

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/22/21: UK Can Send Tourists to SXM Again; JFK's Big Changes; Divi; "14" Twin Condo Towers in Cupecoy Approaching Sellout; Asha Jagtiani; 6-Vacation Giveaway Set for Today (Monday) But You Must Answer Your Phone; New Summer Vacation Giveaway Starting; French Side Oddities; Parking in Philipsburg; Our 2021 Awards of Excellence Winners; Vow Renewals / Beach Weddings [54 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 5, #1291 --- Monday, 3/22/21
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

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



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This Week's Stories

Airfare, Airlines & Weather News

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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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.*

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



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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?>

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TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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54 News Stories This Week

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB

Website Supporters. Visit http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

SXM Timeshare Rentals of The Week:

RENTAL 4/11/2021 4/18/2021 Week 15 **Simpson Bay Resort an Marina Ocean View Large One Bedroom Unit one third floor. Totally** renovated in the Beaumont Bld with King bedroom and two Murphy beds in the living room. Large full kitchen and dining area. Beautiful large patio overlooking the ocean and suspenseful A/C Parking below. Free shuttle service to restaurants and food shopping. 6 pools, gym, tennis, shuffle board and boat excursions at resort. Renter is responsible for \$50.00 timeshare tax due upon check out. \$1,350.00 John 631 828 6815 mjgeiger43@yahoo.com

RENTAL 8/14/2021 8/21/2021 Week 33 **Sapphire Beach Club & Resort** Beautiful, and breathtaking views from penthouse unit. Two bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, sleeps 6. Private pool, and jacuzzi, lounge deck area, and bar-b-que. Full kitchen, dining, and living room. T.V.'s in both bedrooms, and living room. Unit has washer/dryer. Restaurant/bar poolside, grocery, gym, salon, masseuse. Garage parking is an option. Unit has been fully refurbished. You will not be disappointed, beautiful unit, island, and people. Watch sunset, sailboats, total tranquility. \$1,800.00 Cathy (727) 215-4195 cathyrocco7@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sales of The Week:

SALE 1/29/2022 2/5/2022 Week 5 **Flamingo Beach** Best 2 bedroom lockoff villa in Flamingo Beach Resort. Building 6. On ocean and poolside. Rent half and use other. Great for families using total lockoff. 2 complete Villas connected with a locked door. Both sides sleep 4, kitchens, washer/dryers. No blocked views. Totally new after hurricane. Very secure. Private access. Walking distance to all Simpson Bay restaurants. No rental car necessary, use cabs. Bought pre-build to get best location. Renters return annually. You will not be disappointed. Only will sell total lockoff. \$8,000 Mark 734-341-3839 markamo@me.com

SALE 2/5/2022 2/12/2022 Week 6 **Simpson Bay Resort** 2 Bedroom Unit. One bedroom third floor with connecting stairs to sleep 2 studio. Facing pool. Upper B Building. Week 7 also available in same unit. Studio can be rented separately. \$10,000 per week or BO Phil Cheryl956@aol.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our 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://everythingxsm.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

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If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read *From JMB* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Weather, and COVID-19

GETTING HERE:

TOP STORY: UK Removed From Banned Countries List by EHAS; Buy Your Tickets & Pack Your Bags...

St. Maarten has now removed its ban on travel from the United Kingdom, effective at the end of last week. If you look at the list of banned countries on the [EHAS website](#), you will see that the United Kingdom is no longer there.

1. Low Fares, Low Covid Numbers, Vaccinations = Steady Uptick in Visitors for Spring, Summer

A combination of generally low fares, apparent consistently low Covid numbers, and the number of Covid vaccinations in the US surpassing 118 million are combining to lead to a steady uptick in visitor numbers for spring and summer here in SXM. Not all fares are low, so you may have to do a bit of hunting to find the best fares and travel dates. But there are lots of fare deals as well as exceptionally low prices at SXM hotels and timeshares on a per-night basis. We also list hundreds of timeshare weeks offered directly by their timeshare owners on our main website, [everythingSXM.com](#); just go there and click the timeshare rentals link. There are also hundreds of timeshare condo weeks for sale at very attractive prices.

This is dry season, so weather is gorgeous, enabling sand gravity to take effect whenever you are on or near a beach, making outdoor dining remarkably easy and pleasant, and facilitating your ability to visit Philipsburg (see related article in our main news section) for shopping for Jewelry at dozens of jewelry stores or for souvenirs at the big new Rima store west of the center of town, which offers two full floors of beachwear and souvenir shopping at Incredibly low factory prices.

Key reasons for visiting SXM during the next few months are no crowds; light traffic; uncrowded beaches; great restaurants which are also uncrowded; and low prices for airfares and hotels, all of which compares very favorably against what you would encounter in the US late this spring and summer. And the weather into early August should be quite spectacular here. If you have not already made plans for summer vacation here in SXM, now is the time.

2. Huge Renovations at JFK To Remake City's Busiest Airport; Jet Blue, American Getting New Terminals

John F. Kennedy international Airport in New York is undergoing major changes to enable it to accommodate upwards of 60 million passengers per year. Two changes of real significance to SXM passengers coming from JFK involve both JetBlue Airways and American Airlines.

JetBlue, which should start flying to London within roughly a year and other destinations in Europe after that, will be adding a terminal 6 (and possibly 7) to its big T5 complex at JFK, adding at least 12 new gates at JFK.

American Airlines is building a new terminal in a joint venture with British Airways, in part to support its near-shuttle-frequency of flights between JFK and London. Despite the fact that AA and JB are cooperating on some codeshare activities in the Northeast, we fully expect a price war on JFK-LHR flights once JB starts flying, even if to another London airport.

Both terminal projects cost billions and should take a few years to be completed. More information is [here](#); we will continue to update readers as these projects come closer to reality.

3. Our "Complete Guide to Entry Requirements" Can Help Get You Here Now (Revised 3/19/21)

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

If you are contemplating coming to SXM now or later to relieve your year-long cabin fever, 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 traveling back to SXM. Rely on it: it can make things a lot easier for you.

WEATHER:

4. Our SXM Weather Center Preps for Hurricane Season, 2021

Our big main SXM site, everythingSXM.com, Features many items of great interest to all SXM visitors — including its own weather center, a prime focus of all SXM visitors principally during hurricane season. Although the 2021 hurricane season begins June 1, it is rare for any storms to bother SXM to any significant degree before late August. Nonetheless, we are currently updating the site so you can always read about current SXM weather conditions there, download your own hurricane tracking chart, and get other important hurricane-related information.

During hurricane season, the latest watches and warnings are posted on our site in real time as they are issued by the national hurricane center for all active Atlantic basin storms. The site also contains a number of satellite images and satellite loops which show where storms are, potential tracks, and other important information. Please note the availability of the site for your use during the coming hurricane season. To visit it, go to www.everythingsxm.com and click **weather center**.

During the season it will be updated 24 hours a day, as always.

To readers who have helped support our ability to produce the weather center and to produce SXM Weekly News for you every week, we are grateful for your support; to those who would like to help us continue to do this in this difficult economy, please see story 34.

5. How Crown Weather Can Help Everyone Prepare for the Coming Hurricane Season

Our chief meteorologist Rob Lightbown, who heads private forecasting service Crown Weather (www.crownweather.com), provides valuable information around-the-clock to subscribers of his remarkably inexpensive private forecasting service.

If you live or work anywhere along the US East or Gulf Coast or the Canadian Maritimes or in any part of the Caribbean, you know that your area can be a prime target for a future hurricane. Rob Lightbown is the go to Meteorologist for accurate, current, incisive information about where storms are going and when: in fact that is how other Meteorologists characterize him when asked about his capabilities. It's also why we chose him a number of years ago and have been subscribing to his services ever since. If you live in the described areas, we urge you to become a direct subscriber to crown weather's services, which can be worth far more to you, your family, and your business/practice as the season unfolds. For more information, see www.crownweather.com.

6. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info (Revised 3/8/21)

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

- 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 now 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. 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. 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.

8. 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.

9. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Now Required

See story 18.

10. 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 the vast majority of cases, 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.

11. What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted (Updated 3/15/21)

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.

12. 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 whether they can get Covid vaccine shots while in SXM. The answer is NO. Vaccines are now being distributed here and they are being 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. Attempting to get the vaccine in SXM when you are not eligible to get it takes away a chance to be immunized for someone who lives in SXM, which would be grossly unfair to locals and rather arrogant. Do NOT do it please.

If you are a resident of SXM, that's a different story; SXM residents, contact your healthcare provider for more information.

13. 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 3/19/2021

14. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Updated 3/19/21)

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.

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 are now able to sign up for the now required Covid insurance once you have uploaded your negative test results.

15. LIST OF ACCEPTABLE TESTS for Entry to SXM

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.

"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 above.

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

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

Where do you find a test in your area that will be able to deliver results to you within the required 120 or 48 hours? There are a number of ways to find out. You can ask friends who travel from your area; you can ask people on 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 in 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.

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

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

Important: Unless you are an SXM Resident, DO NOT INDICATE ON THE FORM THAT YOU ARE A RESIDENT; some people do that and then can't upload test results properly. If you can't upload your test results, chances are you indicated that you are a resident. Redo the form and submit it correctly, or you will not be pre-approved and you will spend your vacation at home. (Added 3/19/21)

Important: The form asks if you have "transit stops" other than SXM. They want to know if your flight stops in another country (besides the US) before going to SXM. Chances are it does NOT; if that's the case, say NO. (Added 3/19/21)

18. Required Covid Insurance Information (Updated 3/8/21)

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.

19. *VERY Important***: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 3/15/21)**

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

First, we'll deal with the common threads.

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

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 again very closely to make sure that it conforms to all applicable requirements. Then and only then, resubmit the application** — and double check your 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 #7)

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. Fascinating Work Underway in Divi Little Bay Resort Expansion

As we've reported here recently, work continues at a fast pace in building the new timeshare/hotel buildings at the Divi resort on Little Bay beach. The room count there will be increasing by about 1/3 to more than 200 units, making it one of the largest resorts on the island.

Divi is a hybrid resort accepting both timeshare owners and hotel guests. Located right on a normally peaceful ocean beach, the resort has a beautiful new multilevel pool and a number of different style restaurants offering a spectrum of fare.

The construction project itself, visible from the main road passing through the Belair area, is a hub of activity and has been for months. It, like the Drake condo development a couple of miles away on Simpson Bay beach, is using the latest construction techniques to withstand even the strongest hurricanes. It makes interesting watching, though you can't stop along the road to see it (busy two-lane road).

26. Twin Condo Towers at "14" Project in Cupecoy Approaching Sellout

The twin tower "14" condo development project next to the Mullet Bay golf course in the Cupecoy area has proven to be one of the most popular new condo development projects on the island.

The first tower appears to be fully erected, with extensive interior and exterior finishing work now underway. It is expected to be open for tenants in roughly a year or perhaps even less.

Construction has begun on the second tower, steel for which should start to be seen on the site fairly soon. According to Arun Jagtiani, head of Island Real Estate Team, only 10 two-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit remain available in the towers — and only one of those units is in the first tower. The towers offer built-to-code protection against hurricanes and we have been told that the standpipes in the building provide complete fire protection on all floors in the 18 story towers. The entire building has been constructed of poured concrete and its ultra-thick windows are capable of withstanding winds of up to 280 mph. (Irma was about 240 mph in tornadoes.)

27. "Drake" Condo Project on Simpson Bay Beach Progressing Well

Significantly smaller than the 14 project mentioned in the previous story, the Drake condo project on Simpson Bay beach is quickly moving toward completion of its beachfront building, with the buildings behind it rapidly underway.

This building offers superb hurricane resistance, very reasonable pricing, and is conveniently located near the northern end of Simpson Bay beach. There is surprisingly little noise from the nearby airport, too (we spend a lot of time in that area each winter).

We can put you in direct contact developer of this project who is also expected to start construction of a second project nearby in the Burgeaux Bay area soon. He can talk to you about pricing, construction quality, location, etc. The best way to contact us about him is to send us a PM in Facebook Messenger that includes your name, address, email address, phone number and which project has your interest. The developer will get back to you directly with pricing and availability. The developer has been on the island for many years and is well known; you will enjoy speaking with him. If you don't use Facebook messenger, you can leave all the information in our office in a direct message to Jeff at 508-747-8281. That's a landline that does not accept text messages.

28. Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact

See the 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 immediately below about BrightPath Caribbean, a company that can help enormously with required paperwork. They know what they're doing.

29. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while 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*.

30. More New 2021-22 Rentals Now Posted at Everythingsxm.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 and now 2022 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.

The latest update is in progress now, as you read this, and is expected to be completed tomorrow.

31. 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 everythingxm.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

32. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 3/1/21)

Once Covid is gone and the fallout from it has cleared, we will resume 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 section.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

33. Giant SKYMED Medevac Protection 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 or more -- sometimes much more. 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.

- **HOW TO CONTACT US:** Phone us anytime at 508-591-3483 or during normal business hours at 508-747-8281 for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.

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

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well.

--Jeff Berger

34. Help SXM Weekly News Continue to Publish:

HELP US CONTINUE TO PUBLISH SXM WEEKLY NEWS BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING A 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...

You'll certainly return within a year (possibly way sooner), so please sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

Military / First Responder memberships available too at huge discounts.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

Here are our low new membership prices:

- 1 year \$59
- 3 years \$109
- 5 years \$139

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

b) Here are all the multiyear renewal / reinstatement rates for all current or former members:

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement is \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89
- **Our Best Offer: Six-year renewal/reinstatements, \$149; 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, everythingxsm.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 four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception). That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly standard-price basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. Please ACT NOW.

We hope you are having a pleasant Winter, **but please ... join, renew, or reinstate today.**

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

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!

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

.....Here's More Island News.....

35. Asha Jagtiani Passes Away Unexpectedly

One of the best known and most revered members of SXM's Indian community, Asha Jagtiani, passed away unexpectedly last week after a short illness.

Asha will be remembered by a broad spectrum of SXM visitors. For a number of years she was associated with Sapphire Beach Resort which enabled her to meet many island visitors, all of whom she greeted with a friendly smile and a wealth of advice and information about the island. Later, she would often be seen along with her husband Jack at her son Dino Jagtiani's restaurant, Temptation, just a short distance away from Sapphire.

Of her passing, her sons Dino and Arun Jagtiani, who heads Island Real Estate Team on SXM, said the following:

From Arun:

Rest In Peace to the most amazing human being I have ever met. She was my inspiration, my rock, my everything and the reason I am who I am. Compassion, Love, Gratitude are just some of the words to describe who she was at her core.

She lived a lifestyle that was healthier than anyone I know, so when she wasn't feeling well the last few days we all assumed she would shake it off and be fine. She was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday and passed Wednesday night. From this day forward my heart will be forever broken... Love you mom, thanks for everything.

From Dino:

You were the wind beneath my wings and a real Saint. I am what I am today cause of you. RIP mom.

This is the most treasured recipe from my cookbook [from Asha]:

Recipe for infinite happiness: Infinite amounts of: peace, love, health, wisdom, harmony, sunlight, and gratitude.

All of us at JMB Communications extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Dino, Arun, and their families during these difficult moments. It was only about a year ago that their dad, Jack, also passed away.

36. SXM 6-Vacation Giveaway is THIS MORNING, MONDAY, MARCH 22 2021 Starting at 8 a.m AST/EDT; You MUST Answer Your Phone to Win

The drawing will be live on the air on Island 92 radio (91.9FM or island92.com) Monday, March 22, 2021, starting at 8am island time and ending around 9:30.

You will see a complete list below of the full-week vacations we are giving away at six different locations across SXM. We now hyperlink to all of those locations. Grand Prize information also is below.

One thing is key: when we call you to give you a one-week vacation, you must answer the phone. If you don't, the folks at Island92 will play a sad song on your telephone answering machine telling you that you lost a vacation by not answering your phone. This has happened before but we never played anything — we just disconnected and called someone else.

Here are more details about this great giveaway:

During our "Paradise SXM" Event, we'll be giving away several SXM vacations, including weeks at:

[Simpson Bay Resort](#) on Simpson Bay Beach

[Belair Beach Hotel](#) on Little Bay Beach

[Adonis Cupecoy Hotel](#) short walking distance to Mullet Bay Beach and Cupecoy Beach

[Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#) on Simpson Bay Beach

[El Zafiro Hotel](#) on Simpson Bay Beach

[Colony Manor Golden Daze Guest House](#) on Simpson Bay Beach

All vacations are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.

And we are also giving away - to our GRAND PRIZE WINNER - lots of things, including:

Dinner for two at [IZI RISTORANTE ITALIANO](#)

Dinner for two at [ISOLA Ristorante](#)

Dinner for two at the legendary [MARIO'S BISTRO at The Cliff](#) in Cupecoy

Dinner for two at [VESNA TAVERNA](#)

A tour of the [TOPPERS RHUM DISTILLERY](#) plus **TWO bottles of RHUM to TAKE HOME**

TWO full-size SXM maps with lots of island information from [Kasprowski Publishers](#)

And a full week car rental from [LEISURE CAR RENTAL](#)!

All Dinners for two are limited to two people and are subject to limits specified by the provider.

What's This About?

The giveaway celebrates JMB SXM Media surpassing 7,000,000 visits (it's now at 7.38-million). The weeks we give away will be handed out to randomly picked entries. *All are subject to seasonal limitations and availability.*

All winners *MUST* be subscribers to SXM Weekly News (required); it's free. We will verify that all winners are subscribers. If you're a pass-along or PDF reader, subscribe now at sxmweeklynews.com.

Paradise SXM is one of our biggest Giveaways ever. Six people will win vacations. We hope one of them is you!

37. A Vacation at Orient Beach Hotel Is Coming! How To Enter - News for YOU As Well as Losers of Our 3/22 Giveaway

Our six vacation giveaway to celebrate our SXM sites surpassing 7 million visits happens today (3/22) — but we have two important pieces of news for all of our now 355,000 readers:

Effective March 23, you will be able to enter our brand-new giveaway, **Summer Sensation**, which delivers a one-week vacation at the fabulous new Orient Beach Hotel on Orient beach in St. Martin, SXM's longest, most popular beach. See more about [Orient Beach Hotel here](#).

Two more important facts. First, let's not think negatively, but if you were to lose in today's (3/22) drawing, you still have another chance at winning a vacation — since we are in part using the same pool of entries for our next giveaway!

But what if you didn't enter the giveaway that we're doing next week? No problem, since this week we will reopen entries so you will be able to enter for the giveaway, which we expect to do in June.

Orient Beach Hotel is a perfect place to stay for your next summer vacation — even if it's in an additional vacation beyond what you already planned. July is the most perfect month on SXM, with great weather, just about every restaurant still open, plus low traffic and plenty of room on all the beaches — how's that for a change from the endless traffic jams on the Jersey shore, Cape Cod, or Lake George?

SXM in summer is a great vacation place: it's time you took a real summer vacation and get away from all that traffic, noise, and congestion that you find where you usually go. *There's nothing stopping you.*

Come visit us in SXM this summer and start yourself a great new tradition!

HOW TO ENTER THIS 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.

38. French Side Closes Some Covid Testing Sites to Take "Holidays"

In a move that totally defies logic, the French side of the island has decided to close its Covid testing center so its people can take a holiday. Multiple holidays, in fact, some of which have already happened but the rest of which are still ahead.

Apparently oblivious for whatever reason to the fact that there is a pandemic going on and that people coming to the French side to stay over must be tested to be sure they're healthy, here is what the French side is doing:

The Institut Pasteur de Guadeloupe, which processes the PCR tests carried out in Saint-Martin, will be closed [soon]. The Marigot drive (located behind Mac-Donald [Sic!-Ed.]) as well as the Red Cross drive (at Hope Estate) will therefore be closed ... on Friday April 2 (Good Friday), Saturday April 3 and Monday April 5 (Easter Monday). Everyone is called to organize themselves accordingly. Contact cases and / or people needing hospitalization are invited to contact the Bio Antilles laboratory on 05 90 77 68 88

If you are affected by this, we suggest you EITHER ask your place of accommodation on the French side what they suggest you do about it; OR cancel your French side stay and stay on the Dutch side instead, where you will encounter none of this rigmarole. This applies only to people staying on the French side. Bear in mind that if you fly into the Dutch side airport you must also meet Dutch side entry requirements which are described in the Guide to Entry Requirements published in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

See next story.

39. French Side's Odd Behavior toward Grand Case Businesses

A few years ago, the French side government announced that Boulevard de Grand Case would be repaved before harmony nights began the following winter. The trouble began when people assumed, quite reasonably, that they meant the harmony nights starting the following winter, just weeks away.

They were wrong in making that assumption.

The reality was that it was a few years before the French side bothered to repave Boulevard de Grand Case — and when it did, it was just as *this year's* fragile high season was beginning. The decision struck everyone — except those who made it, apparently — as beyond illogical, since it thoroughly disrupted all commerce in Grand Case for weeks at a time when Grand Case businesses were in critical need of making it easy for people to visit their establishments. The last thing they needed or wanted was for the French side government to put up roadblocks (literally and figuratively) to the ability of customers to visit.

But that is exactly what the French side government did, and Grand Case was all but shut down for weeks. "Boulevard de Grand Case" was a bumpy, dusty, barely passable mess.

The northern end of Boulevard de Grand Case is still a mess, since repaving there is still not complete; the road is rough and annoying.

Then, adding insult to injury, the French side tore up Rue de l'esperance, the road that goes by the French side airport and connects with Boulevard de Grand Case at its northern end. That happens to be where two very prominent Grand Case businesses are located — Tijon Parfumerie and Spiga Restaurant, both of which were trying to be open for their customers but found it almost impossible to do so because of the unending, ridiculously mis-scheduled road work.

Spiga still isn't open thanks to the construction and won't be until it's finished.

Grand Case is truly the epicenter of French side tourism, other than Orient beach. Until Marigot has been remade as officials have been promising for years, Marigot is a non-factor in attracting tourism. So it should stand to reason that respect should have been given to the businesses of Grand Case to enable them to survive this difficult period. Why the French side government didn't do this construction at some point during the coming low season, when it would have a near-zero impact on revenue from tourists, we are unable to fathom.

40. Many Jewelers Provide Taxis or Parking For Customers Coming to Philipsburg as Central Parking Lot Stays Closed

For stayover tourists, parking in Philipsburg is a challenge. The main paid parking lot behind the historic courthouse and the vendor area hasn't been attended all winter long, so people who work downtown clog it with their cars, making it impossible for tourists/customers to park near downtown to walk and shop. There is parking farther away near the Pondfill but that is a very long walk for most tourists and few are interested in doing it.

There is a very low cost (about \$1/hour) paid parking area near Bobby's Marina in the Chesterfield's area that is convenient for businesses on the Eastern end of front Street but if you're going anywhere near the courthouse or the western end of front Street, then it, too, is a long walk.

The good news is that many jewelers are willing and able to help their customers get downtown to their stores. Some will pay for Taxis to take you to their stores, and others will give you access to their private parking spaces in the area. But all of those spaces are limited and really are strictly for customers of specific jewelry stores offering such access.

Why the central paid parking lot has still not been reopened — while at the same time many people wonder why business is so bad in Philipsburg — seems a bizarre juxtaposition. If they open the parking lot and make it available primarily to tourists, that would make it easy for tourists to come and buy — but that hasn't happened so most tourists just don't bother trying to visit Philipsburg.

Without cruise ship traffic which is not expected to return to normal until late this year, Philipsburg needs business from stayover tourists. We hope that the island government takes the steps necessary soon to open the parking lot and make it easy for tourists to come downtown and put money in the pockets of increasingly desperate business owners who need customers now.

41. The Winners of our 2021 SXM Awards of Excellence

Every year for the past 10 years, everythingSXM.com has been delivering Awards of Excellence to top island businesses including restaurants, hotels/timeshares, realtors, and more. We try to do this every year in December but normally it's not completed until January or February, which was the case this year. ***We are delighted to announce the following companies, in no special order, as the winners of our 2021 everythingSXM.com Awards of Excellence:***

Avantika Thai restaurant, Azure hotel and art studio, Belair beach hotel, BrightPath Caribbean, All in one Place, Orange Grove Pharmacy, Simpson Bay Pharmacy, Pineapple Pete/Wasabi Charlie's, Mario's Bistro, iZi Ristorante Italiano,

Baker's Suites, Tijen Parfumerie, Toppers Restaurant, Toppers Rhum Distillery, SXM Cigars.

Astra restaurant, Emilio's restaurant, Vesna Taverna, Divi Resort, Oyster Bay Beach Resort, Sunshine Properties, Roxxy, Sale and Pepe, Leisure Car Rental, Hommage Hotel (Nettle Bay), Island92 radio, La Rosa Ristorante Italiano, Nonna Pizza, Simpson Bay Resort, Jennifer's Vacation Villas, Heineken Regatta, Century21, Island Real Estate Team, Rima, JN Jewelers/Jewels and Beyond, celebrated author Jacky Rom, Pelican Bistro, Melange Restaurant, Mandarin Pan-Asian, Isola Ristorante Italiano, Isola Pizza, Mama Pizza, Georgina's Nails, Blue Bitch Bar, Enigma catamaran, Cigar Mack, SXM Beer, Soggy Dollar bar.

Caribbean Gems, Zhaveri Jewelers, Oro Diamante Jewelers, Alpha Jewels, Ray's Jewelers, Shoppers Haven, Majesty Jewels.

Our congratulations to these awarded businesses!

42. Restaurant of the Week: Jai's Fusion / Contemporary Indian Cuisine

All Indian restaurants are not alike. Named Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine by its owner, Jai, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), Jai's puts its own twist on Indian Cuisine with interesting variations that it presents differently from your average Indian restaurants.

Each meal presents with delicious and unique flavors that are clearly Indian but also clearly different from the Indian you may be used to. We recently went with a few friends and spent a few hours there that were pleasurable from beginning to end. If your tastes are vegetarian, there are a number of choices here — and all you need to do is make your dietary needs known to Jai and he will do the rest. There were enough appetizers, entrées, plentiful sides, and desserts to keep us going all night if we could last that long.

Check out their website at www.jaiscontemporaryindiancuisine.com. You'll find them at 68 Welfare Road units 10 and 11 in Plaza Del Lago, in the Simpson Bay area. They're open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 630 to 10:30 PM; Friday and Saturday from 630 to 11 PM; and Sunday from 6:30 PM to 10 PM. Closed Mondays. We think they are terrific and we strongly recommend that you give them a try.

Next week: Check this page for our review of another fine SXM restaurant.

Here are other recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/15/21). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. \$10 pasta specials at lunch - lots of great food in every meal.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 3/8/21). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

Pure Ocean Restaurant at Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21) Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great Caribbean ambience on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

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 sizable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach. **Now also open in Oyster Pond.**

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

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.mariobistrot.com/en/ 12/11/20 Mario's is one of the most

spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations required.

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

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. **Reopening soon.**

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.

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

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.

42a. Important Heads-Up About Making Reservations

Every restaurant on SXM is adhering strictly to local regulations enforcing social distancing. That means that fewer tables are available in all restaurants, giving the restaurants a reduced opportunity to make a living.

For that reason, it is critically important that when you make a reservation at a restaurant you either show up and dine there or **do them the courtesy and respect of canceling the reservation a few hours ahead so the restaurant has the opportunity to resell those seats**. I've suggested many times that restaurateurs collect credit card information when they take reservations and charge people who are no-shows and who have not canceled. Being a no-show and failing to cancel is arrogant and it takes away the restaurants opportunity to profit from its work.

So far no SXM restaurant has taken us up on the suggestion, but again, be courteous and respectful and please cancel any reservation you won't be able to use as far in advance as you possibly can. Restaurants will be grateful...

43. Vow Renewals / Beach Weddings

As vaccination rates soar (over 118 million now in the USA) and as Covid cases continue to decline (hopefully, assuming everyone continues to wear their masks), opportunities arise during summer and later for people to go ahead with long planned special occasions such as vow renewals, family parties, and weddings — and SXM is a perfect place to celebrate all of these.

One place we have strongly recommended for years is **Azure hotel and art studio** on Simpson Bay Beach, owned by Fawnette and Michael Angelides. Their hotel is located on a quiet stretch of Simpson Bay beach and your beach lounge is only a few steps away from your room which is directly on the beach. The water is always warm and delightful.

At Azure, a longtime capability is setting up special occasion celebrations on the beach at the hotel. Tables, chairs, dining, decorations, flowers, and even the officiant (who is Fawnette herself) are all easily arranged through Fawnette and Michael. They have done many of these over the years and can show you pictures, and their experience enables them to be responsive to a broad spectrum of your ideas.

For much more information, go [here](#). You can also phone them directly at (721) 581-3858 and tell them we suggested you do so. The location is ideal and the people are wonderful.

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.

The US REQUIRES Covid tests for everyone returning there from SXM. Details are in our Guide to Entry Requirements, published early in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*. 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. 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 [everything.sxm.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.

47. 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 canceled 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

48. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 27,500 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.

49. 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](#)

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

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

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

51. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 3/15/21)

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](#)

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](#)

Royal Jewelers (new)

Kay's Fine Jewelry (new)

Joe's Jewelry International (new)

Ballerina Jewelers (new)

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 / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 3/15/21

**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.***

52. 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 Web 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml .

Want to rent or buy a week?

2020 & 21 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 3/15/21)

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

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to **susank@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)

3/22/21 #V4-1291 6pm AST 3/20/21 | [Terms of use](#) |

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