools, hot tubs, water sports with diving & snorkeling equipment and an exquisite beach on site. \$1500 per week Melissa 203.21.9395 myssc@aol.com

RENTAL 1/9/2021 1/16/2021 Week 2 **Royal Islander Club La Plage Maho Side. Magnificently maintained complex featuring open air lobby, marble floors and tropical landscaping.** High floor with with super sea and pool views. One bedroom/king size bed, sleeper sofa in living room. Unit sleeps 4. Fully equipped kitchen. Convenient to everything...restaurants, shopping, casino, Sunset bar and more. Short drive to airport. Timeshare tax of approx \$50 is renters responsibility. \$1200 per week Vi 631-587-3001 vi06@optonline.net

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 1/23/2021 1/30/2021 Week 4 also see weeks 3,5,6 **Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Bougainvillea building overlooking pool:** 4th floor with elevator and fantastic views. 1 bedroom suite with king size bed sleeps 4 with 2 pullout Murphy beds; open plan full kitchen, dining area, living room. Two flat screen TVs; Deck looking west spacious views with spectacular sunsets. complete resort with several pools some with swim up bars, tennis courts, basketball, casino, several restaurants, shopping including groceries. Marina activities including boating and diving; beach with beach bar and more. \$8,000, multiple weeks purchases discounted Jim 508-362-2187 jbhegarty@comcast.net

SALE 3/20/2021 3/6/2021 Week 8 and 9 **The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina 5th floor villa.** Both A and B sides. Sleeps 6. "A" side has full kitchen, dining area, living room (TV) with 2 Murphy beds, king bed in master (TV), and full size, double vanity bathroom. "B" side, aka Junior lockout, has 2 full beds (TV), full bath/double vanity, small kitchen with mini fridge, toaster, microwave and coffee maker. Each has own balcony overlooking Simpson Bay, where you can enjoy the Regatta. \$21,750.00 per week Camille 540-207-0337 camijammer@aol.com

Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at

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

GETTING HERE:

1. Airlines Boosting Schedules; Delta Returns to SXM

As we reported here last week, Delta airlines re-started nonstop service to SXM from Atlanta on November 8. It will be expanding that service to three times per week and ultimately five times per week, then daily, over the next several weeks. A Delta representative also told us that the airline expects to resume nonstop service from JFK sometime during December.

Airlines generally are increasing service to many warm-weather destinations. Recent news about vaccines expected to come to market in the next few months — and good news about the safety of air travel and the effectiveness of face masks and hand washing — seem to be motivating progressively higher numbers of people toward warm-weather destinations.

Business owners on the island, particularly at the better restaurants, are telling us that the Covid testing program that's now part of the entry requirements on the Dutch side of the island seem to be working well and are enabling significantly more tourists to come to the island now than have been here since the Pandemic began.

If you've been putting off coming to the island because of a lack of flights, it might be time for you to check again.

2. Watch Your Flights Closely: Airlines Keep Making Changes

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 and rebook. The airport has been getting busier each week on Saturdays, though it's still well below normal. We expect things to get busier still particularly during the rest of November and December.

[Check your flight reservations closely and call the airline for new reservations if your flight is canceled.](#)

3. Pilots: 737 Max Still Not Ready in An Emergency

Airlines, particularly American Airlines, seem intent on getting the ill-fated Boeing 737 Max airliner back in the skies quickly. But pilots at multiple airlines are strenuously objecting, saying that current training plans are inadequate and that pilots using current training methods will not be adequately prepared to deal with an emergency on the 737 Max.

Why the airlines are in such a hurry to fly the Max after the Max has had such a terrible history is beyond us. We understand and believe it will probably be one of the safest airliners in the sky once it finally flies again, but inadequate training — if it is as the pilots say it is — is dangerous.

Here is the [full story](#).

4. AA Still Puts 737 Max on Its December Schedule

American Airlines has had a habit putting the Boeing 737 Max on its schedule over many months, and then removing it once it found that the airliner had not yet been authorized to return to service. AA has created enormous headaches for its passengers by doing that -- yet AA doesn't seem to care.

Now, with pilots still upset over the adequacy of new training measures for the 737 Max, the airline is plunging ahead and putting the 737 Max on its December schedule even though it has still not yet been cleared by the FAA.

One wonders whether AA is living in the same world as the rest of us....Here is [that story](#).

WEATHER:

5. Wet Week in SXM As "Iota" Forms

A very slow-moving tropical wave slogged across the Leeward islands much of this week, causing tropical downpours and some street flooding on SXM and other nearby islands. Forecasters including our own Rob Lightbown, chief meteorologist here and at Island92 radio, are saying that this tropical wave is entering an area conducive to significant intensification and that it should become a tropical depression, then a tropical storm, then a hurricane and a major hurricane, Iota, over the next several days. As of very early Saturday it was expected to hit Honduras and Nicaragua late in the weekend as a major hurricane - possibly Cat. 4 or 5.

Fortunately, the system has already passed SXM, though its cloud bank was still visible to the south and east on Thursday.

The storm is now called Iota — the record-breaking thirtieth named storm of 2020. The storm is not expected to have any further impact on SXM. Where it goes after Central America is uncertain, but current track forecasts have it continuing westward.

We will be posting all watches, warnings, and advisories about this storm as it progresses; those postings will be in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

6. Will Hurricane Season Really End As Scheduled 11/30?

Hurricane season normally runs from June 1 of every year through November 30. Will this record-breaking 2020 hurricane season really end as scheduled on November 30?

Mother Nature has never been known to pay particular attention to calendars. In fact, tropical cyclones have appeared in most months of the year. Historically, they tend to appear from June through November with the busiest time from mid-August through October.

In this highly unusual year, the last few days of last week saw three concurrent tropical systems in the Atlantic -- Eta, Theta, and Iota.

What happens next? It's patently obvious that climate change is a reality, regardless of its cause. Ocean temperatures remain warm. There is a possibility of some systems developing after the end of November. All we suggest is if you're going to be traveling or if you live in any area where hurricanes are ever seen — maintain an awareness of what's going on so you are adequately prepared to react should a hurricane approach your location.

For now, we're still in 2020 and anything can happen.

For much more information, see our partners at [Crown Weather](#). We've recommended them for years -- never more strongly than now.

7. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com, and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded — so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.

Changing Your Email Address?

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email
and Sign Up Your New One
for your SXM Weekly News subscription
Quickly and Easily
at our Site: www.sxmweeklynews.com***

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

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

COVID-19: Please Read and Retain

9. 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.

10. 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.

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.

11. 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 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 download the results in PDF format. Although the requirements from SXM 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 PDF 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.

12. 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.) And 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 them each using a different email address — that way, when you are asked to report your temperature every day, 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 process, it is quick, simple, and easy — and as we said the responsiveness is outstanding. Just do it — not a big deal at all.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 have 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 is what day of your vacation the report is for — day one, day two, etc. 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, 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.

16. 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

17. SECRETS Makes False Claims in Letter to Guests With Reservations

Early last March, after multiple delays, the Secrets resort in Anse Marcel, French side, formally opened despite the fact that it was far from complete (according to comments and photographs posted by them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#)). It was also not capable of accommodating many guests who had paid for their vacations. It offered no solace and no facilities for wedding parties whose ceremonies and celebrations had been scheduled at Secrets early after its March opening. It never told them ahead of time that they were going to a resort that could not accommodate their functions....

Adding insult to injury, the resort quickly closed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite the fact that the island was shut down for some time, the resort still wasn't finished after the island's shutdown though Secrets had months to make that happen.

People who have walked through Secrets in recent days reported on our FB site that they observed what was still a construction site, with construction debris scattered around the property and many mattresses stacked up in the lobby — implying that not all rooms were ready to receive their mattresses even now, eight months after the resort was officially opened for business.

Now, the resort has written the following letter to individuals with near-term reservations, falsely claiming that the French side is closed to Americans. It absolutely is not. Here is their letter, in full, and our comments following it:

11/13/2020

Dear Valued Travel Partner,

*As planning around our resort re-openings continues, some adjustments have been made in association with destination government guidelines and accessibility. **The French borders of St. Martin are not currently open to American residents** [This statement is FALSE and has been FALSE since August, 2020. -Ed] , and with European borders also experiencing a second wave of closures and restrictions, low occupancy is currently expected. Therefore, the resort will remain closed.*

Below please find the resort re-opening update as well as a reminder of our current policies. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

1) Updated Resort Opening Dates

Note: stop sales have already been implemented and all existing reservations will be re-protected at our open resorts. For any additional information, please contact the Director of Sales listed below:

Please visit the AMResorts® COVID-19 status website for previously announced opening dates. Changes announced today will be updated shortly.

2) Enhanced Retention Program is extended with a book by date of December 17, 2020, for AMResorts® properties that remain temporarily closed only.

"Move the Date, Keep the Rate" Program, + a FREE night

Guests may change the date of their current booking to a future travel date, up to a year from the original travel date, with no additional fee or cancellation penalty. In addition, when rebooking for a future travel date, AMResorts® will extend one additional night complimentary to all vacationers.

Complimentary night is one additional night beyond the original booking duration.

Guests also have the option to change to another AMResorts® property within the same brand in a different destination with no additional fee or cancellation penalty; the additional free night also applies in these cases. If the rate is lower on the new travel date, the client will be refunded the rate differential.

If the client wishes to change brands, they would be responsible for any price increases.

Blackout dates December 23 - December 31

Program no longer valid once Resort is re-opened

"Move the Date, Keep the Rate" Program, + a FREE night is not combinable with any other free night promotions.

Guests may choose current existing promotion or the Move the Date Program.

For additional details and terms for the Move the Date, Keep the Rate Program as well as group qualifications please visit our COVID-19 Status website.

Cancellation Penalties

AMResorts® cancellation penalty remains in place as 24 hours for FIT bookings, and 72 hours for social groups traveling until December 22, 2020.

We are excited to welcome back our mutual guests to our resorts. We are confident in the future of travel and are eager to host guests, keeping their health and safety top of mind. We thank you for your support through these challenging times, and appreciate your dedicated partnership.

Sincerely,

Colette Baruth

Senior Vice President, Sales & Distribution

AMResorts® Americas

AMResorts | Traveler Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Status

INFO.AMRESORTS.COM

AMResorts | Traveler Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Status

As we all navigate the unprecedented, extraordinary and evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we want you to know that you always have been, and you always will be, our very top priority. We will get through to better times, and we are so grateful you have been by our side to help us realize our...

Comment:

It is amazing to us that this company has the temerity to falsely claim "The French borders of St. Martin are not currently open to American residents," which they know to be FALSE. Worse, that comment -- if believed by their customers -- is potentially damaging to the island economy because it can discourage travel to both sides of the island. It is the fact that the French STATE is blocking Americans from staying in French side hotels. But the border is open, travel for Americans between both sides of the island is free and easy, and villas, guest houses, etc. ARE welcoming American guests overnight as always. There is nothing to give anyone any real guidance as to when the hotel situation may be resolved -- it ought to be since tourists are being tested before arrival on the Dutch side at the island's main airport. This lie about the French side being closed is not trivial and SECRETS needs to retract it at once.

18. 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*.

19. 2020 - 2021 Rentals Available Now at Everythingsexm.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.

20. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at everythingxsm.com.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

21. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

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

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

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

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

22. Starting NOW: Our Biggest Ever Black Friday / Cyber Monday Sale

GET A FULL YEAR (OR TWO!) 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:

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW 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 346,000 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 12/5/2020, a free "Plus One" additional full year (or TWO!) 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 (or two) appears likely to be available during the coming winter. So, take advantage of this unique 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 12/5/20. 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-YEAR NEW MEMBERSHIPS GET TWO YEARS FREE DURING THIS SALE:

- 5 years \$139 plus you get an additional TWO YEARS FREE...

Sign up by going to everythingsexm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us at the number below.

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 (**but see below about the TWO-YEAR bonus**):

- 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 12/5/20.

LOOK! 6-YEAR RENEWAL/REINSTATEMENT MEMBERSHIPS GET TWO YEARS FREE DURING THIS EXTRAORDINARY SALE!

Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get TWO additional years free. Offer ends 12/5/20 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, everythingsexm.com, for info or to sign up. Your renewal begins when your current subscription ends. Reinstatements of expired memberships take just a few days to process. You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too. We email you a new membership card once processing has been completed.

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 (see below). 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 12/5/2020, so please ACT NOW.

MILITARY / FIRST RESPONDER MEMBERSHIPS -- NEW OR RENEWAL -- EXECUTED FROM NOW THROUGH 12/5 GET TWO ADDED YEARS FREE.

We hope you are having a pleasant Fall, but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year OR TWO YEARS Plus One bonus before it goes away 12/5, 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 EST 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 lean staff working from their homes. 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

23. Minor Quake, 4.6, Shakes SXM After 4:30 Friday Afternoon

A magnitude 4.6 earthquake shook SXM for a few seconds just after 430 on Friday afternoon. Initial reports indicated there was no damage.

The quake was felt by most people across the island and was initially said by authorities about such things that it was centered off Blowing point, Anguilla. A later report said it was near Saba. There were no immediate reports of any damage or injury -- and we don't expect any from this mild quake.

24. News of Two Imminent Vaccines Potentially Huge for SXM

If press reports released last week are correct, vaccines from at least two manufacturers in the US could start to appear on the market there in the next several weeks. Their availability will initially be to front-line healthcare workers and other first responders, then to the most vulnerable. Wide availability to the general public may still be at least a few months away.

If the vaccines are safe and effective as expected (and required), and if the US CDC and other officials and the incoming administration are able to convince a wary public of vaccine safety and effectiveness so a majority of Americans take the vaccine, the impact on travel to SXM could potentially be enormous. People who are vaccinated would be likely to have more confidence in their ability to visit SXM and other Caribbean islands safely — and airlines could continue to boost their schedules with more confidence. (If people receiving 90% effective vaccines still get sick, authorities have long said the severity of the disease would be muted.)

All of those are future big if's — we'll keep you posted, as always. Once the vaccines come out, if there is any effect on SXM Entry Requirements related to the vaccines, we will report that quickly both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

25. French Republic Still Making Life Difficult for the Collectivite

It took a while a few months ago for the people of the French side to convince the Préfet that she was mistaken in her approach to the French side — an approach that was requiring the borders to be closed with the Dutch side.

On a two-Republic island, where each side depends heavily on the other for its success, neither side can succeed without the help of the other. Tourists from the USA — by far the biggest source of island tourism — must adhere to the Entry Requirements published by the Dutch side of the island which specify a negative Covid test within 120 hours of the departure of their flight to SXM, as well as approval by the Dutch Side of their intent to visit. See details about entry requirements both in this issue of *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Now, in a remarkably counterproductive and counterintuitive move, the French Republic is still requiring that American tourists not be allowed to stay in French side hotels, as we have previously reported here. [Villas and guesthouses are fine, but not hotels](#). Cross-border visits by Americans to all businesses on the French side also are fine — but no hotel stays, despite the Covid testing in advance of arrival.

This French state policy is what led La Samanna resort to close for the season, as we announced earlier in *SXM Weekly News*. Now, Secrets resort in Anse Marcel isn't opening any time soon either — for the exact same reason. See story 17 about them in this issue for details on what's happening. (Secrets has set a date of 12/11 for now but don't bet the farm on it. It's an educated guess on their part)

Without reason, the French state is putting many businesses and many individuals across the French side of the island in dire financial peril — and that peril affects the Dutch side as well. There are real differences between Americans visiting SXM and the general American population and it's time the French state recognizes the differences and acts upon them. [Allow your French side SXM hotels to open to people who have been pretested, French state -- you are causing needless suffering](#).

26. Lots of French side Road Work Starting

Officials on the French side never seem to do anything expeditiously. Now, lots of roadwork has been announced by

the French side government — and there is high hope that they will actually get it done.

Here are [details](#).

More:

First phase of road repair - North sector (Agrément - Oyster-Pond) Laying of the asphalt on Boulevard de Grand Case, Monday November 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (from the bridge to the crossing of the RN7). The Boulevard will be closed to road traffic on Saturday November 14 (installation and preparations) and on Monday November 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., paving. Once the asphalt has been laid, a second intervention will be necessary on Boulevard Bertin-Maurice, to finalize the upgrading of the network inspection structures.

The roadway repair work program adopted by the Collectivity: From November 17 to 28, 2020: Period of 15 days of night work (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.) • Rehabilitation of the RN7: various areas located between the Agrément roundabout and the Orléans district

• Rehabilitation of the Cul de Sac road From November 30 to December 9, 2020: Period of 15 days of daytime road repair works (7 a.m. and 4 p.m.): • Route de Grand-Case, between the bridge and the route de Hope • Route de Grand-Caye • Route of Hope • Coralita route • Route de Colombier • Friar's Bay Road • RN7, Belle-Plaine Orléans December 9 and 10, 2020: Carrying out asphalt work at night (between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m.) on the RN7, from the crossroads of Boulevard de Grand-Case to Rue des Ecoles.

27. Royal Palm & Flamingo Not Likely to Re-Brand Despite Misleading Signs

People visiting the island over the last couple of weeks may well have done a double take when seeing the name "Caribbean palms" festooned on fences near both Royal Palm beach resort and Flamingo Beach Resort.

Are both of the Diamond Resorts rebranding, and calling themselves Caribbean palms? Who is Caribbean palms? Why is this being done without notification to timeshare owners?

As far as we know, both Royal Palm and Flamingo Beach will keep their current names and branding; there's no real need for either of them to be rebranded, which is an expensive proposition if it's done right.

It turns out that Caribbean palms is the name of the vendor supplying new palm trees to both resorts. We don't know whether they obtained permission first, but they have put banners for their company name all over fences near Royal Palm and some at Flamingo. The banners just say the name of the company and its web address -- nothing about the fact that they are simply of provider of Palm trees, which would have made sense.

Why they were even permitted to put lots of their confusing signs on both construction sites is perplexing on the face of it. There is enough going on in the timeshare business on SXM that both Diamond Resorts should have been more sensitive to the potential impact of this peculiar signage.

28. David Foini's IZI Ristorante Italiano Reopens

David Foini's now near legendary iZi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete has now reopened after a somewhat extended seasonal closing.

Years ago, David operated his legendary La Gondola restaurant at Atlantis casino, at the time the best restaurant of any kind on the island. David early in this millennium moved to the heart of Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete to start iZi, the lively, upbeat restaurant that's now open every day but Monday for both lunch and dinner. David has received our Culinary Award of Excellence for many years: his restaurant serves extraordinary food in a fun atmosphere.

For more, see www.izirestaurant.com.

29. Sparkling New SUBLIME Restaurant Should Open Soon

Surendra Lal Das decided to leave as a chef at Dino Jagtiani's highly successful Temptation restaurant in Cupecoy before Irma, and he went to a new location for his own restaurant at Summit Resort. A few weeks later, hurricane Irma demolished the entire resort including the new restaurant.

Chef Das was desperate to find a new location and found one on a back street in Simpson Bay. Everyone generally agreed that the location was a dump but people went anyway to enjoy food that they said was spectacular.

Very soon, Chef Das will complete a move to a new location in the Maho complex where Bamboo Bernie used to be. Last week we ran pictures of the interior in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — shot through a window — of his beautiful new restaurant, which will now befit the quality of his dining.

The restaurant looks like it is close to opening but we don't yet know the final date; we'll publish it as soon as we have it. Our congratulations to Chef Das on the apparent imminent opening of his "Sublime" new restaurant.

30. Mario's Bistro Moving Closer to Reopening at The Cliff

Mario's Bistro is in the process of moving from its former location at Porto Cupecoy to a beautiful new location at the Cliff condo tower in Cupecoy. The new location features both the restaurant and a new lounge with a different menu, both located with gorgeous ocean views. We expect to see the property very soon and hope to publish pictures of it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The restaurant and lounge should be opening very soon — we'll also publish that information both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as soon as we receive it.

31. Topper's Restaurant Remains Open at its Current Location

Both Toppers Restaurant and the Toppers Rhum distillery are in the process of moving to new quarters at the former Carousel in Simpson Bay, as we reported here over the last couple of weeks.

The first business to move into the Carousel building is the Rhum distillery, a move which is now well underway. While that's taking place, Toppers continues to operate its signature restaurant in Simpson Bay, opposite Puerto del Sol.

We'll keep you posted on the dates for the Openings of the businesses at the Carousel — where, in answer to many questions, Italian gelato will continue to be manufactured and sold.

32. Getting a Job in SXM

Before you can work in SXM, you must have the appropriate papers. The best way to handle residency is to contact www.brightpathcaribbean.com — the same people who can help you start a business in SXM. Please see the next story.

33. Starting a Business in SXM

If you're contemplating starting an SXM business, contact www.brightpathcaribbean.com -- they are the experts who can save you an enormous amount of time, work, and money. They know the process cold. Ask for Vivian Chamas and tell her you were sent by *SXM Weekly News* / Jeff Berger.

34. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...

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?

35. Restaurant of the Week: IZI Will Be Here Next Week!

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

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

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

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.iziristoranteitaliano.com (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore

Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

Domino's Pizza <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

The Hideaway, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

Melange International Grill (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

Papagayo, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge Reopened.

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) 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 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. 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret .Your username and password are required.

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

See www.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

LEGAL:

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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.everythingsexm.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)

11/16/20 #V3-1273 6am EST 11/14/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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