

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 1/11/21: Required SXM Covid Insurance Effective Today (Simple/Easy/Cheap); Airlines Kick Out "Comfort" Animals; Returns to Canada Get Complicated; Big New Rima Store Coming Closer; Restaurants; Vervet Monkeys Being Studied; Boats Sunk in Lagoon Finally Going Away Next Summer [43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 3, #1281 --- Monday, 1/11/21  
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

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



This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

Everything SXM Home Page

Island News

Lodging News

Members SECRET Website Login

## [Member News](#)

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

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

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

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

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**43** News Stories This Week

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## Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

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

### SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

**RENTAL 1/16/2021 1/23/2021 Week 3 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Villas at Simpson Bay penthouse with adjoining rooftop deck. Premier 7th floor 2 bedroom penthouse, includes full sized kitchen, dining room, living room, 2 bathrooms, and awesome rooftop terrace with amazing views equal in size to the interior unit. Terrace has wet bar, TV, table and lounge chairs. Penthouse has Murphy beds and the unit will sleep six. Penthouse also has private balcony overlooking the pool and Simpson Bay. Convenient to everything. Renters to pay timeshare tax at checkout. \$2,750.00 Gene 540-270-1417 [reajva@comcast.net](mailto:reajva@comcast.net)**

**RENTAL 5/15/2021 5/22/2021 Week 20 La Vista Beach Deluxe studio - sleep 4 Full kitchen, eating area, living room 1st floor with veranda and ocean view Steps to pool and beach Also an infinity pool and restaurant on site. Walking distance to grocery store, beach bars, restaurants and casino \$700.00 Patricia 412 427-3303 [pattybrodd@yahoo.com](mailto:pattybrodd@yahoo.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 1/16/2021 2/6/2021 Weeks 3,4,5, and 6 The Villas at Simpson Bay Resort and Marina** Offering both the A and the B side, master suite and lockout. A side has living room with two Murphy beds, dining room, full kitchen and separate master suite with king size bed and double vanity bath. B side has two full beds, kitchenette, and double vanity bath. Both sides have TVs private balconies overlooking Simpson Bay. The villas are scheduled for a complete redecoration summer of 2020. Great location and very rentable. \$20,000 per week Barry +351 966-233-908 [bglassma2@gmail.com](mailto:bglassma2@gmail.com)

**SALE 1/23/2021 1/30/2021 Week 4 Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Villas at Simpson Bay penthouse with adjoining rooftop deck recently renovated.** 7th floor 2 bedroom penthouse, includes full sized kitchen, dining room, living room, 2 bathrooms, and awesome rooftop terrace with amazing views equal in size to the interior unit. Terrace has wet bar, TV, table and lounge chairs. Penthouse has Murphy beds and the unit will sleep six. Penthouse also has private balcony overlooking the pool and Simpson Bay. Convenient to everything! If purchased before the end of 2020 I will pay 2021 Maintenance fees. \$18,500.00 Gene 540-270-1417 [reajva@comcast.net](mailto:reajva@comcast.net)

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](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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. American Airlines Has Had It with "Comfort Animals"**

Like the vast majority of passengers aboard its airplanes and aboard flights of every other airline, American Airlines has had it with abuse by people bringing all kinds of comfort animals on its airplanes and is slamming the door on the practice in short order. Here are the [details](#). It looks like miniature horses, peacocks, pet pigs, snakes, and other exotic "comfort animals" will not be seen on AA starting 2/1.

Jet Blue is doing the same thing effective January 11. Delta is doing it as well and others will follow.

If you'd like to comment on this story or any other story in this issue of SXM Weekly News, please bring it up in a new thread/discussion in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

**2. Winair Gets USD\$3-million Loan To Help It Avoid Bankruptcy**

Winair, the outstanding small St. Maarten-based airline that connects SXM with a number of other nearby islands including Saba, St. Barth, and Statia, has been given a \$3 million loan at market rates from the Netherlands to help it

survive the financial devastation it has suffered as a result of the market effects of Covid. We have flown Winair a number of times in the last year or two on assignment for Fodor's *Essential Caribbean* directory, while we worked on the newest version of that directory covering SXM, St. Barth, Statia, and Anguilla (which Winair doesn't serve).

The airline was efficient, its seats were comfortable, and the flights were on time and very smooth and pleasant. Some nearby islands are not currently open to day trips, but others are including St. Barth. Make it a point to fly Winair at your earliest opportunity — it's a great little airline and it deserves all our support. St. Barth is absolutely worth a day trip: plan to rent a car when you're there to get a full look at everything the island offers, including the site of Jimmy Buffett's legendary bar, [Autour du Rocher](#).

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## WEATHER:

### 3. 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.

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## **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**

**4. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Required Effective TODAY, Monday, January 11**

Here is the island's formal announcement:

**\*\* Vacation Safe in St. Maarten with the SXM Protection Plan \*\***

*As of January 11, 2021, St. Maarten will roll out the **SXM Protection Plan**, a mandatory health coverage for its visitors that is very affordable and assures the tourist a relaxing and safe vacation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Maarten wants to ensure that all visitors are properly protected, and have an advanced protection in case they test positive while vacationing on our friendly island.*

*A visitor who tests positive for COVID-19 in St. Maarten, will have very few, if any, out-of-pocket expenses, giving the visitors a peace of mind in case they test positive, and if they cannot be assisted in St. Maarten, the SXM Protection Plan covers also medical evacuation costs. The overall maximum limit for all benefits together, except Medical Evacuation, is \$50,000. Emergency medical evacuation to the nearest qualified hospital to prevent loss of life, is up to a maximum limit of \$20,000, provided the patient cannot be treated locally in St. Maarten.*

*In case of hospitalization, the expenses to treat severe COVID-19 symptoms includes specialist fees, diagnostic x-rays, lab expenses and nursing costs. Costs of specialized transportation of a Covid-19 infected person. It also covers a maximum sublimit of \$125 per day, max. 14 days, in case of a positive Covid-19 test result. Intensive Care Unit charges for treatment of a critical ailment caused by COVID-19. Costs of doctor consults. Max. 4 medically necessary Covid-19 tests as outpatient with a sublimit of \$75 per test.*

*Tests are only covered with referral from the St. Maarten Government Health Department. Emergency medical evacuation to the nearest qualified hospital to prevent loss of life. Preventive government mandated quarantines for fellow travelers and those who tested negative are NOT COVERED.*

*The insurance is required for all foreign nationals with the exception of residents, visitors who arrive, leave the same day, crewmembers and transit/transfer passengers who do not need to recheck their luggage.*

*The St. Maarten Visitors Protection Plan sold and processed via the mandatory online health form on [www.stmaartenentry.com](http://www.stmaartenentry.com)*

*For detailed information on the St. Maarten Visitors Protection Plan please visit [www.sxmprotectionplan.com](http://www.sxmprotectionplan.com)*

*About St. Maarten: St. Maarten is the smallest island in the world to be shared by two nations – Netherlands and France – creating a destination with European charm and Caribbean flair. Located at the northern end of the Lesser Antilles, the islands 37 square miles has 37 breathtaking beaches and is home to many historical and family-oriented attractions. Direct air service is available to Princess Juliana International Airport from major U.S. and Canada, South America, Europe and the Caribbean gateways.*

**Three important items from SXM Weekly News:**

- a) You do NOT have to re-up with this insurance after taking day trips to neighboring islands.
- b) This insurance DOES cover you on both the French & Dutch sides of the island.
- c) PRINT OUT your policy information when you receive it after signing up, and TAKE IT WITH YOU on your trip along with your preapproval email and your accepted negative Covid test.

**5. Why It's So Critical to 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 required format. That's why it is so imperative to ensure that you double check everything before submitting your preapproval application to EHAS and **FOLLOW THIS GUIDE TO THE LETTER** to make sure what you submit meets all requirements precisely..

## 6. Repeating: 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. Note: We are trying to help you. *Anyone who is verbally abusive to us for any reason while we're trying to help will NOT be served.*

## 7. Can You Get a Covid Vaccine Shot in SXM?

A number of tourists who spend many weeks on the island every year have asked us recently whether they can get Covid vaccine shots while on SXM. The answer is NO. Vaccines will soon be distributed here and we are sure they will be given out in priority order to healthcare workers/first responders, then the elderly / vulnerable and people in nursing homes, and then to the general population — pretty much the same order as is being followed in the US. Foreign non-residents are not covered. If you are a resident of SXM, that's a different story; SXM residents, contact your healthcare provider for more information.

**COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 1/11/201**

## 8. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements

**See Story #4, above, re: the new requirement on SXM for Covid Insurance bought from the island, now in effect (1/11/20).**

Also (prior info still effective):

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.

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

"PCR" is an acronym for **polymerase chain reaction**, and "RT" refers to **reverse transcription** -- NOT "real time". The only types of test for Covid-19 currently acceptable to the government of SXM are both RT-PCR and the Antigen test, which has been added effective 11/25.

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

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

You must have a negative RT-PCR test taken less than 120 hours before your departure to SXM, or your Antigen test taken less than 48 hours before your trip. If you're on a connecting flight, this requirement relates to the departure of the final leg of your trip.

Where do you find a test in your area that will be able to deliver results to you within the required 120 or 48 hours? There are a number of ways to find out. You can ask friends who travel from your area; you can ask people on the site in your community where local people discuss local goings-on (that often works well); and you can also ask your primary care physician. Covid tests taken for travel purposes are not always paid for by insurance. You might ask your PCP to send an order in to a local laboratory for test for you — those will often be covered by insurance and results are very often posted at once when ready on the lab's or hospital's portal, you can download the results in PDF format.

The requirements from SXM specify what information must be in these reports — things like the name of the lab, lab location, date and time of test, type of test (RT-PCR or Antigen), your name, and the result of your test. Once you get the PDFs for you and all of the people traveling with you, print them out and keep them with all the trip documentation that you will be taking with you — you will need them.

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

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

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

Go to the same website where you learned about entry requirements to apply for admission. It is absolutely required and if you are not preapproved for admission you will not be able to get on your plane to go to SXM. The application will take you only a few minutes to fill out. It asks for your name, email address, the usual questions about whether you have any Covid Symptoms or have been near anyone diagnosed with Covid recently, plus where you plan to stay on the island. It also asks you for the airline and flight number of your flight departing to SXM. (Remember the 120 hour or

48 hour requirement.) And then submit the application form from the website to EHAS by clicking a button. You will usually hear back in a few hours or overnight if you submit the form fairly late at night.

To make sure you get the paperwork approved as quickly as possible, we suggest you get your test taken several hours below the 120 hour threshold ahead of the time of your departure to SXM (48 hours for Antigen test). That should give the laboratory plenty of time to get things to you so you can immediately file the application and get the information to EHAS, giving them as much time as possible. Their responsiveness is usually excellent. If two or more people are going, we strongly suggest that you send them each using a different email address — that way, when you are asked to report your temperature every day, you will know which person in your party is being asked to reply to a specific email from EHAS. Overall, though you may be put off by the thought of having to do this process, it's quick, simple, and easy — and as we said the responsiveness is outstanding. Just do it — not a big deal at all.

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## 12. About the New COVID Insurance Requirement

See story #4.

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## 13. \*\*\*VERY Important\*\*\*: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 1/11/21)

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. JPEGs 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.

**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 sound, 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. CHECK YOUR SPAM EMAILS -- your EHAS response could go there. Also** double check your email address you write on the form 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. **THEN AND ONLY THEN, you can resubmit the form.**

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. **EHAS tells everyone that its response may take up to 12 hours, sometimes longer, but most responses come in four hours or less.**

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.)**

## 14. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist, Updated 1/11/21)

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 that the lab should send you to inform you of the results of your test; the test results form must include the information specified as required by Sint Maarten EHAS)
- c) the travel Pre-Approval form emailed to you by Sint Maarten EHAS in response to your submission of the negative Covid test (assuming your application was preapproved);
- d) a thermometer, which you will need to take your temperature and that of your traveling companions during the first 14 days of your trip;
- e) Your PROOF OF SXM COVID INSURANCE (see article 4 in this issue).

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## 15. 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. More on this is in the next story.

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## 16. 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.

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**Etc.**

## 17. 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...

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### **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc**

## 18. Big Progress Continues at Divi Construction Activity

Divi resort will approximately double its size with new construction now underway on the hill overlooking the resort from the West -- the portion of the resort that's close to Bel Air Beach Hotel.

Most of the activity seems to be creating little noise and from what we can tell is not bothering hotel guests at either Divi or Belair Beach. The construction activity is relatively difficult to photograph from the busy road that is next to it, or we would be running pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

Construction seems to be moving along rapidly, unlike many other projects on the island. We expect to be able to get more information before long on when this construction will be completed and units available for occupancy — but we wouldn't be surprised to see that by late this year.

When we can do so, we will publish pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 19. 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*.

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## 20. 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 2021.

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## 21. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 22. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

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

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

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

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### SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

## 22a. Giant SKYMED Sale Begins!

**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 OR LESS DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED SALE (annual & multiyear plans) that are guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining 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](#).

Here are the details of this unprecedented sale!

• **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE:**

All existing SkyMed memberships and new SkyMed membership purchases of one-year or longer are now price-guaranteed for life. The price of your membership will not increase if you buy during this 2021 sale or if you already are a SkyMed owner of any annual or longer membership: this *applies as long as your renewals are paid on time*.

**FREE BONUS WEEKS (UP TO 21 WEEKS) FOR PURCHASES OF SKYMED'S MOST POPULAR MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Buy a new 5-year Ultimate SkyMed membership OR UPGRADE TO ONE and **get an added 21 weeks of medevac protection at no added cost**. More on SkyMed memberships is on our site, [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb) or call us at 508-747-8281 for answers to any questions. Guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time*. Does not apply to monthly-payment 5-year Ultimates.
- Buy a new 3-year Ultimate SkyMed membership OR UPGRADE TO ONE and **get an added 12 weeks of medevac protection at no added cost**. More on SkyMed memberships is on our site, [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb) or call us at 508-747-8281 for answers to any questions. Guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time*.
- Buy a new annual (one-year guaranteed renewable *as long as your renewals are paid on time*) SkyMed membership and **get an added 21 free days of medevac protection at no added cost**.

**REWARDS FOR REFERRALS FROM SKYMED MEMBERS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS:**

- **21 Free Weeks added to your SkyMed membership** when you refer someone who buys a 5-year Ultimate.
- **12 Free Weeks added to your SkyMed membership** when you refer someone who buys a 3-year Ultimate.
- **21 Free Days added to your SkyMed membership** when you refer someone who buys an annual SkyMed membership.

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>.

Phone me daytimes 8am to 8pm EST at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only please).

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well.

--Jeff

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

**23. Returning Home to Canada? Here's Huge News:**

There are two huge news stories here for Canadians:

For those who are already on the island who would like to stay longer, you may be in luck: decisions announced at the end of December by the government of Canada may lead you to decide to stay in SXM significantly longer, if that's doable for you. That's the good news.

The bad news is that you must get a negative PCR Covid test on SXM within 72 hours of your departure back to Canada, which is a tall order. On top of that, despite the fact that you will have recent proof that you're Covid negative, you will also be required to quarantine for 14 full days upon returning home.

You can find all of the details [here](#). Bottom line: if you can stay a few more months here in SXM, that might not be a bad idea.

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## 24. So Far, No Stopping Irresponsible Motorscooter Operators

So far, neither the Dutch side nor the French side of the island seems to have figured out how to control lawbreaking young motorscooter operators who speed dangerously around cars stopped in traffic, sometimes with the front wheel of their bikes high in the air.

Yet another fatal motorscooter accident has now occurred; here are [details](#).

Although both sides of the island are well aware of the existence of this problem, they have been focused on other major priorities including fighting a global pandemic, helping their people make it through its severe financial impact, and continued recovery efforts still underway in the wake of hurricane Irma, which struck three years and four months ago and its impact is still being widely felt.

But the problem of irresponsible motorscooter operators must be addressed before innocent people are seriously injured or worse by these individuals.

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## 25. New Rima Store on Front Street Moves Closer to Reality

Drive down Front Street, Philipsburg, from the vicinity of the St. Maarten Sea Palace toward the cruise and cargo facilities, and not far after the Sea Palace on the left-hand side you will see two bright yellow buildings. The first of them is unrelated to this story except that it tells you to keep your eyes open for the second one, the one with big yellow Rima flags on the roof. The building has now been painted the well-remembered bright yellow that adorned the original huge Rima building when it had been formerly located on the Pondfill.

The new building will house expanded retail facilities on the first floor; regional wholesale operations on the second floor; and currently an apartment on the top floor. The building is being created under the watchful eye of "Kenny" who for years has operated the only authorized Rima store in the Caribbean, "Kenny's", on the ocean side of Front Street not far east of the new Rima building.

The Rima building itself is coming closer to reality every day. It is expected to open for business sometime this coming March; we'll tell you exactly when as the date gets closer.

In the meantime, shoppers will find a semi-enormous spectrum of authentic Rima merchandise — beachwear and much more -- at Kenny's Rima store on Front Street roughly 125 yards West of the historic courthouse on the ocean side of the road. When you visit, tell Kenny that you read about it here in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

By the way, **Philipsburg has long had an art walk**, with various murals painted on buildings throughout town. One of those murals is on the side of the Rima building and it has been preserved in place during the repainting of the Rima building.

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## 26. SXM Restaurants Breathe a Tentative Sigh of Relief

During the Christmas and New Year's holidays, SXM restaurants breathed a tentative sigh of relief after a very slow, worse than usual fall tourist season. Many described holiday business as "good" -- marking the first time in recent months that they've used that term concerning their businesses. Business is usually relatively quiet during the first couple of weeks of January, then picks up for the season. Based on anecdotal evidence of inquiries concerning visiting this winter, we do expect the coming winter season to be a bit better than many had anticipated.

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## 27. No Day Trips to Anguilla or Saba

Thanks to Covid, travelers cannot currently take day trips to either neighboring Anguilla or to Saba, though trips to St. Barth are currently possible. When this situation changes, we will post that information both here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).



## 28. Vervet Monkeys Are Target of Nature Foundation Research

Vervet monkeys came to SXM as pets and were released by their owners when they became too large to handle. Now there are believed to be a few thousand of them on the island, widely dispersed and routinely visible in such places as Cupecoy, Dawn beach, and any garden with fruit trees or nuts pretty much anywhere on the island.

They have also been seen feasting at times off trees at Loterie farm.

The Vervet monkeys have become a major nuisance and now, the Nature Foundation is studying exactly what's going on with the expectation of finding some way to mitigate the problem. Here is more on their research.

## 29. Restaurant of the Week: Sale & Pepe

Situated on the northern end of the yacht basin on Simpson Bay lagoon on Airport Road, Dutch side, Sale and Pepe Italian restaurant leverages its location by placing its dining room over the water in direct view of the yachts. Its expansive menu offers lots of traditional Sicilian specialties but Chef Davide Zagami loves to show the world his fish selections, which he often does on his Facebook site.

The restaurant attracts a cross section of St. Maarteners and visitors, virtually all of whom can be seen enjoying that quite incomparable view. Until the food comes...

Portions are ample and again, seafoods do dominate here although there are many other selections.

Do try Sale and Pepe soon during your next SXM visit -- and save room for their fine desserts.

Next week: **Mama Pizza**

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Sale & Pepe** (featured 1/11/21) 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/>

**Isola** next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 1/4/21). 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)

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

**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.

**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/>

**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.

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## 30. Boats in Lagoon to be Cleaned Out by Early Summer

Removing boats stuck at the bottom of Simpson Bay lagoon since hurricane Irma more than three years ago is a more complex procedure than can be handled by local organizations, it turns out. We have now been told that a European organization has been retained to finish the job early this summer, when winds should be minimal and conditions ideal for the activity. Among the more noticeable wrecks to be removed will be Pink Iguana, near the 90° turn in Airport Road just east of the airport terminal as well as the D boat which now, a year after it tore loose and slammed into the shore in Beacon Hill, still sits lodged there, unable by local talent to be hauled off.

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## 31. For Shopper's Haven Customers, Taxi Rides To The Store

If you shop at Shopper's Haven, know that this fine jewelry store near the center of Front Street in Philipsburg offers its loyal customers free taxi rides from their hotels to the store and back to their hotels. The store specializes in fine diamonds and more and continues to celebrate its anniversary.

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## 32. 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.

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### 33. 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.

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

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

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

In addition to vacations, we expect to give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, and a car rental - all to be announced.

**Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway.** To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at [everythingsexm.com](http://everythingsexm.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).

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

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### 35. 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 [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.

## 36. 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](https://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.

From:

JMB Communications

Membership Services

[support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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## 37. 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.

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## 38. 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).

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**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](#)**

### 39. 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.

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

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

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

### 41. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 1/4/21)

## **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.**

## **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.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

**Villa Acropole:**

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

**Villa Vijoux:**

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

**Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

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

Updated 1/4/21

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**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.**

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**42. 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.

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**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.](#)**

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**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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

### **SECTION 5: For Members Only**

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](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).

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#### **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:**

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

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

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

1/11/21 #V3-1281 6pm AST 1/9/21 | [Terms of use](#) |

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