

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/28/20: Royal Palm, Flamingo Reopen This Friday; French Side Marriott Gets Thumbs Down; Hurricane Season 2021 Early Updates; Boeing's Potential New Debacle; JetBlue Continues Expanding; United Airlines' Latest Blunder; Divi; Planet Hollywood; Marigot Waterfront Project Gets a Boost; Shoppers Haven; iZi; Six-Vacation Giveaway [48 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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

+++++WISHING ALL READERS A HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND PROSPEROUS 2021!+++++

Vol. 3, #1279 --- Monday, 12/28/20  
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*

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

From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

Add [jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com) to your address book to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

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

**Important Note:**

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

***Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 346,000 people around the world...***

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



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



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

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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

**Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:**

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

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

**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

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

***Top Stories in Today's SXM Weekly News:***

**Weather; Getting Here; Covid:**

- ***2021 Hurricane Season First Thoughts: Meteorologist Rob Lightbown***
- ***Jet Blue Now Serving SXM from Four US Gateways***
- ***Milan to SXM Aboard Jet Blue? Could Happen***
- ***Some Flights Still Being Cancelled***
- ***Another Boeing Debacle Brewing? The 787 Problem...***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***
- > ***Our Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Updated)***

**SXM Accommodations:**

- ***Royal Palm, Flamingo Officially Reopen January 1***
- ***Divi Resort: Rapid Progress on new Buildings***
- ***Still Nothing Happening at Planet Hollywood Site***
- ***Royal Islander at Great Bay Update***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***
- ***More New Rentals for 2021 Available at Everythingsexm.com***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***

**Other Island Headlines for Tourists:**

- ***Much-Vaunted French Side Marriott Resort Proposal Gets Thumbs Down...***
- ***The €20-Million Marigot Waterfront Project May Really Happen***
- ***Sixth Vacation added to our Upcoming "7 Million Reasons" SXM Vacation Giveaway***
- ***Business Feature: Shoppers Haven's Prize Drawing Set for New Year's Eve - But More Is Coming***
- ***IZI Makes Things Easy: \$10 Lunches, Half-Price Pasta Dishes\* at Dinner***
- ***Restaurant of the Week: iZi***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***

#####  
 -- ***Get SkyMed Medevac Protection BEFORE You Need It***  
 #####

-- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***  
 #####  
 -- ***SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot Traffic***

***Please see our complete Table of Contents below.***

**48** News Stories This Week

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingsexm.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** 3/20/2021 3/27/2021 Week 12 **The Villas of Simpson Bay 4th floor unit close to the marina building with full afternoon shade on private balcony.** This rental is for a junior suite with 2 full beds, efficiency kitchen, TV, and

DVD player. Casino, grocery store, gift shop, and restaurants located on the resort with many more within walking distance. 1100 Debbie 412-952-7577 [d\\_henle@msn.com](mailto:d_henle@msn.com)

**RENTAL** 10/23/2021 10/30/2021 Week 43 **Atrium Resort 1 bedroom unit with full kitchen and renovated bathroom.** 5th floor corner unit overlooking Kim Sha Beach and lagoon. \$1,100.00 Joe 631 929-8231 [jbi@justice.com](mailto:jbi@justice.com)

See them all at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](mailto:jbhegarty@comcast.net)

**SALE** 2/29/2020 3/7/2020 Week 9 **Simpson Bay Resort** One bedroom, Regatta Week. Bougainvillea Bldg. spectacular views, from patio, third floor, also panoramic views from dining room, with floor to ceiling window, views to marina. King bed, two Murphy beds also in living room, sleep 4. Full kitchen, dining room, living room. AC, televisions in two rooms. Granite, and stainless appliances. 5 star amenities. Olympic Pool with swim up bar, tennis courts, basketball. Casino on property, restaurants, shopping, night club, groceries, bakeries. Walking distance to all other off property restaurants. \$5,500.00 Karen [Rinkydy151@aol.com](mailto:Rinkydy151@aol.com)

See them all at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](#)

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories**

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

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



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

### **"Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group**

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

### **Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:**

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

[http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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](http://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](http://www.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

## **Complete Table of Contents**

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

**--Scroll Down To This Section--**

**Getting Here:**

1. Jet Blue Now Serving SXM from Four US Gateways
  2. Milan to SXM Aboard Jet Blue? Could Happen
  3. Some Flights Still Being Cancelled
  4. Another Boeing Debacle Brewing? The 787 Problem...
  5. Air Canada Boeing 737 MAX Makes Emergency Landing
  6. A THIRD Major Screw-Up by United Airlines
- See **COVID-19 / Entry Requirements Information, below**

**Weather:**

7. 2021 Hurricane Season First Thoughts: Meteorologist Rob Lightbown
8. December Weather Gets Back to Normal
9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

**COVID-19 - General:**

10. Details on Signing Up for Covid Insurance
11. Got Holiday Flights? Re: EHAS, Rest Assured
12. Repeating: What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted
13. Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!

**COVID-19 - Guide to Entry Requirements**

14. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (REVISED 12/20/20)
15. What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time")
16. Finding and Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area
17. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice
18. About The New COVID Insurance Requirement
19. **\*\*\*VERY Important\*\*\*: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials**
20. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)
21. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport
22. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

**Etc.:**

23. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

**--Scroll Down To This Section--**

24. Royal Palm, Flamingo Officially Reopen January 1
  25. Divi Resort: Rapid Progress on new Buildings
  26. Still Nothing Happening at Planet Hollywood Site
  27. Royal Islander at Great Bay Update
  28. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info
  29. More New Rentals for 2021 Available at Everythingsxm.com
  30. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units
- SEE MAIN NEWS SECTION ABOUT FRENCH SIDE MARRIOTT**

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

**Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

**--Scroll Down To This Section--**

31. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

**Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features**

**--Scroll Down To This Section--**

32. Much-Vaunted French Side Marriott Resort Proposal Gets Thumbs Down...
33. The €20-Million Marigot Waterfront Project May Really Happen
34. Sixth Vacation added to our Upcoming "7 Million Reasons" SXM Vacation Giveaway
35. Shoppers Haven Prize Drawing Set for New Year's Eve - But More Coming
36. IZI Makes Things Easy: \$10 Lunches, Half-Price Pasta Dishes\* at Dinner
37. Restaurant of the Week: iZi
38. Going Home? Check Your State's Return Policies

- 39. SXM Entertainment Calendar Now on Our Site
- 40. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits To our SXM Site...
- 41. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

42. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

- 43. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 44. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 45. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
- 46. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate
- 47. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 48. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

**Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)**

- A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)
- B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).
- C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)**

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

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

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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. Jet Blue Now Serving SXM from Four US Gateways**

Although all airlines have seen their flight schedules shrink substantially since last March when Covid first started being seriously felt in the US, nonetheless one airline has continued to grow — that airline is JetBlue.

Currently, JetBlue is serving SXM from four US gateways — New York Kennedy, Boston Logan, Fort Lauderdale, and Newark. That list could increase over time to include BWI or DCA. Equally interesting is the fact that JetBlue appears to be interested in making a substantial splash in Miami, a major international gateway that also has many Caribbean flights.

JetBlue has not finished expanding in SXM. Its expansion has simply been slowed by Covid — temporarily.



---

## 2. Milan to SXM Aboard Jet Blue? Could Happen

JetBlue is expanding into Europe during 2021 or early 2022, initially into London. But the airline has been remarkably clear that it intends to move beyond London — and do so fairly quickly.

The airline typically starts major new flights from its main hub at New York Kennedy. In fact, it says its flights to London will start from JFK but rapidly expand to Boston — both of which have flights to SXM.

There has been white speculation that the second city in Europe that JetBlue will serve may be Milan — Italy's second largest airport with a significant international presence. JetBlue says that it goes after underserved, high-priced markets where its competition effectively lowers prices generally and enhances frequencies.

Bottom line, people who are looking for comfortable, comparatively inexpensive connecting services from London to SXM or from Milan to SXM may well find the pricing that JetBlue will offer too good to pass up. Passengers from Europe currently must go to Paris or Amsterdam to get nonstop service to SXM — making flights for many a two-airplane affair. But when JetBlue starts serving London and later, Milan, two-airplane service via JFK to SXM becomes far easier for both cities and truly attractive connecting prices become much more likely.

In the next few years, that's some of what is likely to happen here. When preclearance becomes a reality as we have previously discussed, and many more Airbus A220 aircraft come into service with US airlines (including jetBlue), the opportunity will exist for more nonstop flights to SXM from more midsize and smaller cities. The increase in the number of gateways to SXM, we are convinced, is far from over.

---

## 3. Some Flights Still Being Cancelled

If you have reservations aboard any US or Canadian carriers in the next few months, particularly if connections are involved, be sure to check your flight reservations frequently and be ready to react flexibly if your flights are changed. That continues to happen to a number of people although the number of cancellations does seem to be declining. This applies to US airlines primarily but will apply to Canadian carriers once they start flying to SXM again this winter.

For related information, please see the Covid section below regarding recently updated entry requirements for both sides of the island and also about-to-be-required Covid insurance, also covered in the Covid section below.

---

## 4. Another Boeing Debacle Brewing? The 787 Problem...

Long-range, advanced technology, highly fuel-efficient Boeing 787 Airliners have been around for a number of years. The so-called Dreamliner made headlines when it first started flying because some lithium-ion batteries used on board as part of airliner functionality malfunctioned causing fires. For a brief while, the Dreamliner seemed more like a Nightmare to Boeing.

Ultimately that problem was solved without significant effects on airline personnel or passengers. But since then, Covid has caused a number of long-haul overseas flights on which 787s had been used to drop, motivating airlines to use them for some domestic flights and also certain flights to the Caribbean. (We do not know of any currently being used for flights to SXM, but that could happen either through US carriers flying the aircraft or foreign carriers coming to SXM.) Here is [much more](#) about the new rather serious issue affecting 787's. Structural failure of aircraft due to manufacturing defects should not even be possible. Many 787's had been pulled out of service for heavy inspections as a result of manufacturing defects.

Fortunately, so far planes have been safe while flying and there have not been any serious results from these issues: but fatigue takes time to develop. The concern about 787 manufacturing quality comes on the heels of the 737 Max debacle which caused 346 deaths on two 737 Max aircraft that crashed due to defective MCAS systems. Regulators want to make sure the 787 is safe for everyone and will do whatever it takes to make sure that happens -- even if they find it necessary to ground the whole 787 fleet, would would be an entirely new Boeing debacle..

---

## 5. Air Canada Boeing 737 MAX Makes Emergency Landing

And Air Canada Boeing 737 Max on a test flight flying over Arizona suffered an engine malfunction. Ultimately, the engine had to be shut down in the plane had an [emergency landing in Tucson](#). Such issues don't happen often but when they do, pilots have established procedures for dealing with them; they become an inconvenience and nothing resembling a tragedy.

However, this one happened aboard a 737 Max — the same aircraft type that had been grounded worldwide since March 2019. This one was on a test flight for Air Canada. The Airliner is expected to return to wide service soon and with Canadian carriers on a rolling basis next year. Canada has imposed somewhat different conditions for return to service of the 737 Max by Canadian carriers and will take time to complete their return.

There is nothing to suggest, as of now, that this is anything other than a minor malfunction. But it will be checked carefully just in case....

---

## 6. A THIRD Major Screw-Up by United Airlines

There was a time when United Airlines was symbolized in its advertising featuring George Gershwin's immortal Rhapsody in Blue — stunning music reflecting the majesty of one of the world's foremost airlines. Lately, news about the antics of United Airlines had been anything but music to the ears of its passengers, employees, and shareholders.

It started a few years ago when a passenger was dragged off United Airlines plane virtually without cause. A couple of weeks ago, a two-year-old who refused to wear a mask caused his parents and the child to be removed from an airplane without their child seat and luggage — even though the WHO specifies that two-year-olds should not be required to wear masks. Logic alone should've led to the same conclusion by United Airlines.

The [latest incident](#) is arguably the worst. Within the last couple of weeks, a passenger aboard a United flight died aboard the airplane and was found to be Covid positive. How the passenger ever was allowed on the plane with that diagnosis is unknown, but it reflects a huge failure on many levels at United Airlines. But the worse problem is that United has never bothered to notify passengers aboard that flight that they may have been exposed Covid, which means that they have since gone about their lives normally without quarantining and without protecting anyone who is close to them and to whom they may have unwittingly passed the virus.

United used to be an airline that I flew frequently. That hasn't happened in years; the airline has a lot of work to do to improve the passenger experience it offers at every level.

**See [SXM COVID-19 / Entry Requirements Information, below](#)**

---

### **WEATHER:**

---

## 7. 2021 Hurricane Season First Thoughts: Rob Lightbown

Since the record-breaking 2020 hurricane season finally ended on November 30, we thought it was time to ask our chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown, who is also the head of Crown Weather ([www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com)), what his initial thoughts are concerning the 2021 hurricane season which begins June 1. Here are his comments:

*I am already beginning to take a look at what the 2021 Hurricane Season for the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico may be like and early indications are that it could be yet another active season.*

*The reason why I think this is because the current La Nina conditions are probably going to head for neutral ENSO conditions for the heart of the hurricane season. In fact, we may not see any El Nino conditions until at least winter of 2021-2022.*

*In addition to this, model guidance from the CFS model and CanSIPS indicate that ocean water temperatures may be above average across much of the Atlantic Basin and that wind shear values may be near or below average across a large part of the Atlantic. This means that environmental conditions may be quite favorable for tropical development.*



**My preliminary numbers for the 2021 Hurricane Season are:**

15 to 20 Named Storms.

10 Hurricanes.

5 Major Hurricanes.

Unlike 2020, I think that the 2021 Hurricane Season may see much more in the long-track storms, which could put the Lesser Antilles and at least the eastern half of the Caribbean at risk. This is something that you commonly see with neutral ENSO conditions.

*In addition, I think that this could put the Bahamas, much of the Florida Peninsula and the U.S. East Coast at risk in 2021. Any small deviations in the track could also put the eastern Gulf of Mexico at risk as well.*

*Finally, with ENSO conditions potentially warming towards El Nino conditions, it could lead to an end of the hurricane season sometime during October or very early November.*

*I will be monitoring the long range signals for the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season very closely in the coming months and will have updates for you as needed.*

Rob Lightbown heads Crown Weather and is Chief meteorologist for Everything SXM.

---

## 8. December Weather Gets Back to Normal

The weather during much of December wasn't particularly December-like. December weather— "celebrating" the last month of the rainy season — usually has plenty of sun but also a lot of showers, some of them gutter-fillers. That is what weather here was like during Christmas week, with a number of heavy showers passing through during the day and heavy rain at night some nights.

During January, the weather generally transitions to a much drier pattern with high temperatures in the mid-80s and nighttime temperatures in the mid-70s, sometimes lower.

We'll have more on winter weather in SXM during the coming three months of winter. With water temps in the 80s and lots of sun — and no ice except in drinks — SXM is certainly the place, as always, to get away from harsh winter weather up north.

---

## 9. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

---

### **COVID-19: General**

## **10. Details on Signing Up for Covid Insurance**

At this writing on Saturday, the Dutch side has not yet formally announced its plan for requiring Covid insurance to be purchased from the EHAS site before passengers can come to SXM Airport. Once it does, the cost will be \$30 per person per visit for people aged 15 and over and visit lengths from a few days to 180 days, with \$10 fees for children under 15.

We'll publish their formal announcement in a special email to JMB Website Supporters members upon its issuance, then to both our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and here of course in *SXM Weekly News*.

**If you have a trip planned to SXM during the next couple of weeks, we strongly urge you to become a member of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) so you will see this information the day it happens and be able to know what to do about it.** The good news is that you will be able to sign up for it on the EHAS site quickly and easily. Details will follow as soon as we have them.

---

## **11 . Got Holiday Flights? Re: EHAS, Rest Assured**

Repeating: We want to reassure people who are traveling during the holidays that the turnaround of their preapproval will not be impacted by holiday vacations in SXM.

EHAS is part of SXM Airport which does not close or alter its hours for holidays; it just keeps on ticking.

Consequently, if you submit an application for approval to visit SXM during the holiday period, your application will not be impacted by vacations. However, it is extremely important that once you have the negative results from your Covid test, you submit your application for approval to visit the island through the EHAS portal at once, thoroughly checking everything you send (see Covid section, below). Give them as much time as you possibly can to ensure wiggle room in case there is some kind of delay. EHAS asks that potential visitors allow a minimum of 12 hours for approvals (or denials) to be issued.

EHAS is the organization that processes applications to visit SXM that are filed online. See complete information about all entry requirements in our **Guide to Entry Requirements** in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook](#)

[Group](#), and below in every issue of SXM Weekly News. Our Guide is constantly updated.

## 12. What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted

Although the EHAS system has already been staffed up (and staff continues to be augmented due to rising demand), EHAS is manned by humans, not computers, and in rare instances these humans may make mistakes. Although it seldom happens, in some cases husband-and-wife or other partners may submit identical applications with identical negative Covid test results both of which meet all requirements — and one may be approved and the other denied.

If this happens to you, check your application completely to make sure it meets all of the requirements described in crisp clear details in our Guide to Entry Requirements published in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If it does, and if time allows (for example, if your flight is at least a day or two away), resubmit your application after checking it very thoroughly. We have had people submit applications three times, receiving their approval after two denials. Incidences are rare but they do happen.

If you are within a day of your flight and have received multiple denials after carefully checking your application to make sure it meets all qualifications, PM Jeff Berger directly in Facebook messenger and give him all the details and copies of all the PDFs of all your forms. Do not send images either to EHAS or to us — you must send PDFs, which are clearer and more usable (that's what we instruct in our Guide). JPEGs (photographic images) are a rather sure way to get a rejection. Jeff will see your message within a few hours at the most and will try to help everyone in this situation, with priority attention given to members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program through its Ombudsman benefit. We do work as quickly as possible to help you but cannot guarantee any results -- but we do have a pretty good record.

## 13. Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!

Although our complete **Guide to SXM Entry Requirements**, which begins below, tells you everything you need to know to navigate the requirements successfully, the bottom line is that you must double check everything you are submitting to the EHAS portal very carefully before hitting the submit button. In most instances, when applications are denied, the cause is traveler error — either incorrect or incomplete information is being submitted or information is not being submitted in the proper format. That's why it is so imperative to ensure that you double check everything before submitting your preapproval application to EHAS.

***COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 12/20/20***

## 14. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements

***See the Major News Story in our Island News Section about the new requirement on SXM for Covid Insurance, coming very soon.***

Effective November 25, SXM began 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 and listing the types of antigen tests accepted, is in the Covid area of the FILES in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (and is also below). 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 Dutch-side government 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.

That site is also where you will be able to sign up for the soon-to-be-required Covid insurance. Stay tuned for details on that.

---

## 15. 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.

---

## 16. 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.

---

## 17. 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.

---

## 18. About the New COVID Insurance Requirement

As soon as they are issued by the government of the Dutch side of the island, we will publish specifics concerning the new Covid insurance requirement in this section for our readers. We will also publish a special edition of *SXM Weekly News* after sending a Bulletin to our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members with all of these important specifics.

We do know SIGN-UP will be remarkably easy and will not require any formal detailed application or medical information; all applicants will be accepted, we are told. All you do is click the link to get the insurance, provide your name and credit card information and the dates of your travel, and we are told approval will be immediate. We will publish all of the program features and benefits as soon as they are released in detail by the government.

---

## 19. \*\*\*VERY Important\*\*\*: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 12/28/20)

There is often a common thread influencing denials. But since it is a human process, in rare cases human error can occur.

First, we'll deal with the common threads.

When submitting your negative PCR or antigen test in PDF format, make sure it is done in PDF format — not a picture or JPEG. JPEG's can be very difficult to read and that could be the basis of a denial. All of the required information is, of course, required information.

So, create a checklist from the information you see in this Guide and follow it religiously when submitting your data. In fact, it is wise to find out what format your report will be in before you take the test, to ensure that the report will contain all the information SXM requires. That's not as difficult as it may appear, since most laboratories now are accustomed to issuing negative reports containing all information required for travel. Just be sure in advance that your report does include everything SXM requires. We often see prospective tourists send us applications they have submitted that were denied — many containing handwriting which is not allowed according to the requirements. No handwriting means no handwriting.

Second, sometimes you don't receive a response within several hours of submitting your application. If that happens to you, double check your application very closely to make sure that it conforms to all applicable requirements. Then and only then, resubmit the application — and double check the email address to make sure it is spelled correctly since obviously, incorrect email addresses don't work. Check your passport number too as you wrote it in the online application — if it's one digit different from your actual passport number, you aren't going to SXM.

Third, as we said, in rare cases human error can play a role in denials. EHAS has been staffing up further to help ensure its ability to provide quick, responsive, and accurate service to all applicants, something it is trying to do expeditiously.

Fourth, sometimes you and your spouse will take tests at the same time from the same people and receive the same negative results. One of you will submit an application which is approved and the other may be denied. If time allows, resubmit the declined application after making absolutely sure that it is accurate and complete and meets all requirements. However if time does not allow that PM Jeff Berger through Facebook Messenger (not by email or phone) and give him all the information you sent to the government including that an identical application had been sent in and approved. There are no guarantees but we will try to help. If you don't have Facebook, get it — that's the only way we can handle these situations expeditiously. (We get just under 5000 emails a day and have filters for them so we can't guarantee we would receive your email inquiry, which is why we are requiring you to respond to us by Facebook messenger.) N. B.: We do NOT check it every two minutes, so don't expect an instant reply.)

---

## 20. 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); this provision is not yet active.
- 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.

---

## 21. 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.

---

## 22. 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.**

---



## 23. 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](http://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

## 24. Royal Palm, Flamingo Officially Reopen January 1

Three years and four months after historic and catastrophic hurricane Irma blew away or completely wrecked the insides of both Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort, essentially reducing both buildings to their skeletons, both resorts officially reopen January 1 (this Friday). Here is the complete, unedited official announcement from Diamond Resorts:

*Diamond Resorts Announces the Highly Anticipated Reopening of Flamingo Beach Resort & Royal Palm Beach Resort on Beautiful St. Maarten; Both Popular Destinations Will Welcome Guests Starting on January 1, 2021, with Fully Renovated Accommodations and New Amenities*

*LAS VEGAS - Dec. 22, 2020 -- Diamond Resorts®, a global leader in the hospitality, vacation ownership and entertainment industries, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated reopening of its resorts on beautiful St. Maarten. After extensive, multi-million dollar renovations and the addition of many exciting new amenities, Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort will start welcoming guests back to the "Friendly Island" on January 1, 2021.*

*"We are thrilled to celebrate this exciting new chapter for our two beloved St. Maarten properties," said Mike Flaskey, CEO of Diamond Resorts. "At Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort, the very best of the Caribbean is at your fingertips. With world-class amenities, unrivaled beaches and stunning scenery, our St. Maarten resorts are the perfect destination. When the time is right to book your next getaway, we are proud to welcome guests back for a safe and relaxing stay."*

*In total, the resorts are welcoming more than 75 team members to further expand the Diamond Resorts family. Both properties will be reopening in accordance with the Diamond Standard of Clean protocols and with reduced capacity. Guests will be able to spread out in Diamond's condo-style accommodations, featuring multiple bedrooms and bathrooms, fully equipped kitchens, spacious dining and living areas, home offices and in-suite laundry machines.*

*Flamingo Beach Resort is the ideal getaway for guests looking for some rejuvenating time relaxing in the Caribbean sun. All of the property's 240 suites have been fully renovated with new furnishings, appliances, bedding and flooring. With the beach at their doorstep, guests can relish spectacular sunsets, swim in the crystal clear waters of the secluded cove or take a dip in the resort's reconstructed swimming pool and two new hot tubs. Additional on-site amenities include an expansive new beachfront lounge area, state-of-the-art fitness center, resurfaced tennis court, additional barbecue grills and a convenient Grab n' Go shop.*

*Royal Palm Beach Resort features 141 spacious oceanfront accommodations beautifully situated on the Simpson Bay. Enhancements to the resort include a stunning new swimming pool, upgraded gym, modern lobby and beautiful tropical landscaping throughout the resort, as well as brand new flooring, appliances, bedding and furnishings in all units. Guests will be able to stroll endless stretches of powder white sand beaches, lounge by the pool in brand new palapas*

and beach chairs and enjoy calypso music at the resort's new restaurant or poolside bistro.

To book a stay at Diamond's St. Maarten properties, visit [DiamondResortsandHotels.com](http://DiamondResortsandHotels.com).

#### About Diamond Resorts

Diamond Resorts® offers destinations, events and experiences to help members make a habit of breaking from the routine. From unforgettable getaways to exclusive concert series to VIP receptions and dinners, members turn to Diamond to recharge, reconnect and remind each other what matters most. Our focus on quality resorts, customer service and flexibility means members can return to a favorite resort, book a cruise to explore new countries or attend a once-in-a-lifetime event with the same level of confidence and anticipation. With access to a world of entertainment and activities, a Diamond membership ensures that people are always looking forward to vacation.

SOURCE Diamond Resorts

---

## 25. Divi Resort: Rapid Progress on new Buildings

To those who drive by Divi Resort at the far western end of Philipsburg between Belair Beach Hotel and downtown Philipsburg, progress on their new buildings has been almost astonishing. A large crew of workers is laboring seamlessly to get the resort completed quickly — while next door, the future site of the Planet Hollywood Resort remains completely barren.

We'll have a complete report on what's coming at Divi here in SXM Weekly News in the next week or two, and we expect to be able to publish pictures of what's coming to Divi in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We will also be publishing when the resort's new buildings are expected to open.

Stay tuned.

---

## 26. Still Nothing Happening at Planet Hollywood Site

Sunwing vacations, a unit of Sunwing airlines of Canada, is the organization behind the development of the Planet Hollywood Resort at the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel here in St. Maarten.

The Sonesta Great Bay a couple of weeks after Sunwing bought it was completely destroyed by hurricane Irma in September 2017. There were court challenges to the proposed 450 room property all of which lost. The building was initially expected to be completed by the end of this year — i.e., now. But construction has yet to begin, in part certainly due to the court challenges. The Covid pandemic has delayed it further.

There has been no official word on the actual start date for full-pledged construction, though for the sake of the island economy we hope it is soon. Some local residents don't expect it to be built at all; that remains to be seen. It would be great for the island economy and would attract a younger, more affluent demographic which the island badly needs. Its timeshare owner demographic has been aging but savvy marketing and strategic planning folks at some resorts are upscaling their properties to help change that.

Here is more on [Planet Hollywood](#).

---

## 27. Royal Islander at Great Bay Update

There are three Royal Islander resorts on SXM — Le Plage, Le Terrasse, and Great Bay, which was formerly located beside the Sonesta Great Bay resort.

As we have reported, Sonesta Great Bay was destroyed by Irma and subsequently demolished, leaving only the Royal Islander standing on the property. Although Royal Islander Great Bay was apparently sealed off and continues to exist, we have heard no reports of when is expected to reopen or if it will reopen. There was substantial work on it after the demolition of Sonesta Great Bay, but that work then ground to a halt.

We'll see what we can find out about the status of Royal Islander Great Bay and report the results here in a future issue of *SXM Weekly News*. Readers who own at Royal Islander Great Bay are invited to call our office if you have any information; the editorial office phone number is 508-830-3456.

---

## 28. Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info

Not long ago, 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*.

---

## 29. More New 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 all of 2021.

---

## 30. 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**

## 31. 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**

### **Anything Can Happen Anywhere...**

**SKYMED Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling. Get it BEFORE You Need it for as little as \$1.35/day (annual plans) guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or changing health. Without SkyMed, you'll need to pay the current price of an evacuation in cash, in advance -- and that could easily be \$35,000 to \$50,000. Why risk that? See these important links:**

You'll find an overview of all key **SkyMed Features & Services** [here](#).

You'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** [here](#).

My SkyMed website is <http://www.skymed.com/jmb> and you can phone me daytimes 8am to 8pm EST at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please).

Feel free also to contact me via Facebook Messenger.

### **A BIG SKYMED SALE LAUNCHES JANUARY 1; watch your email for all the information!**

--Jeff Berger

---

## **.....Breaking News.....**

### **32. Much-Vaunted French Side Marriott Resort Proposal Gets Thumbs Down...**

With great fanfare a number of months ago, the French side government announced that with the help of a number of developers, a new Marriott resort Hotel would be built in the Sandy ground area. It would be a huge boon to the entire French side and add substantial panache to an area that had been hit very hard by hurricane Irma in 2017.

The French side government sometimes announces things that don't pan out, or that may take years to materialize. Unfortunately, this project, when it recently went before officials for permitting, was not approved. (Many people may have assumed that since the project had been formally announced and ballyhooed, its fate in the permitting process was a foregone conclusion.)

This is where apparently the PPRN comes into play. Simply put, for the edification of tourists, PPRN is a set of widely disliked regulations that are preventing much of the French side infrastructure (businesses of all kinds and many residences) from being rebuilt on what is essentially floodplain land regarded as such after hurricane Irma. The PPRN has created enormous issues for the French side and the thumbs down from permitting authorities regarding the Marriott due to the PPRN is only one of them -- but a huge one for the French side.

Here is the last story we ran on this project -- from last Summer:

Last week, we told you that Marriott intends to build a 168-room resort and spa in Nettle Bay, French St. Martin, west of Marigot near the French lowlands. We have been told that the site is near the former Dreams & Le Sand properties right on Nettle Bay.

However, according to French side sources, the Nettle Bay Marriott may not be a done deal. It appears that the proposed project may not be in tune with PRN regulations put in place after Irma that are intended to prevent building on floodplains — an obvious attempt to prevent catastrophic losses caused by projects constructed in what are considered to be vulnerable areas.

It seems to us that the project created by Harmony Promotion and Marriott International and a consortium of investors would not have been announced if there were not some kind of verbal agreement that it would be approved. Marriott has never been known as an organization that would announce anything remotely specious, and we don't think that's the case here either. As this project hopefully moves forward, we will keep you posted.

Here are some further details about this project from our previous story:

*It looks like the beautiful stretch of Nettle Bay beach that was home to both the Dreams bar/restaurant and Le Sand, both obliterated by hurricane Irma three years ago next month, will be getting lots of new action: that's the location of a*

new 168-room Marriott Resort and Spa, construction of which starts next year. It's one of several big new hotel construction projects announced since Irma, about which we been publishing a steady stream of news stories here in SXM Weekly News.

According to details published in the SXM French-language newspaper *Le Pelican*, the project is being created by Harmony Promotion and Marriott International plus a consortium of investors. It will be a 5-star property featuring 168 rooms including 10 beach villas, four island villas, 22 suites, and 132 guest rooms and will be under a management contract with Marriott.

The project will also include a SPA / wellness center, two restaurants (one of them gourmet), reception and seminar rooms, a convention center, a shopping area, a Marina with eight luxury villas, and 52 apartments.

*Le Pelican* noted, "The site will be densely planted along the trails to ensure shaded traffic. The beach will remain a privileged place for walking and will be uninterrupted. A central service backbone hidden by dense plantations (sic) will be accessible from the road and will bring together all the constructions related to the operation of the hotel, directly linked to public spaces and restaurants. Particular attention will be given to indirect lighting at night to ensure safety while preserving the atmosphere."

The article also noted that the project promises "... a new lease of life for the island's tourism industry wish: To replace Saint Martin on the World Luxury Tourism Map, to innovate by offering high-end service to visitors."

Harmony Promotion and Marriott International are said to be looking into developing a Hospitality School within this project as well, something that is long overdue on SXM.

The Marriott Lagoon Resort & Spa, the *Le Pelican* article said, "will be built around a coral pool, a key element of the project. It is a sand-bottomed lagoon, supplied with filtered water from the sea, which structures and connects the entire project, both physically and symbolically."

We expect to publish photos of the project in our Everything SXM Facebook Group once construction begins. Marriott has long been interested in building in SXM, and reportedly had an agreement in place to buy the Blue Mall in nearby Cupecoy Beach before Irma, when the project was apparently cancelled.

Whatever happens, we will keep you posted as always.

---

### 33. The €20-Million Marigot Waterfront Project May Really Happen

A €20-million French side project to renovate and reinvigorate the entire Marigot waterfront from the roundabout west of downtown near the cemetery to the Galisbay ship terminal may actually happen after all. Officials appear to be moving forward and announcing dates for the first phase in this multiphase project to begin next spring.

Once it actually starts we'll deliver project details here in *SXM Weekly News*. It's essentially a major beautification and improvement / renewal process to make the entire area more accessible and friendly to tourists and provide them with significantly more and better amenities.

Stay tuned.

---

### 34. Sixth Vacation added to our Upcoming "7 Million Reasons" SXM Vacation Giveaway

We had planned to give away several vacations late last winter to celebrate the fact that our site had surpassed 6.5 million visits and that the island had finally truly recovered from hurricane Irma. Then Covid hit -- and we decided it wasn't the time to celebrate.

Fast-forward to the new year of 2021: our SXM websites have now surpassed 7 million visits; the island is starting to recover again as tourists begin to return to SXM; millions of doses of vaccines are being distributed worldwide every day; and the outlook for 2021, especially for next summer and beyond, is positive indeed.

In response to all of that improving news, we are delighted to announce that a 6th vacation has been added to the five we had previously announced.

Our originally announced one week vacations will be at Simpson Bay Resort; Belair Beach Hotel; Azure Hotel and Art Studio on Simpson Bay beach; Adonis Hotel in Cupecoy; and El Zafiro Beach Hotel on Simpson Bay beach.

The sixth vacation will be a week at Colony Manor Goldendaze on Simpson Bay beach. All vacations are subject to seasonal limitations and may not be available during high season — but remember, late winter, spring, and early summer are among the most beautiful times of the year on SXM.

Here is more on Colony Manor Goldendaze, donated by "Dr. Soc" of Island92 radio:

Vacations are in guest house studio apartments. Here are links, descriptions and pictures for my two studio apartment guest houses at Colony Manor Goldendaze directly on Simpson Bay Beach.

Upper Level;

<https://www.jennifersvacationvillassxm.com/property/Colony-manoor/>

Beach Level:

<https://www.jennifersvacationvillassxm.com/property/colony-manoor-golden-daze-b/>

The vacation of choice must used between April 15, 2021 - December 15, 2021.

Please see our separate story below for the link to enter the giveaway. Other prizes will also be awarded, including a car rental and several dinners for two along with some jewelry prizes from leading Philipsburg jewelers. Much more will be announced after the first of the year — stay tuned. For entry information, see below.

---

## --- SXM Featured Business ---

### 35. Shoppers Haven Prize Drawing Set for New Year's Eve

*We periodically publish stories from tourist-oriented island businesses. This week's story regards Shopper's Haven in Philipsburg, now celebrating its 30th anniversary with some great giveaways.*

Shopper's Haven has been in business for over 30 years and unlike other jewelry stores, strongly believes not in the 4 C's but in the 5 C's: Color, Carat Weight, Clarity, Cut and Customer Confidence. Shopper's Haven's range in Loose Diamonds, Natural Color Diamonds, Diamond Jewelry and Gemstones certified by Gemological Institute of America (GIA) is extensive.

#### 30th Anniversary Celebrations

#### **Win A complimentary stay for two At La Vista resort Compliments of Shopper's Haven.**

Shopper's Haven is celebrating its 30th anniversary in December 2020. To show its appreciation to friends/clients, for the first time ever Shopper's Haven offers a chance to win a 7 night stay for two at the beautiful La Vista Resort in Simpson bay In February (20th - 27th) 2021. (Other dates may be possible by request.-Ed)

How to Quality to Win, Online or in Store:

All sales from November 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020 (and beyond - see below) will automatically enter to qualify for the raffle. All sales of family/friends also win a chance to win this offer.

Lucky winner to be drawn at random by Jeff Berger of 'Everything St. Maarten'.

Terms and conditions:

\*Dates for the free stay at Lavista resort are the 20th to 27th February 2021.

\* With regards to privacy of the clients and authenticity of the draw, Only the sales receipt numbers will be given to Jeff Berger for the draw.

\* Winner will be contacted personally and announced in social media.

#### **o Exclusive Offer for all "JMB Website Supporters members only":**

o Any one item of Clic jewelry Free on a minimum purchase of \$500. All other Clic accessories 50% off.

o JMB Website Supporters will have to show/email their current JMB membership card.

#### **DUTCH DESIGN JEWELRY BY SUZANNE**



Simple, Sleek, Symmetrical -- that is Stylish Basic! New unique designs with a subtle finish. Handmade in the Netherlands. The designs of CLIC by Suzanne distinguish themselves by their simplicity and their strong geometric shapes, great graphic and striking designs.

Two principles are the base of every design: wearability and the invisible magnetic clasp. Every piece is designed with passion and hand crafted in The Netherlands.

The jewelry is timeless and captivates through simplicity and clean lines using simple shapes and subtle combinations of matt and high gloss polishing.

You can wear Clic jewelry on special occasions as well as with everyday outfits. These designs give you a powerful expression and surprisingly suit every woman in its own special way. Most of these designs can be worn on both sides giving two separate looks to suit your mood.

Amulets of most designs can be turned around so you can combine the front- and backside of these necklaces to a completely new look. Today you wear a flashy color and tomorrow you keep it simple and basic - Just the way you feel. Photos available.

#### LET'S CLIC IT

Shoppers Haven

49 Front street, next to Roman Catholic Church,

Philipsburg, St. Maarten, D.W.I.

Tel: +1-721-543-1046

US: +1-718-514-6022

E-mail : [shoppershaven@caribserve.net](mailto:shoppershaven@caribserve.net)

Web : [www.shoppershaven.com](http://www.shoppershaven.com)

You can also find Shopper's Haven on:

Trip Advisor: Shoppers Haven St. Maarten

Facebook: Shoppers Haven St. Maarten

Instagram: #shoppershavensxm

---

## 36. iZi Makes Things Easy: \$10 Lunches, Half-Price Pasta Dishes\* at Dinner

You are lucky to subscribe to *SXM Weekly News*: read on.

iZi has long been one of our favorite SXM Italian restaurants. Its founder/owner/GM, David Foini, is an accomplished chef and restaurateur now accompanied by new Chef Antonio recently arrived from Italy who has a great record in a number of high-profile positions worldwide. His impact is already being felt in the restaurant and he's helping to make a restaurant that has always been exceptional truly extraordinary. You may already have heard people talking about this.

Says David, "I have always felt that when times are tough, we need to be here to help, which is why we reopened soon after Irma to be able to give the people who were helping to rebuild our island the ability to buy reasonably priced lunches and dinners that had great taste and great value while giving them an excellent dining experience." David adds, "Now Covid presents new challenges to everyone and we want to thank tourists who have made the sacrifice to come down here and be with us. So we are offering lunch specials every Tuesday through Saturday and specials on pasta every night\*," he added.

The lunch specials are served in order Tuesday through Saturday and include Lasagna on Tuesday, Linguine and Shrimp on Wednesday, Chicken Mushrooms and Fettuccine on Thursday (our personal favorite), Tortellini Bolognese on Friday, and Penne Salmon on Saturday — and they are all just \$9.95 each.

In addition, exclusively for readers of Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News* and his JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members, you can buy selected pasta dinners at half-price any night — but you must specify that you are a reader of Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News* or a JMB Website Supporters member (show your membership card) to get this offer. The offer will be available for a limited time in response to the Covid pandemic.

This benefit is another reason to join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program; join online by clicking the page curl on our main website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). Your membership helps support SXM Weekly News, helping

to make it possible for us to publish every week.

## 37. Restaurant of the Week: Chef Antonio / iZi Ristorante Italiano

You read about David Foini and his iZi Ristorante Italiano in the story above. But what that story doesn't tell you is about the new chef who has arrived during the last few weeks at iZi and who we think is going to have a major impact on the Italian restaurant scene here in SXM: Chef Antonio.

We spent some time with David and Antonio recently and had a good look at his portfolio of culinary accomplishments around the world, where he has been to a number of top culinary meccas in recent years. *He has chosen to settle down in SXM and that portfolio is now coming here and starting to yield new specials and creatively delicious new tweaks to many long-time favorite iZi dishes.*

If you haven't tried iZi lately, we suggest you come in as soon as you reach the island: a great Italian restaurant is now even better.

See also story above and take advantage of the offer from iZi for pasta specials exclusively for our JMB Website Supporters members and temporarily during Covid also good for *SXM Weekly News* readers. Conditions apply. See above.

Next week: **Isola Ristorante Italiano.**

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://www.izirestaurant.com) (featured 12/28/20). Open for breakfast and lunch 7 days/week and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnasxm.com](http://www.vesnasxm.com) (featured 12/21/20). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

**Mario's Bistro at the Cliff**, formerly Mario's Bistro [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 12/11/20 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 now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they 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 required.

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 12/7/20) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

**Mama Pizza**, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/28/20) 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](http://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.

**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](http://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](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

**Izi Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Closed permanently.

**Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar** <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.

---

## 38. Going Home? Check Your State's Return Policies

It's essential for visitors returning home to the US to know their home state's policies and procedures for passengers returning from overseas flights well before they head to the airport.

We suggest at least a couple of weeks before your return date that you visit your state's main web portal to see exactly what its requirements are regarding Covid. Some states may require a negative test be taken X number of hours before your return flight; others may require some degree of quarantine, and others may require nothing.

If a Covid test is required prior to your return home, you may ask about testing locations on SXM that you can use — to do that, go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Please do not ask questions there about your state's requirements — our group is SXM centric and will not accept such posts. Your state's web portal is certainly the best source of current, accurate information about requirements related to returning international passengers.

---

## 39. 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](#). 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](http://www.island92.com). The entertainment calendar is also frequently broadcast on their two radio stations, 91.9 (St. Maarten) and 105.1 (Anguilla).

## 40. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits to our SXM Site...

During our "7 Million Reasons" 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.** We just announced a sixth one-week vacation at Colony Manor Goldendaze on Simpson Bay Beach (see separate article for details.)

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 more -- all to be announced.

**Here is more on our "7 Million Reasons" SXM vacation giveaway.** To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at [everythingxsm.com](http://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 [sxmweeklynews.com](http://sxmweeklynews.com).

"7 Million Reasons" will be one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Several people will be winning vacations from us. Why not you?

## 41. 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](http://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.

## 42. 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](http://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](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)*

*Canadian government updates [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)*

*National Institutes of Health (NIH) [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)*

*US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)*

*US State Department emergency assistance [coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov](mailto:coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov)*

*World Health Organization (WHO) [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)*

*SkyMed Travel reservations [www.skymedtravel.com](http://www.skymedtravel.com) or email [info@skymedtravel.com](mailto:info@skymedtravel.com)*

*SkyMed Member Services 1-480-946-5188 or 1-800-475-9633 or [memberservices@skymed.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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.

**BIG SKYMED SALE STARTS JANUARY 1 -- WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS!**

From:  
JMB Communications  
Membership Services  
[support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

---

### **43. 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.

---

### **44. 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](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

## 45. 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](http://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.

## 46. 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.**

**BIG SKYMED SALE STARTS JANUARY 1 - CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb).

## 47. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 12/28/20)

### **AMUSEMENTS**

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

### **BOAT TOURS**

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:  
[www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net](http://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](#)

**LIVE MUSIC**

**Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side**

**MAPS**

[Kasprowski Publishers](#)

**PARFUMERIE / PERFUME**

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, [www.tijon.com](http://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**

#### **Sunshine Properties**

**Candie Billant** does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**  
[Candie@caribbeanestateagency.com](mailto:Candie@caribbeanestateagency.com)

#### **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**

**LA ROSA**

**NONNA ROSA**

**LAZY LIZARD**

**RANCHO (new)**

**SUNSET CAFE (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 **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**  
[Candie@caribbeanestateagency.com](mailto:Candie@caribbeanestateagency.com)

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

**Villa Acropole:**  
[www.acropole-stmartin.com](http://www.acropole-stmartin.com)

**VILLA VIJOUX Oyster Pond / Dawn Beach** See them on Facebook

**Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

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

Updated 12/28/20

---

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

**That's what we do:**

[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)

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

---

### **48. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger.)

Tourism has started to 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](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](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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).



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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com); unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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

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

### LEGAL:

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

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

## Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

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

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **[jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

12/28/20 #V3-1279 6pm AST 12/26/20 | [Terms of use](#) |

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

###