

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/22/21: SXM Now Accepts All FDA-Approved Rapid Tests; New DFW-SXM Nonstop Set; Come Now, Stay Longer - Easily; SXM Summer Vacation Planning; Mama Pizza Reopening; Toppers; Spiga; Buccaneer Beach Bar Sold; Two New Hotels; SECRETS Delays Opening Again [53 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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

******* SXM HOTELS & RESTAURANTS SPECIAL EDITION *******

Vol. 4, #1287 --- Monday, 2/22/21
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

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



Entire Contents Copyright, ©, JMB Communications, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812, 2021.
World rights reserved.

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, 2021. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add 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

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:

- **SXM Now Accepts ALL FDA-Approved Antigen Tests for Admission to SXM**
- **New DFW-SXM Summer Nonstop from American Airlines**
- **On The Northeast Cooperation Between AA & JB**
- **Reminder: 120-Hour Window Between PCR Test and SXM Flight STAYS IN FORCE for Americans & Canadians**
- **Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info**
- > **Our Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Updated)**

SXM Accommodations:

- **SECRETS Again Delays Opening, This Time to April 1**
- **New Upscale Hotel at Indigo Bay Appears a Step Closer Now...**
- **Still No Public Announcement from Columbia Sussex About Westin's Future**
- **Easily Extend Your Vacation and Stay in Paradise**
- **SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability, & This May Be The Best Year Ever for an SXM Summer**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM: Who to Contact**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help**
- **How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units**
- **Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info**

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- **YOUR CHANCE TO HELP US KEEP PUBLISHING & GET A FREE YEAR OF JMB MEMBERSHIP HAS JUST BEEN EXTENDED BY ONE FINAL WEEK UNTIL FEB 28**
- **SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability, & This May Be The Best Year Ever for an SXM Summer (yes, it's in two sections in case you miss it in one)**
- **Buccaneer Beach Bar Sold**
- **Mama Pizza Moves Closer to Reopening in Oyster Pond**
- **Restaurant of the Week:**
- **Toppers Restaurant Getting Closer to Moving to the Carousel**
- **SPIGA Finally Sets Reopening Date in Grand Case - Sort Of**
- **Huge SkyMed Medevac Membership Sale Underway**
- *****ABSOLUTE LAST CALL*****

Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming Every Week:

Get a Free Full Year of JMB Membership When You Buy or Renew Any Multiyear JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Membership

- **Restaurant of the Week**
- **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.

54 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 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 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 2/26/2021 4/2/2021 **Royal Palm Beach Resort Completely renovated Jan 1,2021. Suite has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, a full kitchen and spacious interior. View from patio of pool and ocean.** Fourth floor. Beachfront location, includes gym, food and beverage on location. Weeks 9,10,11,12 and 13. \$2200 per week Harvey 937-993-5637 hrtuck@att.net

RENTAL 4/18/2021 4/25/2021 16 week **Simpson bay resort and marina Studio sleeps 4. King + Murphy, full kitchen with small table for 4. upper B building,** 2nd floor end unit by tennis courts over looks B pool with ocean view. large patio. Completely renovated. \$1,300.00 Kathy 757-635-1066 USA golfnva@cox.net

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

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

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

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

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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 All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group



<https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

Complete Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, COVID-19, Going Home, Etc. --
Scroll Down To This Section--

Getting Here:

1. SXM Now Accepts ALL FDA-Approved Antigen Tests for Admission to SXM
2. New DFW-SXM Summer Nonstop from American Airlines
3. On The Northeast Detente Between AA & JB
4. Reminder: 120-Hour Window Between PCR Test and SXM Flight STAYS IN FORCE for Americans & Canadians
5. Our "Complete Guide to Entry Requirements" Can Help You Get Here Now
See *COVID-19 / Entry Requirements Information, below*

Weather:

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

COVID-19 - General:

7. With Vaccinations Booming, Travel To SXM Could Also be Booming by Summer
8. For Americans, NO Worries on Getting Tested Before Going Home
9. NO Federal US Quarantine Now Required
10. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Now Required
11. **IMPORTANT:** Why It's So Critical to Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!
12. What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted
13. Can You Get a Covid Vaccine Shot in SXM?
14. If You've Had the Vaccine, Do You Still Have to Test Negative?

COVID-19 - Guide to Entry Requirements

15. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Continually REVISED)
16. **What RT-PCR means; (It is Not "Real-Time"); LIST OF ACCEPTABLE TESTS**
17. Finding and Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area
18. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice (Revised 2/12/21)
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

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

23. US Requires Covid Testing Before You Go Home (See story 8)

Etc.:

24. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

25. SECRETS Again Delays Opening, This Time to April 1
26. New Upscale Hotel at Indigo Bay Appears a Step Closer Now...
27. Still No Public Announcement from Columbia Sussex About Westin's Future
28. Easily Extend Your Vacation and Stay in Paradise
29. SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability, & This May Be The Best Year Ever for an SXM Summer
30. Great Availability / Easy Social Distancing in SXM Right Now
31. Buying a Condo in SXM: Who to Contact
32. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

- 33. More New Rentals for 2021 Available at Everythingsxm.com
- 34. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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--

- 35. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

36 Giant SkyMed Sale Underway!

Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases! Details below!

THIS WEEK'S ISLAND NEWS:

37. YOUR CHANCE TO HELP US KEEP PUBLISHING & GET A FREE YEAR OF JMB MEMBERSHIP HAS JUST BEEN EXTENDED BY ONE FINAL WEEK UNTIL FEB 28

38. SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability, & This May Be The Best Year Ever for an SXM Summer

39. Buccaneer Beach Bar Sold

40. Mama Pizza Moves Closer to Reopening in Oyster Pond

41. Restaurant of the Week:

42. Toppers Restaurant Getting Closer to Moving to the Carousel

43. SPIGA Finally Sets Reopening Date in Grand Case - Sort Of

44. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative

45. Going Home? Check Your State's / Country's Return Policies

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

47. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

48. SkyMed FAQ / More Information

#####

49. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

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

51. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?

52. Please Patronize our Sponsors

53. 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

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.

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://everythingsxm.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. SXM Now Accepts ALL FDA-Approved Antigen Tests for Admission to SXM

In a single move, SXM has now made it remarkably easier for Americans and Canadians to be successfully tested for travel to St. Maarten.

The island now accepts all FDA-approved antigen tests for admission. It had previously accepted only certain tests for admission and not all those tests were readily available in the US.

With this change, SXM makes it far easier for Americans to take FDA-approved rapid antigen tests, get computer-printed results minutes later, upload the results as a PDF to EHAS for approval, and get approval online — most likely within about four hours. That's a huge improvement from before and has removed a substantial obstacle to visiting the island for millions of potential visitors.

Here is the official language of the announcement from the Ministry of TEATT in SXM:

MINISTER OF TEATT

*Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic & Telecommunications
Press Statement*

Date: February 16, 2021

Minister Ludmila de Weever announces use of all FDA approved antigen rapid tests for USA & Canadian passengers

Philipsburg— After consultation and approval of Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor Richard Panneflek, Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunications, Ludmila de Weever, is very happy to announce a move that will surely assist in increasing our tourist numbers and airline load factors. As of February 17, 2021, passengers arriving from the United States of America and Canada can use all FDA approved rapid antigen tests for travel to Sint Maarten. This includes those antigen tests with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as well. This does not include At Home Tests.

"This is a huge boost to our tourism sector and that confidence in our island is demonstrated even more when we see expansion of our airline service routes, such as the announcement by American Airlines for the service between Dallas-Fort Worth and Sint Maarten to commence in June 2021. This demonstrates that demand for travel to Latin America and the Caribbean is still high despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," stated Minister De Weever. The non-stop flight will run on Saturdays from June 5 until August 14, 2021.

Since 2019, representatives of the St. Maarten Tourism Bureau (STB) and SXM Airport started the discussion about the possible seasonal route and the Ministry is thrilled to see it come to fruition.

"With this change in entry requirements, we expect to see increased stay-over arrivals and economic activity as well as the continuation of improved relationship with one of our larger carriers and I am grateful for the cooperation received from Minister Panneflek and his team." the Minister concluded.

2. New DFW-SXM Summer Nonstop from American Airlines

From June 5 to August 14 — a baffling selection of dates — American Airlines says it will be flying Saturday nonstops to SXM from Dallas-Fort Worth airport. It is not known whether the airline expects to have service from DFW to SXM

later this year as demand increases across the country.

More information on this and other new flights by AA is [here](#)

3. On The Northeast Cooperation Between AA & JB

JetBlue says it is moving ahead with plans for increased cooperation and codesharing in the US Northeast with American Airlines.

It's interesting that this is happening even as JetBlue is moving forward with plans for its own flights from both New York Kennedy and Boston Logan airports to London, and is eyeing further European expansion between London and other points in Europe, one of the first of which could very well be Milan.

Here is [more information](#) on the new partnership between American and JetBlue.

How might this impact service to SXM? Because there will be a certain degree of intermingling of the frequent flyer programs of both airlines, this may make it possible for people to fly codeshare flights using both JetBlue and American to get to SXM through all JetBlue and AA ports of embarkation in the US. Those now include Boston, New York, Newark, Charlotte, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale, as well as Dallas this coming summer.

The cooperation agreement couldn't happen at a better time since air travel is expected to surge starting this Summer as tens of millions of Americans, cooped up for a year at home, get the urge for going away during the Summer and beyond to SXM....

4. Reminder: 120-Hour Window Between PCR Test and SXM Flight STAYS IN FORCE for Americans & Canadians

SXM's announced change to a 72-hour window between PCR testing and your flight to SXM is NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

In fact, it never did happen. The Dutch side government had announced that it would be changing that window from 120 to 72 hours effective February 12 — a decision and announcement made evidently without consulting anyone in the tourism business. When the announcement happened, through us and other media, there was an immediate cataclysmic knee-jerk reaction from tourists to cancel, citing a perceived inability to get testing done on time. Tourism officials howled, and bad numbers for this season (due to Covid, even though Covid numbers in SXM aren't bad) thanks to cancellations became immediately far worse.

A tourism official in a press conference two weeks ago specifically said, in answer to a question from Dr. Soc of Island92, that the change to a 72 hour window was now off the table for the US and Canada. In response, some tourists who could still un-cancel their cancellations have done so or are doing so, but others are either going elsewhere or nowhere -- and aren't happy about it.

5. Our "Complete Guide to Entry Requirements" Can Help You Get Here Now

Recent press reports are indicating that Covid case numbers in the United States are starting to decline, which is great news. Here in SXM, they seem to be declining as well, perhaps another good sign.

If you are contemplating coming to SXM this winter to escape the brutal cold at home, our complete Guide to Entry Requirements in every issue of *SXM Weekly News* can help you get here now. Not only does it show you all the entry requirements in detail, it also delivers clear answers to your questions, figuratively greasing the skids for the entire process of your next trip. Rely on it: it can make things a lot easier for you.

WEATHER:

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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

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

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

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

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

Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:

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

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

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

More stories are below.

[Changing Your Email Address?](#)

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

COVID-19: General

7. With Vaccinations Booming, Travel To SXM Could Also be Booming by Summer

There is an increasing belief in many quarters that thanks to the easing of entry requirements to SXM through the acceptance of all FDA-approved rapid tests, and the increasing availability of vaccinations across the United States, travel to the island this summer and beyond could well be booming above current expectations.

Airlines are already beginning to see increased general bookings for the Summer thanks to some of the above factors, and to pent-up demand on the part of millions of people after almost a year of being cooped up.

SXM realtors continue to report surging demand for condominiums on the island as people decide to stay here longer and come more often. We list many of the island's top realtors in our Sponsor list published in every edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

8. For Americans, NO Worries on Getting Tested Before Going Home

SXM resorts have responded quickly and forcefully to the recently announced requirement by the US for returning citizens to obtain negative Covid tests before flying home to the USA.

The island has gone after many additional tests to make sure it has an adequate supply and can respond to the needs of tourists. In addition, Simpson Bay Resort has established a new testing lab adjacent to its member services operation next to Hollywood casino at the center of the resort. The facility has specific hours (call for details), and use of it is not limited only to Simpson Bay members.

There is a charge for testing regardless of where you get it. Do not expect the cost of travel-related testing to be paid by your US health insurance. Pricing varies. Your resort will have information about this; it may be useful to make an appointment for your pre-return Covid testing at the beginning of your SXM stay, if you're going to be here for only a week or so.

9. NO Federal US Quarantine Now Required

Despite the January Biden announcement, no Federal US quarantine is now required after returning home to the US following some overseas trips. That situation could change but as of right now, there is no quarantine.

That does not mean that you don't have to quarantine when you get to your state since some states either require or recommend quarantines after you return home. See your state government web portal for information that pertains to you.

10. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Now Required

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

For detailed information on the St. Maarten Visitors Protection Plan please visit 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.

Two important comments from SXM Weekly News:

- a) You do NOT have to re-up with this insurance after taking day trips to a neighboring island.
- 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.

11. IMPORTANT! 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 proper format. That's why it is so imperative to ensure that you double check everything before submitting your preapproval application to EHAS.

Our **Guide to Entry Requirements**, which is below, has all the info you need to do this successfully.

12. What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted (Updated 2/15/21)

Although this rarely happens now thanks to the fact that 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 does seldom happen, in rare cases husband-and-wife or other partners or friends 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 precise detail 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 after waiting at least four hours for a response from EHAS. We have had people submit applications three times, receiving their approval after two denials. Incidences are rare but they do happen. **Do NOT resubmit continuously** -- that clogs the system and delays response for everyone.

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, below). JPEGs (photographic images) are a 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 always 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 we cannot guarantee any results -- though we do have a pretty good record.

13. 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 in SXM. The answer is NO. Vaccines are now being distributed here and we are sure they will be given out in priority order to healthcare workers/1st responders, then the elderly and people in nursing homes, and then to the general population of residents — pretty much the same order as 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.

14. If You've Had the Vaccine, Do You Still Have to Test Negative?

Covid vaccines currently available apparently do not prevent you from getting Covid — they simply reduce the severity of your illness but while you have it, even asymptotically, you may be contagious and spread it to others. That's why having had the vaccine is insufficient to enable you to enter St. Maarten, and why **you must test negative** as described specifically below in order to be given preapproval to enter St. Maarten. There are currently no exceptions.

COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 2/19/2021

15. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements

See other stories in this issue re: the new requirement on SXM for Covid Insurance bought from the island, now in effect.

Also:

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.

16. What RT-PCR means; LIST OF ACCEPTABLE TESTS

"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 tests now noted here:

As of February 17, 2021, passengers arriving from the United States of America and Canada can use all FDA approved rapid antigen tests for travel to Sint Maarten. This includes those antigen tests with Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as well. This does not include At Home Tests. Any hand-written forms reporting COVID results ARE NOT accepted. Proof of vaccination against COVID is NOT currently accepted as an entry requirement.

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.

17. 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 a website in your community where local people discuss local goings-on (that often works well); and you can also ask your primary care physician or ask on our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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 testing 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 complete 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.

18. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice; Getting Required Covid Covid Insurance (Updated 2/22/21)

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. If you have a positive result, you will not be admitted to St. Maarten.

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, and the departure date. (Remember the 120 hour or 48 hour requirement.) **CHECK EVERYTHING YOU ENTER VERY CLOSELY TO ENSURE YOU ARE NOT SUBMITTING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION.** 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. **Allow 12 hours for EHAS to reply, though usually it's no more than 4.**

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 -- again, they say to allow 12 hours for processing. Their responsiveness is usually excellent. If two or more people are going, we strongly suggest that you send the applications 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.

Important: During this process, you will be asked to sign up for the required Covid insurance sold online by the island while you are applying for preapproval through EHAS. The process takes only about one additional minute for each person who is applying for preapproval. The insurance covers you on both sides of the island and costs only \$30 per person for trips lasting from a few days to up to 180. *It is required.*

19. *****VERY Important***: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 2/19/21)**

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. 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 to the letter 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. **NOTE: The response may go into your SPAM folder, so check there before you start panicking.**

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.

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

23. US Requires Covid Testing Before You Go Home (See story 8)

See the above captioned story for information on how to get the required Covid test before returning to the United States. Such tests are readily available on SXM before you leave, but see the full story above so you know how to make the arrangements.

Etc.

24. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 15% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for *Weekly News* readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks..

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

25. SECRETS Again Delays Opening, This Time to April 1

Secrets Resort in Anse Marcel on the French side, originally scheduled to open more than a year ago, remains closed and will stay closed now until at least April 1.

The property, formerly L'Habitation, Radisson Blu, and a Riu Palace, was obliterated by hurricane Irma in September, 2017, and it has literally taken years to be completely rebuilt. We did a mini tour of the property a few weeks ago and expect to do a full tour in about a month.

This upscale hotel property, which can cost several thousand dollars per week for a couple, offers a number of restaurants and substantial facilities for functions, but its rather remote location at the northern end of the island, although not far from popular Orient beach, is a hike in the most popular areas of the island, which is probably the reason it has changed hands so many times in recent years. Secrets has a good shot to change that because it has an enormous following -- one which has been waiting patiently for this resort to finally open.

We would be interested in the experiences of Secrets guests who had been scheduled into this location at various times over the last year; please PM your experiences to Jeff Berger via Facebook messenger. This is for a future article here in *SXM Weekly News*.

We look forward to this resort opening soon and hopefully being a major success. The island needs up-to-date resorts that provide top-drawer services to upscale visitors.

More information is [here](#). From the site: "Our resort will reopen on April 1st, 2021. Please revise your dates and search again. We hope to see you soon!"

26. New Upscale Hotel at Indigo Bay Appears a Step Closer Now...

SXM Weekly News has reported on a number of new hotel developments in recent years; some of them have happened and some of them haven't. One of the developments we had reported on was an upscale hotel on the hill at the northern end the property of the sprawling Indigo Bay residential development, not far from their beachfront restaurant.

We know a fair amount about this forthcoming hotel project but will not report it until it receives final approvals. But since we have reported on it here before, we do feel compelled to tell you that it is in its final approval stages now.

It will be entirely new construction and is expected to be quite upscale, which would be more great news for SXM.

We will keep you posted as this continues.

27. Still No Public Announcement from Columbia Sussex About Westin's Future

Although the Dawn beach club, the big timeshare facility at the Westin resort in Dawn beach, has been open for some time, there is still no clear news from owners Columbia Sussex about what's happening at the Westin Dawn Beach Resort and Casino, closed since being hammered by hurricane Irma almost 3 1/2 years ago.

We do know that some parts of the building are being used now though not for accommodations, and we have heard multiple reports that when it reopens, the resort will be a five-star property. Though it had been opened for a number of years when Irma struck, the resort needed a face-lift and our hunch is that once it reopens, the resort will show much more than a simple face-lift and hurricane repairs.

We know there had to be insurance delays because of the extent of damage and the size of the property — and Covid certainly hasn't helped. But it does seem to us that if the resort is going to open any time this year, Columbia Sussex ought to be telling its story now.

28. Easily Extend Your Vacation -- and Stay in Paradise

Visitors to SXM this Winter have been extending their vacations to an unheard of extent — meaning more of them are doing it than we ever recall happening before.

It's easy. Most airlines are still enabling passengers to change flight reservations without onerous fees. And resorts, in great shape following major reconstruction after Irma, have plenty of available rooms and are delighted to accommodate Winter-weary vacationers.

There is also no issue whatsoever here in enabling visitors to receive the required pre-return Covid tests necessary to return to the US. The cost of the test is reasonable, they can be done through most resorts and timeshares, and the results are generally ready in a few hours or, in many cases, much faster.

The US requires the test to be taken within three calendar days of your trip. We usually recommend you do it only a couple of days ahead in case of Winter-weather-related flight delays.

You look like you need a vacation; don't you really want to stay a bit longer?

29. SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability; This May Be The Best Year Ever

This may be the best Summer ever to vacation in SXM.

While the US Northeast and Midwest and much of the rest of the country swelter with high humidity and temperatures soaring into the 90s this coming Summer, you can come to SXM and enjoy refreshing sea breezes with water temperatures in the upper 80s.

Is the weather hot? Yes, but there is generally very low humidity and those refreshing tradewinds. Most restaurants are

open especially in July and August as well as late Spring and beaches are typically uncrowded. Plus, there are low Summer rates across the island not only in timeshares but also in villas, hotels, and other accommodations.

Also... most people here on SXM are expected to have been vaccinated by this Summer and hopefully you will be as well.

Make your summer reservations now. Why have to deal with crowds, heavy traffic, high prices, tolls, and snarly service in the US when you can have a vacation in paradise?

30. Great Availability Now / Easy Social Distancing Across SXM

SXM timeshare resorts vary in percentage of occupancy from the mid teens to over 50% depending on their demographics and features. What this means is that there is great availability across the island, across the board — far more availability than usual thanks to people staying home due to Covid concerns in the US. *This translates into lots of beach room and lots of room in restaurants where social distancing is being strictly observed -- and open-air seating doesn't mean you'll freeze to death as you would in the US.*

We have hundreds of timeshare units available for rent directly from their owners on our main site, everythingSXM.com. If you'd rather have the privacy and flexibility of a villa, please contact the Realtors listed below in our Sponsors article. Our site also offers timeshare condos for sale, and our realtors have a huge variety of full ownership condominiums available for sale here on SXM, including many that are just now being built.

Many people want to have their own place here on SXM so purchasing a fully owned condominium is a very popular option now for many people. See the following few stories for more on that exact topic.

31. Buying a Condo in SXM: Who to Contact

See the list of Realtors in our Sponsors list below; they are the most qualified to help you learn more about and acquire a condo on SXM that meets your specific needs. Also see the story below about BrightPath Caribbean, which can help enormously with required paperwork. They know what they're doing.

32. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

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*.

33. 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 next Summer and beyond.

34. 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

35. 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

36. Giant SKYMED Sale Underway! Pricing Guaranteed for Life!

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 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 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

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 Berger

37. SALE EXTENDED BUT MUST END 2/28 !

GET A FULL YEAR FREE OF JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU HELP US CONTINUE PUBLISHING SXM WEEKLY NEWS BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING A MULTIYEAR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR "JMB WEBSITE SUPPORTERS" ISLAND DISCOUNT PROGRAM:

We know readers / JMB members have uncertainties -- for clearly obvious reasons. Our business has been adversely affected by Covid-19 as have most businesses worldwide and we need your help now to continue be able to research, write, produce, and distribute SXM Weekly News to you, its more than 344,000 worldwide readers every week as we have since 1992... That's why we're giving all readers who do multiyear new, renewal, or reinstated JMB memberships now a free "Plus One" additional full year of JMB membership. *That's our thanks to you for helping us make it through this challenging period.*

You'll certainly return within a year (possibly way sooner), since an effective vaccine appears likely to be available during the coming winter. So, take advantage of this unique, about-to-end offer and sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

Military / First Responder memberships are included.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

All our *new membership rates* except one-year new memberships have this same "Plus One" enticement. Here are our low regular new membership prices:

- 1 year \$59 (no "Plus One" one-year bonus)
- 3 years \$109 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.
- 5 years \$139 plus you get an additional full Plus One year free.

Sign up by going to everythingsxm.com and clicking the page curl, or phone us.

b) Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members: remember, you get "Plus One" in all of these – a full year on us in addition to the years stated:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement does not offer "Plus One"... it remains \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89, plus you get an additional fourth year free.
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149, plus you get an additional seventh year free. Please ACT NOW.**

You can do both renewals and reinstatements [right here](#), in our membership reinstatement center (prices are identical to renewals). For new memberships, click the page curl on our main site, everythingsxm.com, for info or to sign up. Your renewal begins when your current subscription ends. Reinstatements of expired memberships take just a few days to process. You can reinstate an old membership regardless of how many years ago it expired, too. We email you a new membership card once processing has been completed.

c) Military and First-Responder memberships offer you the usual four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception) plus you get an additional fifth year free. That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Please ACT NOW.

We hope you are having a pleasant summer, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today to get that additional full-year Plus One bonus before it goes away soon.**

Don't want to use PayPal to sign up or renew (even though you need not be a PayPal member)? Just call our office any day from 8am to 8pm EDT at **508-830-3456** and we'll be happy to take your info by phone. If lines are busy and you get our answering system, you can leave your info on our secure line. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

If you already did this and have not yet received your membership materials, we're moving as quickly as we can with a temporarily reduced staff. We hope to be fully caught up shortly

THANK YOU! MUST END 2/28 SO PLEASE ACT QUICKLY.

Jeff Berger / Tracy / Susan / Michael / Greg and the entire JMB team.
JMB Communications
P. O. Box 1812
Plymouth, MA 02362-1812

.....: Breaking News :.....

38. SUMMER VACATION IN SXM: Great Availability, & This May Be The Best Year Ever for an SXM Summer

REPEATED from the Accommodations section, above, in case you missed it:

This may be the best summer ever to vacation in SXM.

While the US Northeast and Midwest and much of the rest of the country swelters with high humidity and temperatures soaring into the 90s this coming summer, you can come to SXM and enjoy refreshing sea breezes with water temperatures in the upper 80s. Is the weather hot? Yes, but there is generally very low humidity and those refreshing tradewinds. Most restaurants are open especially in July and August as well as late spring and beaches are typically uncrowded. Plus, there are low summer rates across the island not only in timeshares but also in villas, hotels, and other accommodations.

Of course, most people here on SXM are expected to have been vaccinated by this summer and hopefully you will be, too.

Make your summer reservations now. Why have to deal with crowds, heavy traffic, high prices, tolls, and snarly service in the US when you can have a vacation in paradise?

39. Buccaneer Beach Bar Sold

The end of an era began last Friday when Bernard Fourie, longtime owner of Buccaneer Beach Bar, closed on the sale of that venerable property between Simpson Bay resort and Atrium resort.

One of the most popular beach bars on the island for many years, Buccaneer was a gathering place for locals and tourists offering great beach food and lots of friendly chatter.

We've heard that the buyers are the same folks who own Sunset, and that they plan a similar concept to Buccaneer but with some anticipated changes to the property. We have not yet talked to the new owners but we hope to do so soon to get a little more information about their plans. Our hunch is that they will shoot for opening a new property by sometime this Fall.

Buccaneer's former owner Bernard Fourie has been spending much of this winter in New England skiing and enjoying the cold — a huge change for him. We texted him last Friday and he said, "It's bitter sweet ...entering a new chapter of life."

We hope to have more on plans for the new beach bar in the coming weeks.

40. Mama Pizza Moves Closer to Reopening in Oyster Pond

Mama Pizza is now completing final renovations prior to reopening its oyster pond location. Its other restaurant, at Porto Cupecoy, has been open for many months. As soon as we have the final opening date of the oyster pond location, which is expected to be during the first half of March, we will be announcing it here in *SXM Weekly News* and also, later, we'll post it in our social media sites, both our **Everything SXM Facebook Group** and our all-new Everything SXM MeWe Group.

See more on those two social media groups below.

41. Restaurant of the Week: Wasabi Charlie -- Pete & Charlie's

We often visited Wasabi Charlie during our trips over the last few years. As we reported last week, however, Wasabi Charlie has now been merged with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location in Simpson Bay across the street from iZi Ristorante Italiano.

Consequently, the entire Wasabi Charlie menu is now offered with the entire Pineapple Pete menu, and the sushi chef is now placed right in the main entry area of Pineapple Pete.

Head Pineapple Pierre Ferland knows what he's doing: our order for Nigiri sushi and some sushi rolls was perfectly executed, fresh, and delicious. We had been to some other Japanese locations in the area nearby and quite frankly they don't match what the new "Pete and Charlie's" combination offers.

We will be back soon and we urge you to get to Pineapple Pete/Wasabi Charlie, now Pete and Charlie's, on your next SXM trip.

Next week: Mandarin Pan Asian

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 2/22/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiiitto) (2/22/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location next door, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. See that entry, above.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 2/8/21) is the newest creation of Anish Chugani, who also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, beautiful, and has high-quality written all over it. We just went and loved it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/1/21) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 1/25/21) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy (featured 1/18/21) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous

other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

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

IZI Ristorante Italiano, 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 (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.mariobistro.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.

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

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...

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed. **Currently closed.**

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

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

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

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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jimbo's, www.jimboscafe.com (featured 6/12/17) Closed permanently.

Taloula Mango'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.

42. Toppers Restaurant Getting Closer to Moving to the Carousel

Toppers Restaurant is expected to move and reopen at the Carousel within about the next month to six weeks, depending upon the arrival of custom-made furniture coming for the restaurant from Europe. As soon as we have an actual opening date, we will publish it here and in both our social media sites. We also expect to be able to post a number of photographs of the all-new restaurant, bar, Karaoke, and performance venue there.

43. SPIGA Finally Sets Reopening Date in Grand Case - Sort Of

Spiga, the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, will be reopening sometime next month — it thinks.

It actually had planned to open earlier, but then the French side government decided to tear up the road in front of the restaurant from Spiga all the way to the French side airport. As soon as that construction is done in March, the restaurant will reopen, and as soon as we have that date, we will publish it in both of our social media sites (see information about the sites in the next article) and here in *SXM Weekly News*.

Lara and Ciro have had a lot of time off and knowing them, we are totally convinced their restaurant will be even better when it reopens even though it already is clearly one of the island's very best.

44. Join Our New Conversational Everything SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative

For years, you have been able to obtain a great deal of SXM information and photos/videos in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Unfortunately, not everyone is a fan of Facebook, so we have started a new Everything SXM group on a platform that has become a strong competitor Facebook — it is called MeWe.

We urge all fans of *SXM Weekly News* to become members of MeWe and join our group there; [here is the link](#).

45. 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.

46. Help Us Celebrate 7 Million Visits to our SXM Site...

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

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

In addition to vacations, we expect to give away dinners for two, gifts at jewelry stores, day sails, a car rental, and possibly some major gifts on one or two neighboring islands - all to be announced.

Here is more on our Paradise SXM vacation giveaway. To enter the giveaway, go to our home page at everythingxsm.com. That's the only place & the only way you can find the link to enter our giveaway. All winners *MUST* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers. If you're a pass-along or PDF reader, subscribe now at xsmweeklynews.com.

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

47. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

48. SkyMed Q&A / FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

This document contains general SkyMed information in answer to common questions. SkyMed's services are defined by its Member Services Agreements – plain English documents that tell you what you get and how it works (see much more info below). As always, SkyMed offers a 30-day “Free Look period,” so if for any reason you're not satisfied with your unused SkyMed protection before 30 days have expired, SkyMed will refund your money.

Q1. Does it cover my trip to...?

1. Basic short-term and annual “SkyMed Takes You Home®” protection applies throughout the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global Emergency Travel Services (G.E.T.S., a subsidiary of SkyMed) protection is available outside the USA, CANADA, MEXICO, BAHAMAS, BERMUDA, and the CARIBBEAN (the rest of the world), however neither SkyMed nor G.E.T.S. covers trips to nations on the U. S. State Department's then-current “Do Not Travel” list – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela currently, for example, and several others. Before planning a trip, check that list if you have any question about whether protection is provided for your destination – or call SkyMed directly during normal office hours (Mountain Standard Time) at 480 946 5188 or 1-800-475-9633.

Q2. Who is protected?

1. “Single” protection is available for individual travelers. “Family” protection includes your spouse or domestic partner and your young children up to 18 or 24 if they are full time students.

Q3. Do I need to call SkyMed before traveling outside my home country?

1. If you're traveling during the normal high season for travel to your destination, no. If you're traveling to your destination during its low season, do call SkyMed Member Services at the 800 number in the first question and let them know.

Q4. What if I'm going to a country not listed above in question 1?

1. Then you'll need (G.E.T.S) protection. If you have one of our Ultimate multiyear memberships, (G.E.T.S.) protection is included. On Annual (one-year) memberships, “G.E.T.S.” protection is an inexpensive option.

Q5. What's the difference between “short term” and “Annual” or multi-year protection?

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it “Takes You Home®” to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

1. There is no age limit to apply. There's no age limit on renewals, either.

Q7. Can you cancel my protection at a certain age or if I get really sick?

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be cancelled simply because you're a certain age or because your health has changed.

Q8. Will you raise the price of my membership at a certain age or if I get sick?

1. Once you're a SkyMed member, at renewal time you'll pay the same low renewal fees that everyone else with your type of membership pays. If you join at age 75 or older and purchase the X-Pat plan because you live in Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda, or the Caribbean, the X-Pat plan is more expensive than the standard traditional (Annual or multiyear Ultimate) plan.

Q9. What exactly does SkyMed cover? Is it health insurance?

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

This is the same list you'll find on the back of our current membership applications. SkyMed provides up to 18 benefits related to medical evacuation if you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while traveling. It is not health insurance – in the “SkyMed universe,” SkyMed *Takes You Home*® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, where your health insurance works.

Q10. What about pre-existing conditions? Are they covered?

1. Yes: for short-term memberships, medevac protection (including items listed in the answer to Q9, above) is included for critical illnesses or injuries related to pre-existing and non-pre-existing conditions. For Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, pre-existing conditions are covered after a brief 90-day waiting period.

Q11. I want guaranteed renewable protection because of my age, but I'm going on a trip sooner than 90 days. What can we do about that?

1. Get our inexpensive short-term membership to cover your near-term trip, including medical evacuations for serious or critical illnesses or injuries due to pre-existing conditions. At the same time, apply for an Annual or Ultimate membership, to kick in once your near-term trip ends.

Q12. I'm not traveling for a while. When should I apply?

1. Get SkyMed before you need it – just like fire insurance. Since you don't know when you'll need it – and since health can change in a heartbeat thanks to falls, accidents, or other issues – it's always better to do it sooner rather than later. Beyond that, if you have pre-existing conditions and get SkyMed Annual or multiyear Ultimate medevac protection now, that 90-day exclusion period for pre-existing conditions protection may well be finished by the time you travel.

Q13. What kind of questions do you ask in your application? Do you send somebody to do a medical exam?

1. There's no medical exam. Our application is simple, asking about hospitalizations in the last six months, your current medical conditions, and your prescriptions – and on the prescriptions, all we need is their name, not dosage info. If you have a complex medical history, SkyMed may ask for a “HQ” (health questionnaire) to be completed by your doctor and submitted to SkyMed by fax. You should also have your passport number handy; we record it so it's there in case you need help outside your home country.

Q14. How long does it take before I hear whether I'm accepted?

1. Generally just a few business days, but it's always best to do your application early to ensure sufficient time for processing.

Q15. I have more questions. Where do I find the answers?

1. SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger, located in Massachusetts, will be happy to answer your questions. Call his private line at 508-747-8281.

Q16. Can I sign up online?

1. For fastest results, we always suggest you contact us directly. We've done thousands of applications and can whisk you through the process in minimal time and with minimal bother. To get additional information first and see some customer stories, check our site, www.skymed.com/jmb . But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

1. SkyMed is available to residents of the USA and Canada, and to X-Pats living in the countries listed in Q1. X-Pat protection is necessary if you live outside the US or Canada for six months or more, in aggregate, in any 12-month period. Always notify SkyMed if you move.

Q18. I have a rather deep medical history. Will SkyMed still accept me?

1. Although SkyMed accepts the vast majority of applications, others do get health questionnaires (see Q13) and occasionally some do not qualify. There is no cost to apply if your membership application cannot be accepted. A history of a heart attack or cancer several years ago or other maladies does not automatically signal any issues for SkyMed. Apply – there is nothing to lose (again, no charge if you're not accepted). And as we noted in Q6 there is no age limit to apply and no age limit to renew.

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020.

We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

SkyMed Travel reservation # 1-800-568-8994 is open during regular business hours 8am to 5pm (MST). Messages can be left off hours.

Resources to help you:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/travel

Canadian government updates www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) www.cbp.gov

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

SkyMed Travel reservations www.skymedtravel.com or email info@skymedtravel.com

*SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or memberservices@skymed.com*

Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can.

Regular member

services are being conducted everyday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in the SkyMed Member family wherever you are in this time of uncertainty.

Eleanore Klein, President

SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm or you can email him at jeff@jmbcommunications.com with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:

JMB Communications

Membership Services

support@jmbcommunications.com

49. 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.

50. 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](#)

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See skymed.com/jmb. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

51. Are You Military, First Responder, or Nurse?

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

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

52. Less Money, More Benefits on SkyMed Ultimate

[Get The Current Low Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)

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

All annual and longer memberships bought or renewed in 2021 are now PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE!

53. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 2/15/21)

AMUSEMENTS

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

BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

[SkyMed International](#) (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#) NEW!

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publishers](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also [VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES](#), below)

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Century 21 St. Maarten

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)

AVANTIKA (new)

MOVIDA (new)

ASTRA (new)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

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

Villa Vijoux:

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

Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 2/15/21

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

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

In business since the web began --

a unit of JMB Communications.

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

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

Our **JMB SXM Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". 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://everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsexm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2021. 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.everythingsexm.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.everythingsexm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact support@jmbcommunications.com

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

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

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

2/22/21 #V4-1287 6pm AST 2/20/21 | [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright ©, JMB Communications, 2021. World rights reserved.

###