

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 5/31/21: Dutch Side Will Soon Stop Requiring Testing for Fully Vaccinated People Coming to SXM; Our "Guide to Entry Requirements" Has Been Moved; Cruise Ship Sailings Restart in June; French Side Adopts Temporary 8pm Curfew for Restaurants & Bars; Simpson Bay Resort Telecommunications Issues; Tropical Updates; Our SXM Vacation Giveaway Entries End June 15; [Issue #1300 -- 45 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1300 --- Monday, May 31, 2021
News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM

*****FUN ACTIVITIES IN SXM SPECIAL EDITION*****

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

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

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by about 355,000 people around the world...

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



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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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

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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

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

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/24/2021 2/19/2022 52-7 **Simpson Bay** I have numerous weeks and size of units starting Dec.24, 2021 to Feb.19, 2022. At the Simpson Bay Resort, Royal Palm Beach Resort and Flamingo Beach Resort. Pls see following link for units and pricing. <https://sxmbeachcondos.com/> starting at \$900 Joe 647-227-3434 jgarro55@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/12/2022 2/19/2022 Week 7 **Simpson Bay Resort** 2 bedroom unit. One bedroom on 3rd floor with connecting stairs to sleep 2 studio. Upper B Building. Unit faces pool. Sleep 2 studio can be rented separately. Week 6 also available in same unit.. \$10,000 per week or BO Phil 973-956-8739 Cheryl956@aol.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

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

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

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases! Details are right here:

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. Flying Soon? Don't Forget to "Pack Patience"

As we had previously reported here in *SXM Weekly News*, air rage — in which drunk and/or disorderly passengers behave in an unacceptable manner toward other passengers or toward flight crews — has increased during 2021 to its highest levels in memory.

The Federal Aviation Administration FAA is going after passengers who exhibit this kind of behavior. Penalties include being banned from the airline on which the behavior occurred or being very heavily fined or both. Very heavily can mean fines into six figures -- this is very serious stuff.

There is more to this than air rage. People are now flying by the millions and are required to follow FAA rules which

include wearing masks in terminals and aboard aircraft. When you are told what the rules are, obey them; they are not open for debate or discussion. That includes wearing a seatbelt, wearing a mask, etc.

The pandemic is not over; it is simply waning, officials remind us. As long as the FAA rules remain in place, they must be obeyed without anyone hassling flight crews or anyone else. The other side of this is that the crowds mean lines at ticket counters are long, although they continue to be shorter for those who have [Global Entry](#). Realize that getting Global Entry can take a number of months — so if you plan to fly next winter, it is not too early to apply for Global Entry now. See much more information [here](#). See our separate story about renewing passports in this section.

2. Delta: Bookings Now at "Normal Levels"

For a variety of reasons we discussed in recent editions of *SXM Weekly News*, flights are not yet back to normal levels. During the depths of the Covid Pandemic, thousands of pilots took early retirement and hundreds of airplanes were flown to the deserts in southern Arizona where they could be safely stored for the duration of the Pandemic. Consequently, in the wake of the return of passengers sooner than expected, airlines are moving planes back into service from the desert as quickly as they can in concert with hiring enough new pilots and getting them fully trained so they can fly the airplanes.

Delta airlines and others are now reporting that bookings for future flights are now at the same levels reached before the Pandemic began back in 2019; we are hearing similar reports about other carriers. Summer at the nation's airports is expected to be busy indeed and that also translates to increased tourism activity across SXM.

3. Dutch Side Will Soon Stop Requiring Covid Testing for People Who Are Fully Vaccinated

In an announcement last week which we immediately communicated to members of our [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#) and the readers of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#), the SXM government announced that it would soon stop requiring Covid testing for Americans who have been fully vaccinated against Covid. No information was released about when this new policy will go into force, how it will be implemented, what its impact might be on children, or whether the government has any information on whether the United States is going to alter its current testing requirement before Americans visiting overseas return home.

When we have more information, we will publish it immediately to our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members and in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#), as well as in the next edition of *SXM Weekly News*.

Here is the full text of the government announcement:

In the coming weeks, St. Maarten will allow fully vaccinated people to travel here without requiring a COVID-19 test, VSA Minister Omar Ottley said in the Council of Ministers Press Briefing today, Wednesday. This no-test travel will only apply to people who received the vaccines of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and AstraZeneca. Travelers must be fully vaccinated two or more weeks before traveling to St. Maarten. No date was given when this no-test travel will take effect for residents and visitors coming to St. Maarten. Several countries have started the process of allowing fully vaccinated people to travel to/visit without a COVID-19 test. (Source: Govt. of St. Maarten)

4. If Your Passport Is Within 6 Months of Expiring Before Your Next Trip, Renew Pronto

It's important to make sure before you travel that your passport is valid at least six months beyond the end of your trip. If that is not the case we urge you to renew your passport now.

Because of the sudden increase in travel, the demand on the US government for passport renewals is huge. There have been delays recently of months for passport renewals or for new passports, and delays of several weeks even for expedited service which is available at higher cost.

Before renewing, we strongly suggest you go on our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#) and start a new thread asking if people in your area or elsewhere are receiving anything remotely resembling expeditious service for their new passports or passport renewals. Give yourself extra time regardless of their response, to make sure you have

adequate space in your calendar to receive your new passports well before your trip begins.

You have a lot of company going after passports -- so do leave yourself plenty of time.

5. Where To Find Our JUST UPDATED "Complete Guide to SXM Entry Requirements"

Ever since SXM first instituted Entry Requirements more than a year ago, we have published those requirements in-depth here in *SXM Weekly News*. However, since the pandemic appears to be starting to ease, we have removed it from *Weekly News* but we continue to run it (continually updated) in the Files area of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#), at this web address: www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files.

If you don't see the Entry Requirements near the beginning of the list of files, use the search window in the Files area for the word Entry and the latest version of our Entry Requirements will appear right away.

Bear in mind that whenever we make any changes in our Entry Requirements listings, the updated entry Requirements will appear at once among our active threads on our SXM FB site.

In addition, if there are any major changes to entry Requirements, that's news and we'll cover it here in *SXM Weekly News* as usual.

WEATHER:

6. '21 Hurricane Season: #1 Storm Is Done

Storm Ana spun up northeast of Bermuda about a week ago and then headed rapidly Northeast, most likely annoying or affecting only shipping interests and other seagoing vessels.

There is no expectation of any other storm in the immediate future but when that happens, it will be storm Bill and you'll find the advisory for it in our weather center which is part of our main SXM website, everythingSXM.com. Storms to follow will be Claudette, Danny, Elsa, and Fred.

Please see next story.

7. About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks

Effective earlier this week, we started posting daily Tropical Outlooks in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#) at some point during each day. If some tropical activity is underway, our posts will generally be happening in the evening. But if nothing is going on, our Tropical Outlooks from the National Hurricane Center may be posted at any time during the day.

We are also making sure this information is posted every day in the weather center of our main website, everythingSXM.com.

8. Repeat: 2021 Hurricane Preparations Heads Up from Rob Lightbown

Storm forecasting specialists Crown Weather, our go-to source of accurate, reliable hurricane information for many years, is already issuing tropical updates to its subscribers. We have long recommended that if you are ever in the path of any tropical storm or hurricane, you subscribe to their immensely valuable but very inexpensive service; for more info, see www.CrownWeather.com.

This past week, crown weather issued a very important bulletin concerning 2021 hurricane preparations; here is that text:

Finally, I wanted to mention one thing to keep in mind when making your hurricane preparations this season & that is the marked increase in supplies, especially building supplies. Building supplies, especially lumber, has

doubled & even tripled in just the past year due to the whole "supply and demand". So, when making your preparations this season & you think you may need plywood for your windows or other construction items, buy early because it's quite possible, if not likely, that plywood, lumber and other items will be sold out long before any Hurricane Warnings go up. It's a real complicating factor going into this hurricane season.

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

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

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

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

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

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

10. Where to Download an Official NHC Hurricane Chart

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

Or read this:

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.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

COVID-19: General Information

11. "Important Covid Information" Has Moved...

We have moved our complete coverage of Covid, including Entry Requirements, to the Files area of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#). Click [here](#) to access that info, then use the search window to find "Entry" and you'll see the correct file.

COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 5/31/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

12. Our "Continually Revised Guide to SXM Entry Requirements" Has Moved

We now publish our complete Guide to Entry Requirements only in the files area of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#). Because the Pandemic is starting to cool down in the US, there is no need for it to appear in both places. There, online, we have the ability to make changes in seconds, a key asset regarding Pandemic news and entry requirements changes. That's why we have done this.

We urge you to go to the files area now at facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files, then use the search window to search for Entry and the entire Guide to Entry Requirements will be on your computer or other device.

We will not stop publishing news about Covid and its impacts on SXM tourism, but we have now stopped publishing the Guide here every week. Please make a note of this so you will be able to access the Guide anytime you want online.

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

13. Our "Info on US-Required Covid Testing Before You Go Home" Has Moved

We now publish our "Info on US-Required Covid Testing" only in the files area of our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#). Because the Pandemic is starting to cool down in the US, there is no need for it to appear in both places. There, online, we have the ability to make changes in seconds, a key asset regarding Pandemic news and entry requirements changes. That's why we have done this. We urge you to go to the files area now at facebook.com/groups/mySXM/files, then use the search window to search for Entry and the entire guide to entry requirements will be on your computer or other device.

We will not stop publishing news about Covid and its impacts on SXM tourism, but we have now stopped publishing the Guide here every week. Please make a note of this so you will be able to access the Guide anytime you want online.

Etc.

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

15. LEAD STORY: Simpson Bay Resort Continues Around-The-Clock Work To Recover Its Telecommunications -- Here's What's Happening & What to Do

LATEST UPDATE:

The IT (Information Technology) teams at Simpson Bay Resort on SXM continue to work around the clock 24/7 to recover Simpson Bay Resort's telecommunications capabilities which were impacted as Simpson Bay Resort reported here to our readers last week (see below):

We had reported this last week from Simpson Bay Resort:

Dear Members:

We are experiencing a computer systems failure due to a ransomware attack. This sort of attack occurs when an outside party encrypts the information held on the victim's servers and then demands a ransom to un-encrypt the same systems. It does not involve a data breach where internal information is stolen.

The current situation prevents Royal Resorts Caribbean staff from accessing email and also prevents members from logging in to the password-protected sections of the web site. Reservations Center telephones and online reservations are currently unavailable as well. Finally, emails to staff from members cannot be received or opened. However, we do not believe that any confidential member information has been compromised.

Please be advised that we also are taking all the necessary steps to minimize the impact of this situation and to bring our systems back online. We have a robust back-up system; however, we must first take steps to secure our systems against further attack before we can begin the restoration process. This unfortunately is not an instantaneous process, and we appreciate your patience and understanding while we are working on the solution.

We regret any inconvenience or concern that this situation may cause.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us via our temporary alternate email at simpsonbayresort2021@gmail.com. If you need to reach us urgently about an upcoming visit or other time-sensitive matter, you can also call the resort at +1 721 544 2503 (be advised this is an international call). Please be aware that, given the situation, it may take us some time to respond; however, we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

*At your service,
Simpson Bay Resort, Marina & Spa
Management Team*

FROM JMB COMMUNICATIONS: Once this has been resolved, we will report that at once in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

16. 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.

17. 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*.

18. 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.

19. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

20. Updated NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 5/3/21)

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

21. Been Thinking of SkyMed? Why NOW Is the Best Time To Pull The Trigger on SkyMed Medevac Protection: Under \$1.35/day for Ongoing SkyMed Protection!

Anything Can Happen Anywhere...

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

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

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

Here are the details of this unprecedented sale:

LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE:

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

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

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

REWARDS FOR REFERRALS FROM SKYMED MEMBERS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS:

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

- **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us 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.**

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

22. Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming:

+++++

MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY!

RIGHT NOW: Get A Full Year OR TWO of FREE Membership

in Our
JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program
+++++

as our thanks when you
HELP US CONTINUE TO PUBLISH
SXM WEEKLY NEWS

BY JOINING / RENEWING / REINSTATING
ANY MULTI-YEAR 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 SOON, so please sign up for, renew, or reinstate today.

HOW IT WORKS: *Buy any new multiyear JMB Website Supporters membership, or renew/reinstate any JMB membership for multiple years, and while this promotion continues we will give you a full additional year FREE. Pick the maximum new membership or renewal period and you will get an additional TWO YEARS FREE. Memberships to which this applies are noted as (+1 or +2) below.*

Military / First Responder memberships available too at huge discounts. Please read on.

a) New Memberships Get Great Benefits:

Here are our low new membership prices:

- **1 year \$59**
- **3 years \$109 (+1)**
- **5 years \$139 (+2)**

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

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

- The **one-year** renewal or reinstatement is \$49.
- **Three-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$89 (+1)
- **Our Best Offer:** **Six-year** renewal/reinstatements, \$149; please ACT NOW. (+2)

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

c) Military and First-Responder memberships offer you four years for just \$67.96 (at \$16.99/year paid at inception). That is the best deal we have ever offered anyone for any memberships, on a yearly standard-price basis. DD214 or other proof of US military or first-responder service required. **Please ACT NOW. ALL MILITARY MEMBERSHIPS, NEW OR RENEWAL/REINSTATED, ARE (+1).**

We hope you are having a pleasant Spring, **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 EDT at **508-830-3456** and we'll be happy to take your info by phone. If lines are busy and you get our answering system, you can leave your info on our secure line. We'll appreciate anything you can do to help.

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

THANK YOU!

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**.....

23. Dutch Side to Drop Covid Testing Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Visitors

In the most stunning, sudden announcement it has made this year, the Dutch side government has declared that it will soon drop Covid testing requirements for fully vaccinated visitors. It did not say exactly when this will happen or how it will be implemented, or what if any impact there will be on children. As soon as we have more details, they will be announced at once by email to all members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program and will be posted in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

Undoubtedly, the Dutch side government is working on methods to implement these steps to ensure that only visitors who can prove credibly that they are fully vaccinated will be accepted.

For any late breaking further developments, please join and visit regularly our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#). You must answer vetting questions to join but when doing so, please specify that you are a subscriber to *SXM Weekly News*.

24. Covid Update on SXM...

The Dutch side of SXM has been doing an outstanding job of vaccinating its citizens/residents against Covid. The number vaccinated is now approaching 20,000, though the government wants the number to be twice that (about 44,000).

During a period of time in late March the number of active Covid cases on the Dutch side had shrunk to about 17. In recent weeks, it had risen into the 80s, but is now declining again back to the 70s. The numbers on the French side are not as good; we are hearing that on the French side current active Covid cases are approximately 300, though other erroneous numbers have been published elsewhere.

Because of the vast numbers of prospective tourists from the United States who are now fully vaccinated, clearly the government of the Dutch side of the island now feels sufficiently confident in that group that government officials are preparing to accept them for admission soon without further Covid testing. (Current Entry Requirements include testing prior to admission; specifics concerning that information are published in the Entry Requirements file in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#), described earlier in this edition of *SXM Weekly News*.)

The situation on the French side differs. There seems to be more reluctance there for people to be vaccinated and consequently, there are now more cases there than on the Dutch side. See next story.

25. ... French Side Introduces a 10-day 8pm Curfew on Bars & Restaurants

The French side of SXM should take some cues from the Dutch side concerning how to manage the pandemic. As noted in the prior story, Dutch St. Maarten is doing a much better job of vaccinating its people and controlling its caseload than is the French side.

The French side elected to institute a curfew effective yesterday, Sunday, May 30, which requires restaurants and bars on that side to be closed promptly at 8 PM nightly. We are publishing [a link to the announcement from the Daily Herald](#).

Travel remains open between both sides of the island. You can dine there for lunch or dinner but whatever travel you are doing must be completed on the French side by 8 PM at the latest.

Regarding the French side curfew... It was announced that it was effective May 30 and ends on June 8. The French side's intention in implementing this is to try to reduce the number of Covid patients who need to be cared for in its hospital. It intends to review this program before its intended expiration date on June 8 and will decide at that time whether the program needs to be extended. French side restaurants that wish to do so can announce altered hours during this curfew in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

26. Dutch Side Continues 11pm Curfew on Bars & Restaurants

On the Dutch side, bars and restaurants are required to be closed by 11 PM, as we announced previously here in *SXM Weekly News*. That requirement is unchanged. The Dutch side has a huge spectrum of restaurants in Simpson Bay, Cupecoy, and in or near Philipsburg which continue to enable visitors to have outstanding dining experiences on that side of the island, most of them offering open-air dining.

For recommendations about where to dine on both sides of the island, see the Restaurant of the Week feature which appears later in this issue (and in every issue) of *SXM Weekly News*. You can also ask about types of restaurants you enjoy in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#).

27. Some Cruise Ships Start Real Cruises in June

Celebrity Millennium, now home-ported in SXM, starts sailing out of the port late this week. More ships start joining the schedule later in June, and the first of the larger ships returns in July.

It's good to see them back! For a direct link to the full cruise ship schedule, [click here](#).

28. Four Island Activities: Tijon Parfumerie

Tijon Parfumerie on the French side of the island opposite the entrance to Spiga restaurant in Grand Case enables you to create your own perfume right in their lab in just a couple of hours. Using your choice of many hundreds of scents, they walk you through the process clearly and simply explaining each step. *You* do the creating. The result is a perfume or cologne that is uniquely yours and that you will be able to reorder from home whenever you like.

You can do the blending by appointment in their lab or virtually if you like — with a money-back guarantee that you will be pleased with the fragrance you create.

It's one of the most enjoyable activities you ever find on SXM and we urge you to do it. For much more information, see www.tijon.com and tell them you read about it here in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

29. Four Island Activities: Toppers Rhum Distillery

At its new location in the former carousel building, Toppers Rhum Distillery is always buzzing with activity. The Toppers brand creates a spectrum of traditional and flavored rhums as well as vodka, rum cake, and in case you want to cleanse your palate between rum tastings, there's a full-fledged Gelateria here as well. (And any minute, Toppers Restaurant will be relocating here as well.)

There are distillery tours, complete explanations of how rum is made, and lots of tastings to enjoy when you take the distillery tour. It is a not-to-be-missed SXM activity.

When making your reservations, please be sure to tell them that you heard about it here in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

30. Four Island Activities: SXM Beer Brewery

Located in the heart of Cole Bay with ample signage throughout Simpson Bay, the SXM Beer brewery is the kind of immaculate place that you know from just seeing it can create great beers.

Their highly experienced brewmaster knows his stuff and is ready to answer any questions you may have as he walks you through the facility explaining how beer is made and how this facility in particular makes sure every batch is perfect.

You'll learn some of the secrets which have made this brewery's products so especially popular across the island since it was founded just a few years ago.

Relax for a bit at their in-house bar where you can sample some of the delicious beer they create here — it has quickly become our favorite. When you visit the brewery to request or schedule a future tour, don't forget to tell them you read about it in Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

31. Four Island Activities: The Legendary iZi Tasting Menu

A tasting menu is a very special restaurant offering during which the owner delivers a soup to nuts sampling of some of their culinary capabilities displaying at a high level some of the top examples of what they can really do.

You may not know it, but David Foini's iZi Ristorante Italiano offers such tasting menus at a fixed price with 24 hour advance reservations for at least four persons. Many years ago, David was in charge of the exquisite La Gondola restaurant at the old Atlantis casino. It was high-end Italian dining that was extraordinary. About 15 years ago he decided to switch things up and opened iZi Ristorante Italiano -- originally dubbed iZi Italian Pasta Lounge, a name he changed when the original concept was broadened to include many more offerings.

La Gondola was true gourmet dining — and that truly is what the tasting menu delivers today. It's a unique experience that you should not miss when you're on the island.

iZi's tasting menu delivers a great 7-course dinner including dessert at a beautifully decorated table with top ingredients and amazing personalized service. Cost: just \$125/pp. Contact David at the restaurant for reservations. iZi is in Simpson Bay opposite Pineapple Pete.

32. Best Places for Dessert

SXM is a dessert lover's paradise, with wonderful desserts from one end of the island to the other.

We're not going to mention any specific desserts here because dessert menus are like a kaleidoscope — constantly changing according to best available ingredients during specific seasons and subject to availability.

But that won't stop us from mentioning a number of restaurants that offers truly spectacular desserts. Here are several of our favorites, in no special order:

Mario's Bistro, the wildly popular continental restaurant at the Cliff in the Cupecoy area, always offers several signature desserts. One of them it may offer when you are there is the pear tartlet, with perfectly arranged paper thin slices of pear delightfully flavored. (We know we said we weren't going to mention specifics — sorry about that.)

Spiga Restaurant in Grand Case for years has offered its delicious Pannacotta and a number of other dessert specialties, capping their spectacular dining experience.

Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate outside of Philipsburg is always a treat thanks to the amazing culinary heritage of its owners and Sydney, its equally amazing chef. It's a perfect place to have high expectations for amazing desserts — and that's exactly what you will find here.

Vesna Taverna combines the talents of Vesna & her husband Yannick. Vesna is an accomplished chef who spends many hours every day dreaming up and making just about all the desserts served in the restaurant from Tuesday through Saturday. Her husband Yannick was formerly general manager at Fish Pot restaurant in Grand Case and he is the Top Gun in the kitchen, which produces Grand Case quality dinners in a simple, cozy ambiance in the heart of Simpson Bay.

IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay always has some delightful highly creative homemade dessert options combining a number of amazing flavors, textures, and aromas. Just amazing stuff.

Concluding our brief list this week is Marco Ferrante's **Isola Restaurant** near Hollywood casino which always has some delicious specialties at dessert.

Regardless of which restaurant you visit, bring your camera. Not only are the main courses and appetizers photo-worthy, but the desserts absolutely are as well.

Whenever you visit a restaurant on SXM that you feel has delivered praiseworthy dining, by all means post pictures in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#); they are always welcomed.

33. Why Have Pizza in SXM?

You no doubt have a place that's your favorite pizza hangout in the US. When SXM has so many outstanding restaurants, why would you bother getting pizza here?

Simple answer: because everybody loves pizza and at some point, you're going to crave it.

Fortunately, SXM has many wonderful pizza shops. In the US, anybody could open a pizza shop — they don't have to be native Italians. But **here in SXM most of the places that serve pizza are run by native Italians** or others with authentic native Italian recipes.

Some of the pizza concoctions you get in the US will turn the stomach of native Italians — but for the most part, they will be perfectly willing to create what you ask. For example, we asked Marco Ferrante at Isola to create a pizza with pineapple, chicken, and mushrooms. He said to me with a smile, "Pineapple on a pizza is against my religion, but I will do it anyway; I love pineapple but not on pizza." He made it and it was terrific, though it still isn't his favorite pizza.

Here is our selection of the best places to get pizza on SXM, in no special order.

We do place **Isola** first because our poll of members in our [Jeff Berger's Everything SXM Facebook group](#) voted Isola the number one place on the island to buy pizza. Isola is a full-fledged Italian restaurant offering indoor and outdoor dining and entertainment some nights. Their pizza is terrific, and can be ordered for dining on the premises or take out.

Pizza and Co. in Simpson Bay opposite Vesna Taverna is a tiny restaurant offering limited parking and almost no inside seating. If you want to sit inside, make sure you get there before they open. We've only dined inside once, and otherwise take our food to go. Pizza & Co. purists will tell you it doesn't taste the same if you consume it when it's not fresh out of the oven.

Mama Pizza has two locations, one in oyster pond and the other in Porto Cupecoy. The oyster pond location recently reopened after being closed in recent months because of Covid. We usually go to their Porto Cupecoy location which has plenty of seating indoors and out, an extensive Italian menu beyond pizza, plus big, delicious pizzas.

Why have pizza on SXM at any of these locations? The pizza is flat out phenomenal — and when you crave it, you crave it.

Can't you just taste some great pizza right now?

34. Think About Where You're Going & About This:

TRAVELING *ANYWHERE* THIS SUMMER? SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations in the Caribbean. (Global protection is also available.)

So if you're traveling to SXM -- or anywhere else -- in the next few months, get SKYMED Medical evacuation membership FIRST: It could easily save you \$35,000 -- the approx. cash cost of an emergency medical evacuation YOU MUST PAY IN CASH IN ADVANCE should you become seriously or critically ill or injured on SXM -- or anywhere else -- and need to get home.

The SkyMed Difference: SkyMed members pay only the small cost of membership, currently under \$1.35/day on an annual basis -- but you must get SkyMed BEFORE you need it, like fire insurance. CALL JEFF FOR INFO OR TO SIGN UP: 508-747-8281 (8am-8pm EDT). Or email him at jeff.berger@skymed.com.

35. Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano

Culinary master David Foini has been doing special things with Italian dining on SXM since the 1990s, when he first settled here after a career as head of culinary aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. He decided to settle in SXM and opened La Raviolina in Sandy Ground, a not exactly upscale area west of Marigot. It wasn't a restaurant, it was a place where he hand-made pasta which he distributed around the entire island.

He was quickly urged by lots of fans of his pasta to open his own place, so he did that at the same location — sometimes serving as parking attendant at a small lot across the street, waiter, chef, and maître d' — simultaneously. The food was excellent, the prices were excellent, and soon David had to give up his pasta making business because the restaurant was consuming so much of his time even though it only had about half a dozen tables.

A few years passed, and David created La Gondola at Atlantis Casino, a very upscale gourmet Italian restaurant. Hollywood & other entertainment notables soon started arriving along with billionaires and lots of tourists and locals.

Shortly before the economy began to falter in 2007, David felt that it was time to go in a different direction, which is when he opened his Izi Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. (See story number 31 for information about the tasting menus offered with 24 hour notice in addition to the regular menu at Izi.)

Over the years, David has revived contemporary versions of some of the classics he had offered at La Gondola. The quality of the food here at iZi is consistently outstanding, the presentation is beautiful, and the offerings are delicious. It's where other restaurateurs consistently go for dinner on their nights off. David has preserved his own time-tested recipes and top talent chefs brought in from Italy add to the variety and quality of dining at Izi every night.

iZi has been one of our go-to Italian restaurants for years. It has a huge variety of delicious entrées and specials and is one of those do-not-miss top culinary choices for visitors to SXM. Go, and tell them Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News* recommended iZi: consistently extraordinary dining.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 5/31/21). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's top restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too. \$10 pasta specials at lunch - lots of great food in every meal.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 5/24/21 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. 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 essential. They do not use an answering machine, so call when they are open and let it ring.

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 5/16/21), **Simpson Bay** A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Reveil Marin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in Jai's, a fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, top-notch delicious selections spanning a wide spectrum of flavors, aromas, and textures. You gotta try this place! Highly recommended.

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 5/10/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 4/26/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Spiga, 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.**

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

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

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

Avantika Thai www.avantikasm.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

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

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

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan.

What could possibly be better?

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

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

Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

36. MUST END SOON: Enter our Summer 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](#).

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.

ENTRIES MUST END ON JUNE 15. DRAWING, JUNE 28 at about 9:45 a.m. island time (same as EDT). YOU MUST ANSWER YOUR PHONE TO WIN.

37. 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](#).

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

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

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

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.

39. 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.

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

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

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

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

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

Q2. Who is protected?

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Short-Term protection is intended for brief trips, say a week or two. Like Annual protection, it “Takes You Home®” to doctors and hospitals you know and trust when you suffer a serious or critical illness or injury while

traveling. Preexisting medical conditions are covered from day one with the short-term plan. It's inexpensive, only \$15/day for family protection. Remember, though, that Annual and Multi-year Ultimate memberships cost much less – only about \$1.35/day for family plans. Plus, they're guaranteed renewable without regard to advancing age or declining health. If you get a short-term plan, once it has expired, it is done, and you must reapply and requalify for another when you next travel. With Annual and multiyear Ultimate memberships, all you need do is renew before the renewal deadline – no need to reapply unless your membership has lapsed and the grace period has ended.

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q16. Can I sign up online?

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

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

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

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

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

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

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

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

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

Resources to help you:

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

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

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

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

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

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

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

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

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

*Eleanore Klein, President
SkyMed Group of Companies*

From JMB:

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

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

From:
JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@jmbcommunications.com

41. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 5/24/21)

AMUSEMENTS

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

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

SXM Beer Brewery

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:

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

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

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

Jewels & Beyond (Maho) NEW!

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers (new)

Kay's Fine Jewelry (new)

Joe's Jewelry International (new)

Ballerina Jewelers (new)

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publishers](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

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

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

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

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

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

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)

JAX Steakhouse (Maho) (NEW)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

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

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Updated 5/24/21

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

That's what we do:

www.websitesthatworkusa.com

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

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

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

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger 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 .

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 Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free**

(no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

LEGAL:

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

Contact Us (Revised 3/15/21)

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

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

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

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

5/31/21 #V4-1300 1:00 pm EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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