

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 7/6/21: Issue #1304 -- Hurricane News; GEBE's Latest Blackout; 72 Hours for PCR Tests; Dutch Side Open Until 2 a.m.; How to Get New Passports Fast; How To Get Around Jammed Airline Phone Reservations Systems; Boeing's Latest Debacle; jetBlue and AA Win Two Very Different Surveys; SXM's Plummeting Covid Case Numbers (Great News); [44 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1304 --- Tuesday, July 6, 2021  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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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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Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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

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

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**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

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## Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

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

**RENTAL 8/28/2021 9/4/2021 WEEK 35 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Flamboyant Building Two consecutive**

weeks. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, two patios upper and lower overlooking the ocean. Unit directly on the beach, fantastic views and beach access. Sleeps six comfortably. Downstairs has the master suite and two pull down Murphy beds. Upstairs has a master suite, bathroom and patio with ocean view. Fully stocked kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters. Newly remodeled with all new furniture, WiFi, tvs etc. Resort has many pools, casino, shopping, grocery, bakery, restaurants, tennis, playground. 1000.00 per week June 334-745-3881 [medicinewoman5@bellsouth.net](mailto:medicinewoman5@bellsouth.net)

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)

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

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### **"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)

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**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\***

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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. LEAD STORY: PCR Testing Window is Now 72 Hours**

With about 182 million people now vaccinated in the United States, the demand for Covid testing has shrunk relative to the high number of Covid testing sites now available. In plain English, that means ***getting tested quickly for travel has become a whole lot easier practically everywhere***. In more places, new rapid PCR testing is available, enabling travelers to be tested, get results within an hour or so, then submit them electronically to EHAS for approval with time to spare.

As we've reported here, the Dutch side of SXM changed the maximum number of hours it allows to elapse between when you are PCR tested for Covid and when the final leg of your trip to SXM takes off from a US airport. That number, effective last Thursday, July 1, is 72 hours versus 120 hours before July 1. We've also reported this in our [Everything](#)

## [SXM Facebook Group](#).

You'll find all the details of this significant but definitely not daunting change to entry requirements in our **Guide to Entry Requirements** in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where we publish answers to all your questions about every aspect of entering SXM as well as US requirements before you return home. Our FILES area is here: [www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files). Use the SEARCH window for "Entry".

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## 2. Airline Phone Reservation Systems Very Busy; Where to Book

If you've been a reader of *SXM Weekly News* in recent months, you already know about airline flight cancellations and rescheduling that have resulted from the shortage of airline pilots and operating personnel as a result of overly exuberant efforts to get pilots and others to take early retirement. Pilots retired by the thousands, as did other personnel. Now, with soaring demand, airlines are scrambling to recruit and thoroughly train new pilots so they are fully qualified to fly.

What you may not have thought of is airline reservationists — the people who take your reservations by phone. Currently, it appears that there aren't enough of them to meet the demand, which means that hold times during peak hours have been excessive.

We'd like to suggest two solutions to this.

First, continue to make your reservations directly with the airline — but do so during odd hours, when demand is less. In some cases, that works, even though fewer people may be answering reservation phones.

Second, consider using our friends at [SkyMed Travel](#). SkyMed Travel is a concierge travel service that is free for current SkyMed members but which may impose a modest fee on non-SkyMed members. They guarantee to charge you less than anyone else for hotel reservations and for car rentals. You can contact them [here](#): When you do so, please mention that you were referred to them by SkyMed Ambassador Jeff Berger.

**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.**

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## 3. Passport Processing Is Still Jammed - How To Expedite Yours

If your passport will be within six months of expiring when you next visit SXM, it's very important for you to renew your passport before your trip. Before you rush off to do that, note this: *renewing passports is taking many people several months because of current overwhelming demand.*

Even expedited service, which costs extra, may take a considerable number of weeks.

There are ways around this, of course, which the US State Department details in [this story](#). The most important point: get as much of a head start as you can: you'll need it.

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## 4. Newest Bad News for Boeing is Truly Shocking

We're not into publishing hyperbole here — but facts are facts, and the newest news for Boeing concerning its pride and joy 777 X aircraft can only be described as stunningly bad.

The largest builder of commercial airplanes in the world, Boeing received well-deserved terrible press globally after its 737 MAX aircraft type was involved in two fatal crashes overseas killing 346 people. Those crashes grounded the MAX worldwide for well over a year. It was only in the last several months that "fixed" 737 MAX aircraft began to return to service.

Now, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has refused to certify Boeing's new 777 X, saying that it has the same kind of software flaw that killed those 346 people in the 737 MAX. See that story [here](#).

Most people who think about aviation companies and airframe manufacturers would have justifiably assumed that when Boeing finally fixed the problem with its 737 MAX, its next step would have been to ensure that the same problem did not exist on any other current or in-design Boeing aircraft. But since the same problem has now been found on the new 777 X, it appears that that assumption may have been incorrect. Airlines that buy and fly Boeing aircraft must rely heavily on that manufacturer's reputation to help them convince passengers to board their aircraft, trusting that they are safe and reliable. Fortunately, the new 777 X was looking for certification that it is qualified to fly and it is not yet flying with any customer airlines. But news like this travels fast and makes the airline appear incompetent, regardless of what the facts are or how Boeing PR pros try to spin it. The airline has work to do — lots of it -- and it clearly is nowhere close to finishing the job.

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## 5. The Good News About Cruise Ship Passengers

For millions of people around the world, the news that cruise ships will again be sailing this summer is truly welcome. It is welcome news for the cruise ship companies that have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue thanks to Covid. It is welcome news for the many ports around the world, and especially in the Caribbean, where revenue from cruise ship passengers is an enormous contributor to local economies. And of course it is a welcome relief for cruise ship passengers themselves, who have had no ability to enjoy cruise travel in many months.

However, [the best news](#) is that virtually all major cruise lines now require passengers to prove that they have become fully vaccinated against Covid. Most ports require recent full vaccination by cruisers and other tourists. For the safety of cruise ship passengers and crew members, it's essential that all cruise lines require all passengers to be fully vaccinated, notwithstanding protestations to the contrary by one particular US governor (Florida).

That's the good news....

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## 6. ...There's a Fly in the Cruise Ship Ointment

If CRUISES leaving Caribbean ports simply sailed around all of the islands and fed all their passengers every meal and sold their passengers souvenirs, clothes, jewelry, and whatever else they need on board the ship -- with no stops until they returned to port -- chances are high that all of the passengers and crew members would return to the port of embarkation perfectly healthy and not present any danger to others.

But that's not what happens. Cruises visit several ports on each cruise, and in each port, passengers take tours, visit restaurants, shop at jewelry stores, buy at souvenir shops, and go to a spectrum of other places. Everywhere they go they are exposed to all kinds of people, vaccinated or not, and wearing or not wearing masks. In the unlikely event that fully vaccinated people do get sick with Covid, their symptoms according to the CDC are more likely to resemble those of the common cold — and when they interact with others who are not vaccinated, that Covid "cold" could be the Delta variant of Covid 19 which could very well hospitalize or kill the unvaccinated.

The potential for this kind of disaster is why it's more important now than ever for everyone to continue to wear a mask when out in public. Masks have been proven to help prevent the spread of Covid and other viruses and that ability has never been more important than it is right now. But to prevent yourself and your family members from getting sick or worse from the severe Covid Delta variant, or potentially even worse variants in the future, the unvaccinated must get vaccinated now. If you have not yet been fully vaccinated, please do it now for everyone's safety: we can't stop Covid unless everyone helps make it happen.

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## 7. Celebrity Edge Returns to SXM With 1000 Passengers

Here is that complete story, from the Port of St. Maarten:

*PORT ST. MAARTEN – Port St. Maarten management said over the weekend that the industry is back in gear prompting a staggered approach to the resumption of cruising. Destination St. Maarten forms a pivotal part of this approach and will be welcoming more than 1000 passengers to its shores.*

*Port management in a sector update said that they've had a lot of communication with key local stakeholders and the cruise industry in regard to protocols and the safest and feasible way of business resumption.*

*The team at Port St. Maarten and port users are ready to welcome, host and entertain the passengers as they return some 15 months later.*

*In addition, Port management said that coincidentally Celebrity Edge was actually the last commercial transit vessel that*



visited the country back in March 2020, and this week it will come back full circle. The port is looking forward to frequent/daily transit calls to the destination in the coming weeks and months.

"As Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labour, I am extremely happy to be a part of 'safe tourism.' At times it is not easy, but when a balance is found between economic activity and safety, it becomes a special moment, and Wednesday July 7th, 2021, will be a special moment," Minister Omar Ottley stated.

Cruise sector forecasting is currently indicating a strong rebound and the port is looking to local stakeholders such as the taxis, retailers and tour operators to continue to maintain high service level standards along with local COVID-19 public health and safety protocols.

The Celebrity Edge cruise ship, described as the new home of modern luxury cruising, will be making a transit commercial cruise call to Port St. Maarten on Wednesday July 7.

The Royal Caribbean Group brand vessel was the first ocean going cruise ship to set sail on June 26 from U.S. Port Everglades after 15-months of no-sail.

The destination remains a favorable port of call for the cruise industry in connection with regular scheduled destination port of calls throughout the week. Scheduled port calls are important to the destination as it will allow passengers to explore the Island in a safe manner for a couple of hours as was done pre-COVID-19 pandemic.

Celebrity Cruises recently said in a statement that nine of the 14 ships within its brand have plans to return to sailing by mid-September 2021 and are ready to take guests to remarkable destinations from the Caribbean to Europe, Alaska, and the Galapagos islands.

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## WEATHER:

### 8. Tropical System Elsa Headed for Florida's West Coast

Tropical storm Elsa is expected to pass over the Florida Keys and head toward some sort of encounter with Florida's West Coast over the next couple of days after passing through West Central Cuba (today is Tuesday, July 6).

See next story.

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### 9. Stay Aware of All Tropical Activity: See Our Weather Center / Hurricane Center

If SXM is to be affected by any significant tropical systems, it doesn't usually happen until the so-called Cape Verde season gets going in September.

July has been called by many the most beautiful month of the year on the island, with cloudless skies through July and much of August. There are also usually lower temperatures in SXM — sometimes significantly lower — with much less humidity than sweltering major cities in the US.

Although it may seem strange, **you can come to SXM in the tropics during Summer to cool off — and you will actually accomplish that mission.**

If you live anywhere near the US Atlantic or Gulf Coast, you will want to stay aware of what's happening in the tropics related to tropical systems. You can find all that information in our weather center/hurricane center in our main SXM site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). Our hurricane center's webpages include the latest watches and warnings for up to six storms simultaneously – so you can see the latest forecast information for all active storms in real time, as it is issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Our site also includes a number of satellite images, radar loops, and other graphics to give you a comprehensive inside look into exactly what's happening throughout the tropics. It is updated in real time around-the-clock, so keep a close eye on it.

Every day, we post the National Hurricane Center Tropical Outlook in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as well as in our hurricane center at [everythingxm.com](http://everythingxm.com). We will continue to do that to hopefully ensure that everyone has the opportunity to see the latest information about all storms that may impact them from now through November 30 or beyond, when hurricane activity actually ends.

## 10. Get & Use the "MyRadar" App This Summer & Beyond

The My Radar app, available for most types of electronic devices, delivers near real time radar and storm images for the entire world. It's useful to everyone who ever goes outdoors anywhere, 24/7/365. It lets you know when rain, wind, snow, ice, tornadoes, and more may affect you. We have it installed, free, on all of our phones and all of our computers. It also enables you to see things that both the National Hurricane Center and our own Rob Lightbown of hurricane experts [Crown Weather](#) are talking about related to storms that may affect either SXM or your own area or both.

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## 11. Reminder: About Our New Daily Tropical Outlooks

Effective several weeks ago, 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 or frequently through the day. 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 that significant information is posted every day in the weather center of our main website, [everythingSXM.com](#), as we've noted in this issue. It's hurricane season.*

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## 12. 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.*

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## 13. 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.

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**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**

**14. Important Covid Information Has Moved...**

We have moved our complete coverage of Covid, including Entry Requirements, to the Files area of our 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.

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**COVID-19: Guide to Entry Requirements - Please Read and Retain - REVISED 7/1/2021**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**15. 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 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](https://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 won't 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. Latest revision occurred 7/1/21.

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

**16. 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 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](https://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 won't 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.

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**Etc.**

**17. 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**

### **18. Check Out Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rental Ads Direct from Timeshare Owners**

Ever since we established our JMB Website Supporters island discount program in 2002, it has offered hundreds of discounts and other benefits to its members. One of the first benefits provided to our members was the ability to advertise timeshare weeks they own for rent or for sale in our main website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

That page currently offers hundreds of ads from timeshare owner, JMB Website Supporters members on SXM, as well as many more timeshare weeks for sale at prices far less than those charged directly by timeshare resorts.

Unlike other publications that carry ads for timeshare condos for rent or for sale, we accept ads exclusively from our JMB Website Supporters members — a big deal, security perspective. The ads were just updated with dozens of new Weeks added yesterday, Sunday, June 27. The weeks are offered directly by timeshare owners and not by any third parties, which means you pay no third-party commissions or any other fees. We do not charge our JMB Website Supporters members any separate fee for ad placement which enables you in the timeshare owner to deal directly with each other without having to deal with third-party fees.

Go here to see our current selection of SXM timeshare weeks for rent and for sale. The list is very frequently updated, especially at this time of year when so many people are selecting accommodations for their next SXM vacation..

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### **19. 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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### **20. 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*.

## 21. 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.

## 22. 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

## 23. HIGHLY Updated NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 6/14/21)

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

## 24. ENDING SOON:

**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](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

**25. Help Keep SXM Weekly News Coming:**

**+++++**

**MEMBERSHIP SALE NOW UNDERWAY**

**-- ENDS SOON--!**

**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. Memberships to which this applies are noted as (+1) below.* But the maximum number of offered years (renewal/reinstatement/new membership) and you get **TWO FREE ADDITIONAL YEARS (+2)**

**Military / First Responder memberships available too at huge discounts.** Details below.

**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](http://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](http://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 (+2) BUT THIS SALE ENDS VERY SOON SO ACT TODAY!**

We hope you are having a pleasant Summer so far, **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:.....

## 26. Survey: American Airlines Named "LEAST Favorite" of All US Airlines Serving SXM

In an unscientific survey taken in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) over the last couple of weeks, readers voted American Airlines their LEAST favorite US carrier serving the island. American received more votes for **LEAST favorite** than all other airlines combined. The number two least favorite airline, far behind American, was Spirit, an ultra low fare airline that whacks its passengers with lots of fees on their flights. To see the survey, please go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 27. Survey: JetBlue Named \*MOST Favorite" of All US Airlines Serving SXM

In an unscientific survey taken in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) over the last week or so, readers voted jetBlue Airways as their MOST favorite US carrier serving the island. JetBlue received more votes for **MOST favorite** airline than all other airlines combined. The number two favorite airline, behind JetBlue, was Delta, a very strong, quality competitor in the market. To see the survey, please go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 28. Covid Case Numbers Plummet on Dutch Side; Some Businesses Stay Open Now Until 2 a.m.

The number of active Covid cases on the Dutch side of the island as of last Saturday had plummeted to 26, the lowest figure in months. As a result of that improvement, the Dutch side government announced that a number of businesses normally licensed to operate after the current 11 PM curfew will now be allowed to operate until 2 AM, with no businesses operating from 2 AM to 6 AM.

The vast majority of tourist accommodations are located on the Dutch side of the island. Here is the exact text of the Dutch side announcement on the new 2 AM closing time:

*SIMPSON BAY: The closing time of Dutch side night businesses has been extended by government to 2am as of July 4. It is prohibited for businesses to open from 2:00am to 6:00am. This includes: bars, nightclubs, discotheques, restaurants, and bars, spaces that are rented out for meetings, events or parties.*

*The prohibition does not apply to hotels or lodgings, as far as their guests and staff are concerned, as well as the airport, port and related buildings.*

*As of July, the number of reported active cases dropped to less than 30. The intended goal was to achieve the 85 percent vaccination rate on Dutch Sint Maarten. However, the number of vaccinated adults within the Sint Maarten population has increased sufficiently, according to Health Minister Omar Ottley. The curfew for the French side has been lifted allowing for free movement once again at night. However, businesses must close at 11pm nightly. Measures in both sides seek to keep the COVID-19 numbers at bay.*

## 29. Toppers New Carousel Location Getting Great Reviews

Toppers Restaurant's former location in Simpson Bay near Kimsha beach has closed forever, and its new location over the waters of Simpson Bay lagoon at the carousel in Simpson Bay is delivering everything it promised — including



gorgeous surroundings, a near constant seabreeze (with air conditioning available when there is no breeze), Karaoke, traditional specials such as lobster and prime rib, and lots more.

Parking is available in their lot in front of the restaurant or nearby off Welfare Road. If you check our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and search the page for Toppers, you'll find many pictures of the new location.

Toppers Restaurant is now co-located with the Toppers Rhum Distillery and the beloved Toppers Gelateria which has been expanded under Topper's ownership. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily; plan to give it a try when you next return to the island.

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## 30. GEBE: The Power To Deliver Occasional Blackouts

GEBE, the Dutch side electricity and water company, has been on the receiving end of possibly more derisive commentary than any other entity on the island. Its ability to generate electricity has been compared in reliability to that of the electricity company in Zimbabwe — not a compliment to either company.

We don't know what GEBE cited as the cause of the recent Dutch side blackout — and the cause really doesn't matter. Suffice it to say that for significantly more than a decade, GEBE could be depended upon to provide periodic blackouts to portions of the Dutch side or to the entire Dutch side, sometimes with warning but often without.

Fortunately, virtually all SXM hotels and timeshares have large emergency generators enabling them to keep serving the needs of their guests without interruption. Most homeowners on the Dutch side have long since installed surge suppressors for their most important electrical devices — things such as refrigerators — to prevent them from being damaged or even catching fire during power surges which can follow the outages.

If you plan to stay at a villa while you're on the Dutch side of SXM, it would not be a bad idea to bring a small flashlight with you — or to keep your cell phone powered up so you can use its digital flashlight/torchlight should you lose power in the evening. In addition, if you are staying in a villa, it's not a bad idea to keep a couple of pots filled with water in your unit. When power dies, toilets may die with it, and pots of water do a good job of flushing when you dump them in a toilet bowl.

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## 31. Coming Soon: Tipping Practices Guide

Tipping practices on each side of the island vary both by law and by tradition. After being asked about these practices repeatedly over recent years, we're now working on a Tipping practices guide to explain what is charged on each side of the island, where the money goes, and what the difference may be between a service charge and a gratuity on each side of the island. The guide should be ready in the next few weeks and will be published here in SXM Weekly News as well as in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and our companion **MeWe group**.

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## 32. Where to Go to Avoid Sargassum Seaweed in SXM

Sargassum seaweed has been occasionally annoying beachgoers throughout the Caribbean, the US and Mexican Gulf coasts, and even in parts of South America. The seaweed comes from the Sargasso Sea well northeast of the Caribbean, and large carpets of the stuff have broken away from its origin periodically since 2012. The heavy light brown Sargassum seaweed mostly affects East facing beaches in SXM. Those facing Southwest and West on the Caribbean side of the island are much less likely to see the stuff.

Machines have been purchased and are in use to remove Sargassum seaweed from the beaches on the east side of the island that had been most affected by it. At this time of year, the work is especially meticulous because of the presence of nesting endangered or threatened sea turtles on some of the island's beaches at this time of year.

If you want to get specifics of the names of actual beaches that have very little Sargassum seaweed on any given day, ask that specific question in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which now has almost 30,000 members -- at least many hundreds of them are on the island every day.

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## 33. Bring SXM Home With Our Exclusive SXM Euro Ovals

For about 20 years, we've produced souvenir vinyl "SXM" euro oval bumper stickers which can be used on flat-surface hard sided luggage, the rear window of your car, occasionally over your husband's mouth (kidding), and lots of other places you'll think of.

If you go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), you'll find a picture of them and ordering information. Our current SXM euro ovals have purple print on a bright white background with a purple sand chair illustration for background. We offer them three for \$15 or \$10 for one. You can pay that to [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) through PayPal or send a check (US dollar checks drawn on US banks only) payable to JMB Communications mailed to JMB, PO Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362 – 1812.

Our SXM Euro ovals can be mailed only to US and Canadian addresses and to APO/FPO. Our copyrighted purple sand chair euro ovals are not available for sale on SXM. We do accept multiple orders of three should you wish to make them; buy some as gifts! You can also order them by credit card by texting us through the WhatsApp application at 721-588-4188 (texts through WhatsApp only, no phone calls). Or you can simply phone our office at 508-747-8281 and leave credit card information, delivery address, and how many you want in our secure answering system. Delivery takes about two weeks.

If you'd like an advance look at our purple sand chair SXM euro ovals, you will find them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); just use the search window for "purple sand chair."

## 34. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika

For years, Avantika in Simpson Bay has been SXM's undisputed top destination for outstanding Thai food. Their creative renderings of traditional recipes give diners a world of great flavors at very reasonable prices. When we visit Avantika -- one of our favorite SXM restaurants -- we get two or three great meals out of each app/dinner/dessert order. Portion size has been consistently excellent. Anish Chugani, who also has both Movida and Astra in his table of fine restaurants, is very particular about the quality of service he delivers; his staff here and in the other restaurants reflects that commitment to excellence. Avantika has been a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Award of Excellence for the last several years. Don't miss it!

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 7/6/21) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai. Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by knowledgeable service. Go...you'll become a regular.

**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.

**Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine** (featured 6/28/21), **Simpson Bay A** 15-second walk to the side of the building from Reveil Matin (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.

**Emilio's**: outside Philipsburg (featured 6/14-21/21) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

**Isola** next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 6/7/21). Italian. Excellent food, many choices (pizza too), busy, good specials. Lively; busy; entertainment some nights. Many folks from Simpson Bay Resort dine here as well as many locals and lots of casino high-rollers. [www.isolaristorante.com](http://www.isolaristorante.com)

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://www.izirestaurant.com) (featured 5/31/21). 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.

**Mario's Bistro at the Cliff**, formerly Mario's Bistro [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://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.

**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. Now relocated at the Carousel, Simpson Bay.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnasxm.com](http://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](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.**

**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/>

**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/>

**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....

**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.

## 35. 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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).***

## 36. 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](#).

## 37. 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.

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

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

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

## 39. 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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483. It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

From:  
JMB Communications  
Membership Services  
[support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

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## 40. 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.

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

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

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

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

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](#)

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

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

**And now we're adding police, firefighters, EMTs, and nurses to our just-renamed Military / First Responder Memberships in recognition of their sacrifices for the rest of us every single day.** We just need you to send us documentary proof (ID) that you're one of America's very best. To sign up or upgrade your JMB membership to Military / First Responders, visit [everythingxsm.com](http://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.

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## 43. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 7/6/21)

### **AMUSEMENTS**

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

### **ARTISTS**

Roland Richardson  
Patty Meotti  
Laura Fisher Saxon

#### **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**

**Caribbean Brewing**

#### **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](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:**

**Baker's Suites**

**Belair Beach Hotel**

**Simpson Bay Resort**

**Azure Hotel & Art Studio**

**RESTAURANTS & BARS**

[IZI](#)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

## ISOLA

**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](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 7/6/21

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**Got a Radio While You're in SXM?**

**Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?**

**Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM**

**or On Your Internet-Connected Device**

**at island92.com ...**

**and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air every Monday**

**between about 9:45am and 10am island time**

**on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.**

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## 44. 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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

**Want to rent or buy a week?**

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

**SECTION 5: For Members Only**

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

**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](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)

7/6/21 #V4-1304 7/5 6:00 pm EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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