

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/19/21: More 737 Max Troubles; Frontier Airlines To Fly to SXM Starting in July; AA, jetBlue, Delta, & United Stories; Passport Renewal Delays; Spiga Reopening; Buccaneer Beach Bar Reopens; Why a Helicopter is On The Ocean Floor Near Divi [Issue #1294 -- 56 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 5, #1294 --- Monday, April 19, 2021  
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](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

## [Member News](#)

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

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

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**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

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

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

### **Weather; Getting Here; Covid:**

- ***More 737 MAX Troubles Ground More Planes***
- ***Frontier Airlines Starts Nonstops to SXM This July***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***
- ***Our Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Continually Updated)***

### **SXM Accommodations:**

- ***Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM? Here's Important Info***

### **Other Island Headlines for Tourists:**

- ***Seaweed? Rotary Equipment Removes It from Simpson Bay Beach***
- ***Sunken / Wrecked Boats Being Removed in Lagoon, Simp. Bay, & Oyster Pond***
- ***Sunken Helicopter, Tank Truck Are Great Diver's Spots off Little Bay***
- ***SPIGA's Reopening is Warmly Greeted***
- ***Buccaneer Beach Bar Reopens***
- ***Surging Numbers of St. Maarteners / St. Martiners Now Vaccinated***
- ***Restaurant of the Week Feature Returns***
- ***Enter Our Orient Beach Hotel Vacation Giveaway!***
- ***Huge SkyMed Medevac Membership Sale Continues***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***

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

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

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

**56** News Stories This Week

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

## **Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

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

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

### ***SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:***

**RENTAL** 5/1/2021 5/8/2021 Week 18 **Royal Islander La Plage 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Ocean view overlooking Maho Bay.** 2nd floor. Completely private property, strictly enforced. 2 Bars and restaurant on premise. Huge pool next to beachside bar. Lots of lounge chairs and umbrellas. \$910 Clemens. 607-341-3279 [Cpoteran@gmail.com](mailto:Cpoteran@gmail.com)

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

## **SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

**SALE** 1/16/2022 1/23/2022 week 3 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Beaumontia building, fixed and deeded week, weeks 1,2,4 also available, Sunday to Sunday one bedroom sleeps four. third floor oceanview.** Highly discounted from Resort resale 8,000 8152360642 [cubsgo100@gmail.com](mailto:cubsgo100@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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



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

### **"Like" Our All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group**

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

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

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

## **Complete Table of Contents**

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

### **Getting Here:**

1. Some Boeing 737 Max Jets Grounded Again As a New Problem Appears
2. Frontier Airlines Starts Two Weekly Flights to SXM in July
3. AA Increasing Summer Flights to Near 2019 Levels
4. AA, jetBlue Partnership Drawing Antitrust Scrutiny
5. Delta Is Now America's Largest Widebody Airline
6. United Airlines Set to Use Jet Fuel Made from Trash
7. Book Now for Spring, Summer, & Beyond: SXM Getting Busier Every Month
8. Plumes of Ash from St. Vincent's Volcanic Eruption Sail Eastward - and Head Toward Asia
9. In SXM, Volcano's Effects are Minimal -- Except on a Human Level
10. Our "Complete Guide to Entry Requirements" Can Help Get You Here Now  
See *COVID-19 / Entry Requirements Information, below*

### **Weather:**

11. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info
12. Where to Download an Official NHC Hurricane Chart

### COVID-19 - General Information

13. What's the Difference Between PCR and Antigen Tests?
14. For Americans, NO Worries on Getting Tested Before Going Home
15. NO Federal US Quarantine Now Required
16. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Now Required (Updated 3/8/21)
17. **IMPORTANT:** Why It's So Critical to Double-Check Everything Before Submitting Your Pre-Approval App!
18. What to Do If One of You is Denied EHAS Preapproval & The Other Is Accepted
19. Can You Get a Covid Vaccine Shot in SXM?
20. If You've Had the Vaccine, Do You Still Have to Test Negative?

### COVID-19 - Our Complete Guide to Entry Requirements

21. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Continually REVISED)
- 22. LIST OF ACCEPTABLE TESTS FOR ENTRY TO SXM**
23. Finding and Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area
24. Applying Online for Admission to SXM: What & How, w/ Advice (Revised 2/12/21)
25. Required Covid Insurance Information (Updated 3/8/21)
26. **\*\*\*VERY Important\*\*\*:** Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials
27. What to Take With You When You Go (An Important Checklist)
28. What to Expect When Arriving at SXM Airport
29. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days

### Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

30. US Requires Covid Testing Before You Go Home (See story in "Covid-19-General" Above)

### Etc.:

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

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

32. Condo Sales Continue Through the Roof - Who to Contact
33. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help
34. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals for 2021-22
35. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

### Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

36. News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 3/1/21)

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

--Scroll Down To This Section--

## 37. Giant SkyMed Medevac Protection Sale Continues!

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

## THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

### 38. KEEP SXM WEEKLY NEWS COMING

#### 38A. Passport Close to Expiring? Avoid a Three-Month Wait, Get Expedited Service

- 38B. Seaweed? Rotary Equipment Removes It from Simpson Bay Beach
39. Sunken / Wrecked Boats Being Removed in Lagoon, Simp. Bay, & Oyster Pond
40. Sunken Helicopter, Tank Truck Are Great Diver's Spots off Little Bay
41. SPIGA's Reopening is Warmly Greeted
42. Buccaneer Beach Bar Reopens
43. Surging Numbers of St. Maarteners / St. Martiners Now Vaccinated
44. Restaurant of the Week Feature Returns
- 44A. Enter Our Orient Beach Hotel Vacation Giveaway!
45. Join Our New Conversational SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative
46. Going Home? Check Your State's / Country's Return Policies
47. First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits

#####

**48. SkyMed FAQ / More Information**

#####

- 49. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly
- 50. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 51. Are You Military, First Responder, or a Nurse?
- 52. Please Patronize our Sponsors
- 53. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

**GETTING HERE:**

**1. Some Boeing 737 Max Jets Grounded Again As a New Problem Appears**

Late last year, Boeing 737 Max jets were cleared to fly in the US after what was thought to be an exhaustive investigation into crashes that killed about 350 people overseas.

A small number of 737 Max jets has now been grounded due to yet another problem — one which, one would think, would have been discovered in the "exhaustive" investigational process that the plane was thought to have undergone.

Here is [the story](#). Now, Boeing has yet another significant PR problem thanks to its apparently still inept handling of the entire 737 Max matter.

**2. Frontier Airlines Starts Two Weekly Flights to SXM in July**

Ultra low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines plans to start weekly service to SXM early in July from two key Florida cities. The

service will enable the carrier to offer, for the first time, very low cost trips to SXM not only from Florida, but also by connection from many cities in the Midwest, intermountain West states, and the West Coast. The airline's main hub is in Denver, Colorado.

Here is the story verbatim, directly from Frontier:

*Low-fare carrier Frontier Airlines (NASDAQ: ULCC) today announced plans to begin service at Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) in St. Maarten with nonstop Miami and Orlando flights beginning in July 2021.*

*"We're overjoyed to add St Maarten to our route map this summer with nonstop Miami and Orlando flights," said Daniel Shurz, Senior Vice President of Commercial, Frontier Airlines. "St. Maarten is a premier vacation destination known for its sun-filled outdoor activities and amazing scenery. We look forward to bringing visitors to the island to create unforgettable memories, while supporting the local tourism industry. These new flights also provide an affordable and convenient option for local residents to travel to Florida and points beyond."*

*"Having another airline commit to St. Maarten shows the continuous dialogue we have with our stakeholders through close collaboration with our airport and tourism bureau. The additional flights will continue to rejuvenate our economy," said Honorable Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunication, Ludmila de Weever.*

*"After numerous meetings with the Frontier Airlines team, I am elated to be instrumental in the launch of their new service into St. Maarten from the cities of Orlando and Miami."*

*"This new service will provide additional airlift into St. Maarten to further stimulate economic development for our island. I look forward to a long lasting relationship with Frontier Airlines as we collectively aim to bring travelers to this destination," declared Michel Hyman, Chief Operations Officer (COO) of Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM).*

*"Increasing air connectivity to St. Maarten is essential for our tourism industry, and with Frontier Airlines offering alternative flight options for travelers paired with affordable airfares, this will positively affect our stayover arrivals. It is exciting to see that amidst a pandemic, Frontier Airlines has decided to start a new airline service to St. Maarten. As confidence in traveler continue to increase, we will continue to strive to increase travel demand to St. Maarten, and provide visitors with a memorable experience as we embark on this new partnership with Frontier Airlines."*

*New Routes via Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) are from both Miami and Orlando and will fly on Saturdays. Frequency and times are subject to change, so please check [FlyFrontier.com](https://www.flyfrontier.com) for the most updated schedule.*

*Frontier is focused on more than low fares. The carrier offers customers the ability to customize travel to their needs and budget. For example, customers can purchase options a la carte or in one low-priced bundle called the WORKS. This bundle includes refundability, a carry-on bag, a checked bag, the best available seat, waived change fees, and priority boarding.*

*The airline's frequent flyer program, FRONTIER Miles, lets members enjoy many benefits as well as the ability to attain Elite status. Like the airline, FRONTIER Miles is family friendly, and the program makes it easy for families to enjoy the rewards together, including family pooling of miles. FRONTIER Miles is aptly named because you earn one mile for every mile flown -- no funny formulas at Frontier. Whether customers travel a little or a lot, they will find FRONTIER Miles rewarding.*

*The health and safety of customers and team members is Frontier's number one priority. With that in mind, Frontier introduced sweeping health and safety enhancements in 2020 that touch every step of a customer's travel journey with the airline.*

*Frontier requires all customers and crew members wear a face covering throughout their travel journey. Plus, anyone flying with Frontier must complete a health acknowledgement prior to flying confirming that: Neither they nor anyone in their household has exhibited COVID-19 related symptoms in the last 14 days; they will wash their hands/sanitize before boarding the flight; they understand and acknowledge the airline's face covering policy and pre-boarding temperature screening policies.*

*During flight, main cabin air is a mix of fresh air drawn from outside and air that has been passed through an air filtration system that features HEPA filters capable of capturing respiratory virus particles at more than 99.9% efficiency. similar to those used in hospital environments. Frontier's modern all-Airbus fleet is among the youngest in the world, with an average age of approximately four years.*

*For additional information, visit <https://www.flyfrontier.com/committed-to-you/>*

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### 3. AA Increasing Summer Flights to Near 2019 Levels

As we reported in an article here last week, a pilot shortage looms as airlines scramble to remove their aircraft from

temporary desert storage, get furloughed pilots back and cleared for service, hire new pilots to replace those who took early retirement in the early days of the Pandemic, and get them all certified and ready to go.

American Airlines, which was among the first to offer early retirements to many of its senior pilots, now says that it is working to restore flight frequencies to near 2019 levels this summer. It's the latest in the turning tides story about major airlines that were struggling to survive during the depths of the Pandemic just a few months ago, but who today are battling to handle the recent surge in commercial air travel demand. In the United States, millions of people are being vaccinated every day, and the number of people who have been fully vaccinated is surging.

Except for states that have rolled back mask mandates, states across the country seem to be doing well against Covid and residents are hungry to board airplanes and go places.

Here is [the full story](#) about American Airlines working to increase its summer flights to near 2019 levels.

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## 4. AA, jetBlue Partnership Drawing Antitrust Scrutiny

Several weeks ago, American Airlines and JetBlue announced a partnership which would enable them to cooperate on a number of domestic routes and coordinate their services to feed international flights. This was happening even as JetBlue plans to launch nonstop service from New York and Boston to London later this year, with connections and services to other cities from London on the horizon. The partnership announcement surprised a number of people who thought the two airlines would be long-term competitors. But on a number of JetBlue flights in recent years, we have seen American Airlines flight crew members dead-heading on JetBlue flights to various cities where American also has major hubs.

Here is [more information](#) about what has raised the eyebrows in the federal government about the latest association between American Airlines and JetBlue. And [this](#) is how jetBlue has been communicating the program to its passengers.

We'll keep you posted, as always.

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## 5. Delta Is Now America's Largest Widebody Airline

While the Covid pandemic has been underway, Delta airlines has been using narrowbody Boeing 757 Airliners on a number of its flights to and from SXM. But the airline is now America's largest user of widebody jets on domestic flights — and demand is increasing across its system. It is logical to expect that as demand for seats to SXM continues to grow especially into next winter that Delta might be using larger aircraft, as other airlines have even in the recent past; witness JetBlue's changeover of some SXM flights from its A320 workhorse aircraft to larger A321 aircraft with Mint service.

More wide bodies are definitely coming to SXM in the not-too-distant future.

Here are [details on Delta](#).

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## 6. United Airlines Set to Use Jet Fuel Made from Trash

Airlines need and want to reduce their carbon footprint. One example of one airline that is looking for innovative ways to accomplish that is United Airlines, which is working to use jet fuel made from trash on some of its flights — in the not-too-distant future. (Perhaps at some point the mountain of trash that is behind Philipsburg and has been the subject to frequent dump fires can be among the first used for this purpose; let's hope so, anyway.)

Here is [the full story](#).

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## 7. Book Now for Spring, Summer, & Beyond: SXM Getting Busier Every Month

We keep hearing good news from both car rental providers and resort general managers concerning business over the next few months — and that news is all good.

What we're hearing is that reservations continue to rise on a month-to-month basis, with each month better than the one



before. Recovery from the Pandemic in SXM is going well from the perspective of the tourism industry on the island. As we've mentioned here on a number of occasions, July is the most perfect month of the year on the island, with everything open, very reasonable prices, and generally gorgeous weather with little rain -- and relief from the intense heat and humidity often found in major cities across the US during the summer. If all that sounds good to you, make your reservations now while the best airfares are still available and while bargains continue to abound on SXM.

If you're looking for suggestions about where to stay, where to dine, and other items of interest concerning travel to SXM, refer to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for all of that from experienced travelers. One thing you can have great confidence in: you will be able to successfully avoid the crazy crowds that are likely to be seen across the US this Summer....

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## 8. Plumes of Ash from St. Vincent's Volcanic Eruption Sail Eastward - and Head Toward Asia

Tons of volcanic ash flew skyward during the recent eruptions of the Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent, some 600 km south of SXM. Prevailing winds have taken a substantial portion of that ash across the Atlantic Ocean, across North Africa, near the Suez Canal, and onward toward Asia; satellite images confirm its placement and direction.

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## 9. In SXM, Volcano's Effects are Minimal -- Except on a Human Level

So far, because of prevailing winds (both tradewinds and upper-level winds), there has been little effect in SXM from the continuing eruption of the Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent. There has been some ash in SXM, but the amount is small and that is not expected to change. We will keep watching this, as always.

As we reported last week, on a human level things are much different. The independent nations of the Caribbean are very much like the states are in the United States in that residents of each island have relatives and friends on many other islands — St. Vincent included. There is huge concern about what is happening there. Evacuations are being handled on a highly organized basis and the government there is doing an amazing job particularly considering the fact that this is all happening in the midst of a Pandemic.

For the most part, evacuations are to two nearby islands where planning for this possible eventuality has gone on for a long time.

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## 10. Our "Complete Guide to Entry Requirements" Can Help Get You Here Now (Revised 4/11/21)

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, 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:**

## 11. 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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.

4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.

5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

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

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

#### **Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:**

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

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get. The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are 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.

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## **12. Where to Download an Official NHC Hurricane Chart**

You can get it right here: [click to download](#).

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### **Changing Your Email Address?**

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

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

## **13. What's the Difference Between PCR and Antigen Tests? (New 4/17)**

Girish Motwani, who heads the Medicare Covid testing facility in Puerta Del Sol across from the entrance to Avantika in Simpson Bay, says this in answer to a number of questions concerning the difference between PCR and antigen testing:

"The PCR test essentially is determining whether the sample taken has a detectable level of the virus' RNA (genetic material). The antigen test is determining whether the sample taken has a specific protein ("antigen") of the virus. For both tests, samples are derived with nasal/nasopharyngeal swabs."

-- Girish Motwani of Medwork-MedCare Clinic Sint Maarten

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## **14. 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.

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## 15. 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.

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## 16. Simple, Fast, Cheap Covid Insurance Now Required

See the story in our Guide to Entry Requirements, below.

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## 17. 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.

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## 18. 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.

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## 19. Can You Get a Covid Vaccine Shot in SXM? (Updated 4/5/21)

A number of tourists who spend several 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 takes away a chance to be immunized for someone who lives in SXM, which would be unfair to locals.

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

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## 20. 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 4/5/2021**

## 21. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements (Updated 4/11/21)

*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.

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## 22. 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.

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## 23. Finding & Taking RT-PCR or Antigen Tests in Your Area (Revised 4/3/21)

**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.

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## 24. 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 (New 4/11/21):** Two terms used in the EHAS forms are confusing tourists. This will help: **PORT OF EMBARKATION** is the last airport you fly out of to go to SXM; if you connect to a different flight, it is where you board the plane that takes you to SXM.

**TRANSIT STOPS:** Does your plane stop anywhere outside the United States before it lands in SXM? Chances are high that NO, it does not; if that's the case, you answer NO to this question.

## 25. 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](http://www.stmaartenentry.com)**

*For detailed information on the St. Maarten Visitors Protection Plan please visit [www.sxmprotectionplan.com](http://www.sxmprotectionplan.com)  
About St. Maarten: St. Maarten is the smallest island in the world to be shared by two nations – Netherlands and France – creating a destination with European charm and Caribbean flair. Located at the northern end of the Lesser Antilles, the islands 37 square miles has 37 breathtaking beaches and is home to many historical and family-oriented attractions. Direct air service is available to Princess Juliana International Airport from major U.S. and Canada, South America, Europe and the Caribbean gateways.*

### **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.

## 26. \*\*\*VERY Important\*\*\*: Avoiding Common Mistakes That Cause Denials (Updated 4/3/21)

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 staffed up to help ensure its ability to provide quick, responsive, and accurate service to all applicants.

**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.)

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## 27. 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.

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## 28. 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 PRINTED AND 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.

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## 29. Reporting Your Condition to EHAS for 14 Days (Revised 4/11/21)

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.

*Record your daily information even if you don't receive a request for it from EHAS; that happens. It is better to have the info and not need it than the reverse....*

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### Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

## 30. US Requires Covid Testing Before You Go Home (See #14)

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.

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**Etc.**

## 31. 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks..

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



## 32. 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.

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## 33. 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*.

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## 34. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals from JMB Members for 2021-22: 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 this Summer, Fall, and beyond.

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

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

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

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### **SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

## 36. 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

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

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

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

- **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us during normal business hours EDT 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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. But please call me directly with questions or to sign up.

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp.

--Jeff Berger

## 38. Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming:

**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 355,000 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 [everythingxml.com](http://everythingxml.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, [everythingxml.com](http://everythingxml.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.....**

**38A. Passport Close to Expiring? Avoid a Three-Month Wait, Get**

## Expedited Service

If you're planning to come to SXM but your passport is close to expiring, you will need to get it renewed. The bad news: renewals are taking up to three months to process. If you go for expedited service which costs an extra \$60 per passport, that will still take 4 to 6 weeks to process. So, if you're planning to fly this summer and have not yet renewed your passport, you'll need to get on the stick.

For much more information, go here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/renew.html>

## 38B. Seaweed? Rotary Equipment Removes It from Simpson Bay Beach

If you're not familiar with Rotary, that organization does a lot of good things wherever there are branches worldwide. As former SXM Rotary Pres. John Caputo posted recently in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), special equipment brought in by Rotary cleaned up a large swath of Simpson Bay beach in the last several days. The removal was made with the blessings of the St. Maarten Nature Foundation, Guardian of all that is nature on the island. That was important since it ensures the safety of local flora and fauna including nesting endangered sea turtles.

SXM Weekly News lauds Rotary for its proactive efforts in helping to mitigate Sargassum seaweed on SXM.

## 39. Sunken / Wrecked Boats Being Removed in Lagoon, Simp. Bay, & Oyster Pond

As we've reported a few times in recent months, the Dutch side is now several weeks into its efforts to remove sunken boats still remaining from the devastation of hurricane Irma in Simpson Bay lagoon, Simpson Bay itself, and oyster pond.

The focal point of the activity is at the western end of the Simpson Bay lagoon Causeway. In an environmentally friendly process, specialists are raising and disposing of the remnants of many boats still in the lagoon. D boat, on the shore in Simpson Bay at Beacon Hill, will also be removed, as will several boats sunk on the Dutch side of Oyster Pond.

The work is supposed to be finished before the end of Summer.

## 40. Sunken Helicopter, Tank Truck Are Great Diver's Spots off Little Bay

Although most people don't know it, a helicopter and a tank truck are sitting at the bottom of the ocean offshore from Divi Little Bay beach resort, put there intentionally to help create a reef. Don't worry — all of this is environmentally friendly and their presence creates no environmental issues whatsoever.

If you're into scuba diving or snorkeling and would like to try scuba, these items are only about 20 feet below the surface of the water and should be quite familiar to all operators of excursions that take people diving or snorkeling. Definitely a site worth visiting.

## 41. SPIGA's Reopening is Warmly Greeted

Spiga is, as we've said here before, the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case — at least in our opinion. It reopened a couple of weeks ago after an extended closure due to Covid and lengthened by some untimely construction on the part of the French side of the island.

Spiga earned its reputation because of the consistent quality, creativity, taste, freshness, and originality of its food, the excellence of its service, and its location which is easy to get to in Grand Case opposite Tijon Parfumerie at the northern end of the village.

How is Spiga doing now that it has reopened?

Very well, thank you. Seating is limited because Spiga, like every other restaurant on SXM, is adhering strictly to social distancing rules that are in force worldwide. The restaurant itself has not skipped a beat as Co-owner and chef **Ciro Russo** continues to work his magic in "Ciro's kitchen."

If you haven't visited Spiga before, you're in for a very special treat. On-street parking is available nearby. For information on making reservations, see their website, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com).

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## 42. Buccaneer Beach Bar Reopens

As we mentioned several weeks ago here, Buccaneer Beach Bar has been sold to the same folks who own Sunset Beach Bar, not far away. We will have more particulars about what's happening in future issues of *SXM Weekly News*, including future plans, but we wanted you to know that they have already had a soft opening and were scheduled to open formally this past weekend.

Buccaneer has been a very popular spot for many years. We wish former owner Bernard Fourie well in his future endeavors, and we wish the new owners well in their new venture. More to come.

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## 43. Surging Numbers of St. Maarteners / St. Martiners Now Vaccinated

Vaccination centers located across SXM are doing a land office business as increasing numbers of island residents and ex-pats are getting vaccinated across SXM. The numbers are in the hundreds per day and many thousands have already been vaccinated on both sides of the island. If you live on SXM permanently or are here most of the year, get your vaccination now and be protected.

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## 44. Restaurant of the Week: Spiga (Grand Case)

See our complete story about **SPIGA, Restaurant of the Week**, in the article above.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 4/17/21) Chef-co-owner **Ciro Russo** & **Lara Russo** haven't missed a beat here as Spiga has finally reopened. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed. **Now reopened.**

**Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine** (featured 4/5/21), Simpson Bay a 15-second walk from Reveil Matin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in this fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Highly recommended.

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://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 ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://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 Sushiitto)** (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](http://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](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

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

**Mario's Bistro at the Cliff**, formerly Mario's Bistro [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 12/11/20 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining at very reasonable prices. Formerly on the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, they are now at the Cliff. Open every day but Monday, they serve both lunch and dinner six days a week. Traditional and highly creative Continental dinners, with Tapas and other selections at lunch. Do not miss it. Reservations required.

**Emilio's**: outside Philipsburg (featured 8/10/20) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

**La Rosa Restaurant**, Maho Plaza, 7/13/20: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. [www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant**, [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://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](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

**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.

## 44a. Enter our New Vacation Giveaway - A Week at the All-New Orient Beach Hotel

**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.

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

**HOW TO ENTER THIS GIVEAWAY:** [Go here.](#)

Although we'll shortly update the form so it accurately reflects our new Summer Sensation vacation giveaway, the form is LIVE now and you are free to enter. **IMPORTANT:** You **MUST** be a subscriber to *SXM Weekly News* (NOT a passalong reader) to win, but subscriptions are FREE. Subscribe now at [sxmweeklynews.com](http://sxmweeklynews.com).

## 45. 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.](#)

## 46. 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.

## 47. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

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

### SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Answers to Common Questions

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

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

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

#### Q2. Who is protected?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?**

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

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

1. Annual and multi-year Ultimate memberships are guaranteed renewable, as noted above. They will not be 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb). But to sign up, always call 508-747-8281. The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

**Q17. Who can get SkyMed?**

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

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

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

**SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:**

*We are following the White House Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020. We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.*

**We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.**

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

**Resources to help you:**

Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

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

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

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

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

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

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

SkyMed Member Services **1-480-946-5188** or **1-800-475-9633** or [memberservices@skymed.com](mailto:memberservices@skymed.com)

*Please do not hesitate to call or email us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help as much as we can. Regular member services are being conducted everyday.*

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

*Eleanore Klein, President  
SkyMed Group of Companies*

From JMB:

**How to Contact Us or Sign Up**

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

From:

JMB Communications

Membership Services

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

## 49. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll find about 28,000 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

Our site is the best place around to ask questions and get answers about SXM -- around the clock. Check it out.

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

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has just been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 52. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 4/5/21)

### AMUSEMENTS

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

### AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

### BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

**Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:**

[www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net](http://www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net)

**BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES**

**SXM Beer Brewery**

**Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery**

**CAR RENTALS:**

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

**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](http://www.tijon.com)

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

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

## **Century 21 St. Maarten**

### **Sunshine Properties**

**Candie Billant** does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

## **RESORTS:**

**Belair Beach Hotel**

**Simpson Bay Resort**

**Azure Hotel & Art Studio**

**Baker's Suites**

## **RESTAURANTS & BARS**

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

**ISOLA**

**Frenchy Ludo's**

**Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)**

**Melange (Port de Plaisance)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Soggy Dollar Bar**

**Sale and Pepe**

**Topper's Restaurant**

**LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)**

**MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)**

**Pineapple Pete Restaurant**

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant**

**Emilio's**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar**

**Nowhere Special**

**ROXXY Bar / Restaurant**

**LA ROSA**

**NONNA ROSA**

**LAZY LIZARD**

**RANCHO (new)**

**SUNSET CAFE (new)**

**AVANTIKA (new)**

**MOVIDA (new)**

**ASTRA (new)**

**JAI'S CONTEMPORARY INDIAN RESTAURANT (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](http://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 4/5/21

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

That's what we do:

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

In business since the web began --

*a unit of JMB Communications.*

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

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

Our **JMB SXM 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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way 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 in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

\*2020 & 21 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters.

If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

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

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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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](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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

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

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