

UPDATE FOR BULLETIN SENT OUT

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/23/20: SXM Allows Rapid Antigen Tests for Entry Eff. 11/25; BLACK FRIDAY; Grand Case Beach Club Accepting American Tourists; Planet Hollywood; Mario's Bistro at The Cliff; Mama Pizza at Dawn Beach; "Pearl" of China Is No Pearl; 737 Max; jetBlue; Hurricane Season [38 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1274 --- Monday, 11/23/20
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 is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' *St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News*, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). *You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.*

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

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

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-- **Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It**
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- **Please Patronize JMB Sponsors**
- #####
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38 News Stories This Week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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 1/17/2021 1/31/2021 Week 3 & 4 Simpson Bay Resort Full size studio with option to connect to 1 bedroom condo, sleep 2-6. Corner units, great views. Rent one unit for a week or both units both weeks. \$1200 for studio, \$1500 for 1 br Joe 647-227-3434 jgarro55@gmail.com

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

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 2/16/2020 2/23/2020 Week 7 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Deluxe sleep 4 studio located in the Marina building; convenient and easy access to pools, beach, restaurants, deli, casino, water sports, shopping; overlooks courtyard; President's week for personal use or rental; kitchen, wifi; \$1,000 Pat (347) 387-2294 patc4226@gmail.com

See them all at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret>, the *secret* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

Not a member yet? See http://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. Boeing 737 Max OK'd to Fly; Will You Fly in It?

The Boeing 737 Max airliner, grounded last March after it was proven that its defective MCAS system was responsible for two crashes that resulted in the deaths of 346 passengers, is being approved to return to the skies by both the FAA and similar overseas authorities. Don't expect to see them in your nearby airport in the next few days, however. Pilots still must be trained and all of the planes must have their software upgraded and other changes made as specified by the FAA.

As previously reported here, the planes are expected to start flying in the US as soon as late December between Florida and New York (AA), with a significant expansion of their use during the first quarter of next year.

Boeing has said that it may change the name of the 737 Max. Passengers leery of flying on the recertified aircraft should contact their airline if they feel their flight may be on a 737 Max. Checking your flight on www.flightaware.com should tell you the equipment scheduled for it. If you have any questions, call your airline. If you don't want to fly the 737 Max, your airline should change your reservations without charge.

2. jetBlue To Fill All Seats Starting in January; Delta to Keep Middle Seats Empty

Thanks to increasing evidence that flying in airplanes is safe from a coronavirus transmission perspective, jetBlue effective early in January will resume normal procedures for filling its airplane cabins. It has kept middle seats empty to help ensure coronavirus safety aboard its planes for the last several months. More info is [here](#).

This leaves Delta airlines as the only major legacy carrier that continues to [keep middle seats empty](#): Delta is promising to do that through all of next winter.

3. Jet Blue Employees Get Engaged On the Tarmac at PJIA

In a story that gave SXM some overdue good publicity, two jetBlue employees recently got engaged on the tarmac at Princess Juliana International Airport in front of a jetBlue aircraft.

We wonder whether their honeymoon will be in SXM! [Here is the story.](#)

4. Watch Your Flights Closely: Airlines Keep Making Changes

Airlines are continuing to make flight changes. Although schedules to SXM continue to ramp up, nonetheless some cancellations are still occurring on weekday flights. If you have reservations to SXM on a weekday over the next several weeks, we strongly suggest you keep an eye on your flights to make sure you are not affected. Important: please see the story about revised entry requirements in the Covid section, below.

More on this story is [here](#).

WEATHER:

5. Hurricane Season "Ends" 11/30

The good news: hurricane season nominally ends on November 30. This season has broken all records by producing more than 30 named storms, far above most original predictions. Since ocean waters are still quite warm in many places, tropical cyclone formation will continue to be possible (though less likely) as year 2020 mercifully begins to draw to a close.

For much more information about St. Maarten weather, see our weather center on our main site, [everythingSXM.com](#). That site not only has advisories, watches, and warnings, it also has numerous constantly updated satellite images and radar loops. Plus, we will continue to publish advisories and storm information for the tropical Atlantic in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

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: Please Read and Retain - REVISED 11/18/20

8. Exact Current SXM Tourist Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for St. Maarten are changing effective November 25. On that date, SXM will begin to accept rapid antigen tests taken within 48 hours of departure in addition to RT – PCR tests taken within 120 hours of departure. Full information, updated to reflect this major change for the better, is in the Covid area of the FILES in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). That file has been completely updated to reflect the newly revised testing requirements.

Antigen tests are the widely discussed "rapid" tests previously not accepted in SXM. Specific reliable tests will now be accepted, and they are spelled out in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) article on Covid in the files area.

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 or Antigen test negative 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 types of test for Covid-19 currently acceptable to the government of SXM are both RT-PCR and the Antigen test, which has been added effective 11/25.

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 above article and click the link for exact current government requirements.

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

You must have a negative RT-PCR test taken less than 120 hours before your departure to SXM, or your Antigen test taken less than 48 hours before your trip. 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 the required 120 or 48 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.

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 or Antigen), your name, and the result of your test. Once you get the PDFs 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 or Antigen test.

Go to the same website where you learned about entry requirements 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 or 48 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 (48 hours for Antigen test). 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's 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. 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, above. 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.

14. 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.

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 15% 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

16. Pearl of China Hotel Development Project Still Not Dead

Those of you who read *SXM Weekly News* regularly have seen many articles announcing new hotel projects over the years, including the Westin Resort and Casino on Dawn beach, Planet Hollywood, the Secrets resort, Adonis hotel, and many others. A number of other projects covered here have never been built.

In the US, where most of our tourist-readers are from, we are accustomed to projects not being announced until they are ready to go, requiring only permitting. But in SXM, some projects are sometimes announced in the hope that the announcement process itself will generate funding necessary for construction, which to Americans is a decidedly backwards way to introduce things. (Some other projects start then end before completion due to inadequate funding -- the empty Caravanserai buildings at Beacon Hill near SXM Airport are perfect examples.)

Apparently Pearl of China was one of those not-started-four-years-later projects. The original design of Pearl of China was for a massive hotel project with hundreds of rooms and a convention center all plopped on Belair beach, next to Bel Air Beach Hotel. The good news is that this project violated zoning regulations for the property — it was too tall. It also had all the design imagination, creativity, and attractiveness of your average cinder block.

Proponents of the project went back to the drawing boards and came up with something physically more attractive — but then other problems became obvious. The facility would be self-contained and according to public information at the time, it would be used largely for Chinese nationals and Chinese trade shows and conferences related to attempts by the Chinese government to expand its commercial influence in the hemisphere. It appeared at the time — and still appears — that the major contribution of this project to SXM would be a significant increase in traffic where it is certainly not needed — and no positive impact on the island's tourist economy. Those facts generated huge public opposition.

Apparently the Chinese developers behind this project are still trying to find funding for it and they insist the project isn't dead yet — but we and many others hope they fail. SXM can do without a large Chinese commercial beachhead here that promotes China but does nothing for the SXM economy except add traffic and lots of garbage. There was and is no reason to believe this project would be beneficial in any way long-term to the St. Maarten tourism economy. It is certainly not a "pearl."

17. Important Grand Case Beach Club (French Side) & Planet Hollywood (Dutch Side) Comments

It appears now that appeals against the **Planet Hollywood** project at the former site of the Sonesta great Bay resort have been exhausted, and that the project should get underway sometime in the next several months if, indeed, it's going to be constructed. The location of the resort, on great Bay just west of down town Philipsburg is quite a scenic one, and has long been a draw for tourists. At this point there is no reason not to expect the project to proceed. Vaccines are in the offing in the next several months which offer the prospect of greatly slowing the spread of Covid; air prices are reasonable and the cost of jet fuel remains low; demand for travel to SXM continues to increase and airlift to the island is also increasing, as we have reported in recent weeks.

But more important, Planet Hollywood, like secrets, attract a younger, more well-to-do demographic than the dominant timeshare sector here in SXM — something the island seriously needs for its future.

We'll be watching the construction site for Planet Hollywood going forward and we expect to publish pictures of progress there when things start moving — hopefully during the coming year.

Meanwhile, in apparent defiance of a French state edict keeping Americans out of French side hotels for now (Covid reasons), **Grand Case Beach Club** (GCBC) is accepting overnight reservations from American tourists as usual. By contrast, La Samanna has closed for the entire 2020-21 season (a big blow to the entire island economy) and SECRETS will not open until at least December 1 -- both in response to the edict.

We know the French side government is talking about fixing this mess, but so far the French state ban on overnight French side stays by Americans in hotels remains in place -- GCBC's activity notwithstanding. (There is apparently no ban on guest houses, villas, etc. - just hotels. If you think this makes no sense, you get what's happening.)

18. French Side Villa Rental

If you've been looking for French side Villa rental near Orient beach, here is exactly been looking for...

VILLA VACATION RENTAL:

GORGEOUS fFabulous three-bedroom villa

- Panoramic view on Orient Beach, Tintamarre & Pinel islands
- In the heart of Orient Bay park 24/7 security
- 3 min walk from the Famous Orient Beach & orient bay village
- Located just below Fantastico c/o villa

From 3000\$ week

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contact Zouzou

email: zuzu97150@yahoo.com

19. 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*.

20. 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.

21. 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.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

22. 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

23. Black Friday / Cyber Monday Sale Now Underway - Our Biggest Ever

BLACK FRIDAY SALE BEGINS!
OUR BIGGEST EVER!

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 or spring. So, take advantage of this unique offer and sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

Military / First Responder memberships are included.

The Facts:

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 everythingxsm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us at the number below.

b) 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-YEARS-FREE 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 (password not required; 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 generally 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. Act today - this offer does end 12/5.

We hope you are having a pleasant Fall, but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year "Plus One" OR TWO YEARS FREE bonus before it goes away 12/5, which is not far away at all.

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 keep *SXM Weekly News* coming every week, as it has since 1992.

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

24. Mama Pizza Reopening in Oyster Pond

More than three years after Hurricane Irma pretty much obliterated the Oyster pond/Dawn beach area on the French / Dutch border on the island's eastern coast, Desmond Culbert's landmark Mama Pizza restaurant there is now preparing to reopen.

Life has started to return to the Oyster pond/Dawn beach area with many guests coming to Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Dawn beach club, and Coral beach club — as well as (hopefully) a reopening of the Westin Dawn beach resort and casino — so the market will be there in 2021, Desmond tells us.

His other Mama Pizza restaurant at Porto Cupecoy on the Dutch side in Cupecoy beach remains open as always and is an attractive venue with open air outdoor seating and social distancing as well as great pizza and a full Italian menu.

The Oyster pond/Dawn beach restaurant, just north of the French side border on French St. Martin, should be open in the next several weeks. When we know the exact date, we will post it here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The good news: it's soon.

25. An Advance Look at the New Mario's Bistro

Within the last week, Mario Tardif took us on a walk-through of his fabulous new restaurant, lounge, and bar on the ocean side of the Cliff luxury condominiums on Cupecoy beach.

The Cliff is a gorgeous condominium property and Mario's new location is quite spectacular. It will be serving lunch and dinner to the public (with reservations) within the next few weeks. The restaurant will serve traditional French, Fusion, and continental cuisine that has always been the hallmark of Mario's award-winning, fantastic menu. The new lounge will offer a tapas menu as well as full bar service. And there will also be lots of surprises for fans of Mario's, as we will report here as soon as the opening date is firmly set.

The Cliff will now become even more attractive for condo owners there and people renting from condo owners, since Mario's will be offering room service to all guests of the property; that kicks the concept of "room service" up several notches.

To accommodate the needs of Mario's customers, Mario's is seriously expanding the kitchen that had been on the property. Kitchen equipment — all new — is now being installed and the official opening of the new Mario's bistro at the Cliff is coming soon.

As you would expect, we will publish information about the grand opening date for Mario's both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you're not already in that group (currently 27,000 members), you're missing out on "Everything SXM!"

26. Restaurant of the Week: IZI

iZi Ristorante Italiano -- pronounced simply "easy" -- is an exceptional gourmet-class restaurant packaged in a convenient, fun ambiance that even (for now) serves \$10 daily lunch specials.

Background: Founder/owner David Foini settled in SXM in the 90s following a culinary management career on cruise ships, and founded a small wholesale pasta-making shop in Sandy Ground called La Raviolina. His pasta got rave reviews and he kept getting urged to open a little restaurant...which he soon did, calling it La Gondola. An accomplished chef, David at times (when his chef couldn't show up) greeted diners, waited on them, zipped into the kitchen to cook their food, served it, then accompanied them to their car parked across the street in that non-tourist section of the French side.

Soon the little La Gondola was a Mecca for pasta lovers and it was brimming with business.

David subsequently moved La Gondola to posh digs at the old Atlantis Casino, where it flourished for years serving anyone who wanted extraordinary Italian fine dining. Word spread quickly, and soon TV and film stars, top recording artists, billionaires, cops, government figures, tourists by the thousands, and lots of other hungry people were regulars. It was a huge success but once the economy began to stumble toward the Great Recession, David re-imagined dining and moved to his iZi Restaurant opposite Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay, where he has been ever since.

But the real news is that David's unswerving dedication to top quality has never varied, and his artful creativity is as deliciously unique as ever. iZi reopened a bit over a week ago from their annual closing and is ready to welcome you back. iZi has been a faithful winner of Everything SXM's Culinary Award of Excellence for years -- and has our highest recommendation. iZi is superb in every respect....

Next week: Mama Pizza.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 11/23/20). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Mario's at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistro.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.

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.

27. Paving Finished on Blvd. de Grand Case

After years of unfilled promises, finally Boulevard de Grand Case, the main drag in the culinary village on the northwest side of the island, has been repaved. All but the southernmost section was done about a week ago, with the southernmost area near Rainbow and Hevea scheduled to be completed about now (Monday, Nov. 23).

Not all restaurants have yet opened in Grand Case, but several are. If you want to have dinner there, be sure to call your favorite restaurant in advance for reservations. Seating capacity has been reduced at most restaurants for social distancing reasons; calling for reservations will ensure you that your preferred restaurant is open and that you can go.

28. French Side Catamaran Charters

Note from The Editor: *Our ability to bring you SXM Weekly News every week is made possible by your membership in our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program as well as by JMB SXM Media Sponsors like the company shown below. In the coming weeks, we'll feature a Sponsor in each issue of Weekly News. Please tell them you learned about them right here:*

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters: Fabulous day on a luxury 48-ft catamaran. Spacial rates! Group charters 145\$/pers., gourmet lunch & full open bar included. Contact Zouzou via Whatsapp +590690397457 or by email zuzu97150@yahoo.com See you soon: www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

29. 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.

30. 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.

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. If you're a pass-along or PDF reader, subscribe now at xsmweeklynews.com.

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

31. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

32. 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

33. 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.

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

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

Check it out [here](#). It has just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days 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](#)

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 11/23/20)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

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 RENTALS / 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](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

Bright Path is already posting in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

Updated 11/23/20

**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.

38. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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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)

11/23/20 #V3-12754 6pm AST 11/20/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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