

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/30/20: One Huge Last Call; jetBlue's New SXM Nonstops; Latest Entry Requirements; Latest on French Side Hotel Stays for Americans; Surging Demand for Condos - Get the Facts First; Dengue Fever Heads Up; Toppers; Mario's; Tijon; Mama Pizza; Entertainment Calendar; Bernadine Ali Passes; Vacation Giveaway [42 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 3, #1275 --- Monday, 11/30/20
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

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This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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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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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- [*Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info*](#)
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Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

-- *******LAST CALL *** Biggest-Ever JMB Membership Sale Must End Sat 12/5**
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42 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://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

RENTAL 12/19/2020 12/26/2020 Week 51 **Simpson Bay Resort 2 bedroom apartment in the Allamanda Building** (can be used as two separate one bedroom units since it has a lockout feature). One bedroom unit on the first floor with king size bed and with Murphy bed in the LR and a separate lockout one bedroom unit on the second floor with king bed and sofa bed.- Each unit, upstairs and downstairs, has full kitchen and AC with TVs in each room. There are very few units at Simpson Bay Resort that have the lockout feature so it offers a great alternative to a traditional two bedroom unit. Week 51 rental is \$2,000 and we have a Week 52 for \$2,200. For both 51 and 52 rate is \$4,000 (resort taxes are paid by renter). \$2,000 Joe 508-277-7702 orgdms@aol.com

RENTAL 1/9/2021 1/30/2021 **Weeks 2-4 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Luxurious and newly renovated One bedroom unit on the 4th floor of the villas of Simpson Bay Resort.** Unit features a living room with two pull down/Murphy beds, dining area, full kitchen and sliding glass doors to the large balcony overlooking Simpson Bay and the pool. The Bedroom features a king sized bed, large closet, safe and sliding glass doors to the balcony. The tiled bathroom has two sinks and a dressing area and a private bath. The unit is conveniently located to the lobby, parking garage, restaurants, beach, casino, deli and pools. Stay all three weeks or just 1. contact owner. \$1500/week, renter pays \$50/wk dep. tax upon check out Diane 6093644655 dlmazzei@comcast.net

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

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 1/17/2021 1/24/2021 Week 3 **Simpson Bay Marina and Resort Poolside studio** unit that was newly renovated in the lower "B" building. Beach, pools, tennis, pickleball, restaurants and shopping all on property. More restaurants and shopping within walking distance. Water activities on site. Beautiful landscaping and property. \$1,500 Debbie 330-503-1410 dmorri3035@gmail.com

SALE 7/4/2020 7/25/2020 Weeks 27, 28, 29 **Simpson Bay Resort & Casino Marina penthouse, 1 of 5 suites on top floor, incl. dedicated parking space; sleep 6 w. 2 bedrooms,** king beds, 2 twin Murphy beds, 2 full baths, 2 convenience safes; recent renovations incl. stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; spacious living space, approx. 1700 sq. ft., includes seat-6 dining table, living room w. TV, enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, add'l seat-4 table/chairs; large balcony w. hot tub overlooks Simpson Bay; easy access to beaches, pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to restaurants in Simpson Bay; pictures available on request; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; \$16,500 per week 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.everythingsxm.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. jetBlue Begins Nonstop Flights EWR to SXM; CLT Coming?

JetBlue has begun weekend nonstop flights from Newark to SXM with its Mint service. The airline now flies nonstop to SXM from four airports — Newark, JFK, Boston, and Fort Lauderdale. Flight frequencies are expected to increase significantly starting in February. Take special note of pricing which is particularly attractive right now for many winter flights.

JetBlue is also expected to ram heads with American Airlines which has long provided the only nonstop flights from its major hub in Charlotte. JetBlue is flying from Charlotte to SXM next Spring, by connection, but is expected to offer nonstops later in the year to compete with AA. Check local listings.

These are big expansions into SXM for JetBlue, which is expected to increase frequency in all of its gateways starting in

February, the heart of high season, if the market demand is there as expected.

1a. "2020" TV Show Takes Long Look at Boeing 737 MAX

See a full review of the history of this airplane -- the same one that crashed twice due to Boeing errors, killing 346 people including some of our readers -- and then decide if you want to fly it about a month from now, when it starts to return to the skies in the USA and around the world. Here is the [2020 story](#). To us it looks shockingly complete and quite stunning.

2. Watch for Fare Sales This Winter

In their bid to fill the seats on their airplanes, airlines are offering unusually attractive pricing in sales for winter flights -- especially for vacation packages but also for airfares themselves -- to SXM from many cities. We are seeing these already from JetBlue, Delta, and others. If you're not a member of the airlines' frequent flyer programs, join — that way you will get details when the sales first begin. Sales include cities/airports across the country.

3. Some Flights Still Being Cancelled; Check Flights To/From SXM

All major airlines serving SXM are still canceling flights at the last minute if there aren't enough people aboard them to satisfy them. Of course, not everyone minds being stranded on SXM. But many others have medical appointments, job obligations, and other important plans awaiting them at home. Don't be surprised by cancellations: do check for them frequently, both before you travel and after you are on SXM, and contact the airlines directly for alternative dates.

WEATHER:

4. Hurricane Season Ends Today, BUT - Two Areas of Concern

Although hurricane season ends today (Monday, November 30), as of late Saturday when this article was written there were two areas of concern on National Hurricane Center maps: one well off the coast of Spain and the Strait of Gibraltar, and the second to the southeast of Bermuda. It may be that neither amounts to anything, but the NHC is watching both as is our chief meteorologist, Rob Lightbown.

Should anything develop on either of these fronts, we will post the information in our [Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

Hurricane season statistically ends November 30, Forecaster Lightbown said recently that he would not be surprised to see further development especially during the first couple of weeks of December — so we will continue to watch what's happening as intently as ever to keep our members and readers informed.

5. 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***

6. 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.)

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See the [rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

COVID-19: Please Read and Retain - UPDATED 11/28/20

7. Exact Current SXM Tourist Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for St. Maarten changed effective November 25. Since that date, SXM has accepted 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 the "EHAS" site 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.

8. 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 was 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.

9. 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.

10. 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. It's humans who will review your materials and respond as quickly as humanly possible.

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.

IMPORTANT: 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.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR APPLICATION IS DENIED DESPITE A NEGATIVE TEST: First, make absolutely sure that you followed all of the EHAS requirements to the letter in terms of what you've submitted and its completeness. If you did, resubmit at once, perhaps from another email address. What sometimes happens despite a complete, accurate, negative-results submission is that one of you is approved and the other is denied. If you're denied twice, contact Jeff Berger directly via Facebook Messenger (his SXM FB site is www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) giving him ALL of the required information. PDFs of all required documentation are a huge help. He does not work 24/7 but will give it to a third party who may be able to help (no cost) as quickly as possible. He does monitor Messenger frequently. Do ***NOT*** email or fax to JMB Communications. No guarantees but we'll try to help.

11. 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.
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12. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport

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.

13. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

Once you have arrived in St. Maarten, EHAS will email you a notice with a link to their site. You are required to click the link which takes you to a very brief online form which asks you to record your temperature and whether you 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.

Staying on the French side? See Important French side health requirements info in Story 16.

Etc.

14. 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

15. Is Porto Cupecoy Hotel or Condo? (Casino, Marina...)

Is Porto Cupecoy a condominium complex or a hotel? Most people consider it a condominium complex, since for years that's the way it has been sold. A year ago, however, some rooms were converted to hotel accommodations and the word "hotel" was added to the signage seen as you enter the property. In fact, that signage now reads Hotel, Casino, and Marina.

In a story about planned employee layoffs/terminations at the property, the Dutch side SXM *Daily Herald* recently referred to the property as a Hotel. A day or so later, it ran a correction, saying it is not a hotel but a condominium property. We're not sure why they did that since "hotel" is still on the property's signage and it has continued to be promoted that way by Porto Cupecoy itself, as you'll see [here](#). It's one time that a newspaper can, if it wants, correct a correction.

16. French Side Opens Hotel Doors to Americans Starting 12/1 But...

The French side officially opens the doors of its hotels to Americans starting tomorrow, Tuesday, December 1. Because French side admission requirements differ a bit from those on the Dutch side, it will be necessary for stayover guests at French side hotels and other places of accommodation to submit to an antigen test; arrangements for that were being finalized at press time, but your hotel should have that information. The hotel or other property (guest house / villa) MUST sign an agreement with the French side government to ensure that all guests have a free antigen test within 48 hours of arrival on the French side. If they have not done so already, the property (hotel / villa) is supposed to tell you where to go [Hope estate, French side, near the big Super U] to be given a free antigen test.

If you are planning a hotel stay on the French side tomorrow or later, be sure you are fully aware of the testing requirements through the property where you will be staying. Test results should be almost instantaneous for the antigen test. We will publish more about this as soon as we have it.

17. La Samanna May Reopen in January After All...

In a severe blow to the French side economy just a few weeks ago, La Samanna had announced that it would be closed for the entire high season. It made that decision based upon the French state's then-declared position that Americans could not come to any French side hotels. After much protest by the French side, as we recently reported that policy has been reversed and hotels are reopening effective tomorrow, December 1; see previous story.

As a consequence of the change in policy, it appears now that La Samanna may in fact reopen sometime in January 2021. It had been reported to *SXM Weekly News* that Belmond, which owns the property, was sending La Samanna reservations to its Cap Juluca property in neighboring Anguilla. As soon as we have final information about when La Samanna will actually be reopening, we'll report that information here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The reopening will be a big help to the French side, which needs a strong shot in the arm for its beleaguered hospitality business.

18. Big Demand Now for Longer SXM Stays & Full-Share Condos

Whether it is caused by political concerns, Covid, or anything else, SXM is seeing a significant uptick in demand for timeshare stay extensions, condominium rentals, and SXM condominium ownership. (Resorts catering to older clientele are also seeing a number of cancellations in direct response to Covid.)

The bottom line: many people want to come sooner to SXM and stay later this year than usual — a trend which appears to be widespread across the Caribbean. It is also reflected in the surge in recent years of condominium construction projects across the island, especially in the Cupecoy area where the first of the twin towers in the "14" project is rapidly nearing construction completion. That's also the situation at the new Drake Residences on the northern end of Simpson Bay beach.

If you are looking for timeshare rentals, you will find availability directly from owners on our main site, everythingSXM.com; just click the link for timeshare rentals. If you're looking for private rental condominiums, contact one of our rental partners that you'll find in the sponsor list near the end of this edition of *SXM Weekly News*. They are also outstanding sources should you wish to purchase private full-share condominiums directly.

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. LAST CALL: Biggest Black Friday Sale Must End This Saturday, Dec. 5

*******ABSOLUTE LAST CALL:*******

OUR BIGGEST BLACK FRIDAY SALE EVER
MUST END THIS SATURDAY
DEC. 5!

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. Heads Up Re: Dengue Fever

Although it has not been mentioned much in the media throughout the Caribbean in recent months because of Covid, the mosquito-borne virus dengue fever is unfortunately alive and well here — and there are dozens of cases of it for every case of Covid.

It's a specific strain of mosquito that carries dengue fever (as well, potentially, as Chikungunya, Zika, and other viruses). That strain is *Aedes-Aegypti* which is black with what look a bit like white racing stripes. Ordinary mosquitoes are similar in color to household dirt.

It is always best to take precautions against the possibility of mosquito bites, especially if you are a common target. The rainy season has brought with it its share of mosquitoes, though we personally have not seen unusual numbers.

We strongly suggest you buy an effective repellent locally such as mosquito milk that is widely available in pharmacies and some supermarkets in SXM. The strongest version of it, which is the one we recommend, is available as a roll-on and one bottle should last most people several weeks. It has a pleasant lemongrass fragrance which apparently mosquitoes don't care for.

More about dengue fever is [here](#).

25. Toppers Rhum Distillery (@ Carousel) Officially Opens Tomorrow; Tours Starting

Toppers Rhum Distillery has now completed its relocation from the Cole Bay industrial area to the former site of the carousel in Simpson Bay. Normal distillery operations are beginning and tours are scheduled to start tomorrow, Tuesday, December 1. Stop by anytime to get yourself on the schedule for the distillery tour, which includes lots of rum tasting. Toppers Restaurant will also be relocating to the site of the former carousel in the coming weeks, but until then it remains at its site for many years in Simpson Bay off Welfare Road.

The distillery includes a comprehensive Gift Shop with lots of T-shirts and numerous other items you can keep as mementos of your trip. There are also about 100 rum flavors you can buy in different sizes only at the distillery — and they are not subject to tariffs / taxes when you import them into the United States. So — get as many as you want. There are lots of new flavors, too.

The carousel itself will be moving to the immigration area at SXM airport in the coming weeks. After that relocation has been accomplished, Toppers Restaurant will move into the area formerly occupied by the carousel, with added open-air seating facing the lagoon.

If you're wondering what will happen to the wonderful Gelateria that was here, the good news is it is still here making those same wonderful ice creams / Italian gelato that you have long appreciated. Diego, the master ice cream maker, will continue in his role as chief Ice Cream maker with the Toppers businesses.

We will publish more about the relocation of the Toppers restaurant in the coming weeks, both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

26. Mario's Bistro (@ The Cliff) Officially Opens Saturday

Mario's Bistro has completed its long-awaited move to the Cliff and officially opens this coming Saturday, December 5. You can find more information [here](#) and you can also call for reservations at the number on their website.

We've consistently raved about Mario's for years: Mario hails from Québec and offers a unique spectrum of dining exuberance, fusing flavors from France, the Caribbean, the Continent, and many other locales around the world. It is a marvelously unique restaurant from its very special appetizers to its decadent desserts. Make your reservations soon to avoid disappointment. Mario's has earned our highest recommendation for many years and has received our Culinary Award of Excellence many times. .

27. Unforgettable: Create Your Own Perfume at Tijon Parfumerie

One of the most unforgettable experiences you can ever have here on SXM is creating your own personal fragrance -- for women or men -- at the Tijon Parfumerie at the northern end of Boulevard de Grand Case at the corner of the road to the French side airport, opposite Spiga restaurant.

We had heard of the Parfumerie for years, and had been there several times to buy perfume — but we had never taken the short time required to learn how to make our own until a couple of years ago.

The process is explained with perfect clarity by John or Cyndi Berglund or one of their experienced staff. From the start you're armed with a selection of hundreds of very specific fragrances from which you can choose those that complement each other and deliver the type of fragrance you can long enjoy. The blending process is educational, stimulating, and thoroughly enjoyable. Whether it's for a special afternoon just for the two of you, or the one of you, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or anything else, creating your own fragrance is a highly pleasurable experience. Not only do you get to take home your creation, Tijon keeps a record of its formula so you can have them re-create and ship it to you as often as you like — or you can simply pick it up at the Parfumerie in Grand Case.

The cost is very reasonable and the experience truly is unforgettable, and you will think of St. Maarten every time anyone compliments you on the fragrance and every time you use it.

For much more, see www.tijon.com.

28. Bernadine Ali Passes Away; Heralded Animal Advocate

Bernadine Ali, who for years gave all her energies to helping homeless animals, has passed away from cancer. She was 60. Bernadine worked for years at the small commercial center at the top of the hill just north of the main entrance to Orient beach. The area was a stop for tour buses and it was there that she sold some local items and also collected money to fund all of the food she bought over the years for hundreds of animals from the area. She was well known to animal welfare advocates and to the hordes of tourists who stopped by to help her through their donations.

Bernadine always put the animals ahead of herself and her personal needs, even after the island and her own home were devastated by hurricane Irma. She passed away a week ago.

A number of animals have been seen in recent days near where she used to feed them, sadly looking for her. We have a list of other animal welfare agencies on the island in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); please check there if you'd like to donate to the welfare of animals across SXM.

29. Restaurant of the Week: Mama Pizza

Picture dining outdoors under a delightful canopy beside a lagoon Marina with gentle breezes. Picture an extensive menu of all your favorite types of pizza as well as lots of authentic Italian entree recipes.

Although "Trattoria" is not part of the official name of Mama Pizza, that's what it is — the atmosphere of an Italian home where there's lots of food, lots of talk, a bit of noise, and abundant happiness.

We have reported to you about the Mama Pizza restaurant in Porto Cupecoy for the last several years. Desmond Culbert's restaurant is flat out outstanding — large servings of delicious food at reasonable prices and a great ambience.

A couple of weeks ago, we were there with a small family party (out in the breezes socially distanced from others). I usually have either a large pizza of some kind (often with custom ingredients) or their chicken Parmesan with a side order of fettuccine — a huge portion perfectly prepared that lasts me for at least two meals... and I usually have a ravenous appetite.

On this visit, Desmond asked if I like fish — which I do. I wound up having Mahi-Mahi with garlic spaghetti and it was superb. He suggested next time that I also try grouper prepared with Parmesan — grouper Parmesan, and I will do exactly that... soon.

You can't miss with a place like this. Plus, their sister restaurant in Oyster pond will be reopening in January, Desmond tells us. We'll publish the exact date here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as it approaches.

We highly recommend Mama Pizza at Porto Cupecoy. Go, and tell them we sent you. Reservations strongly recommended. Take out is also available, of course.

Next week: Avantika Thai.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/30/20) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

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.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.

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.

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.

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.

30. SXM Entertainment Calendar Now In Our SXM FB Site

We have long published the island92 SXM entertainment calendar in our main site, everythingSXM.com. Effective in November, however, we transitioned it to our Jeff Berger's [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). The December issue will post tomorrow (Tuesday) morning, Tuesday, December 1. It offers you a look at venues for live music across the Dutch side with some on Anguilla.

The list is compiled by Island92 and we simply run it. We don't have the bandwidth to create such a list ourselves, but we do invite owners of local venues who are not listed in the entertainment calendar to contact Jeffrey Sochrin at Island92 concerning advertising opportunities in the calendar and on the station, which has an enormous listenership both on the island and among SXM tourists from around the world. Readers can also listen live to Island92 at www.island92.com. The entertainment calendar is also frequently broadcast on their two radio stations, 91.9 and 105.1.

31. "Rest" Assured: In SXM, there's plenty of toilet paper

We know there have been runs on toilet paper again in some places in the US because of the surge of coronavirus cases there. If you plan to come to SXM, you can "rest" assured there is plenty of toilet paper here and no panic buying....

32. Paving "Almost Finished" on Blvd. de Grand Case

A week ago, we reported here that paving of Grand Case Boulevard would be finished a week ago, which is exactly what the government was saying at the time.

We should know by now that when the French side government says a paving project will be finished by a certain date, it is a cast-iron certainty that it won't be finished anywhere near that date. But we were trusting...

Most of Boulevard de Grand Case has now been repaved — all but the southernmost section. It looks like it *could* be finished soon but we really have no idea when they will actually get it done. Detours are set up only at the far southern end of Boulevard de Grand Case now. The rest, finally, is smooth, clean new asphalt

There is also much additional road construction in progress on the French side, as we had previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*. So far there has been much milling, where construction workers break up the top layer of asphalt and haul it away. Supposedly all this construction work will be finished in the next few weeks — but don't count on it.

Incidentally, much milled asphalt has been dumped near the "carbets" on Orient beach, the small relatively new restaurants and shops near the beach's southern end. That's where the road is heavily rutted. We expect they'll smooth out the mountains of asphalt to make the road slightly less awful to drive -- but we have no idea when. Until then, they're obstacles that must be driven around since they're taller than the cars parked nearby.

33. 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, Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach, Adonis Cupecoy hotel, 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, and a car rental. Quite the giveaway.

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?

34. 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.

35. 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

36. 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.

37. 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).

38. 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 everythingsexm.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.

39. 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.

40. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 11/30/20)

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 11/30/20

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

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

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

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

11/30/20 #V3-1275 8pm AST 11/28/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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