

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 9/13/21: Absolute Last Call; The Future of The Westin; Maho Beach; Buying Condos; FAA; Vaccination Requirement if You Want to Fly; Becoming Familiar With Testing Before You Need It; Front Street; French Side Update; SXM Stayover Tourism Ranking Tops Everybody - [Issue #1314 -- 46 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1314 --- Monday, September 13, 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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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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 more than 360,000 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](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

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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 12/24/2021 12/31/2021 52 Royal Palm Beach Resort 2 bedroom - recently renovated on the beach - 3rd floor at the beautiful Royal Palm Beach Resort. 2300 Lisa 313-815-1503 [las1102@hotmail.com](mailto:las1102@hotmail.com)**

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

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

**SALE 11/6/2021 11/20/2021 Weeks 45, 46 Simpson Bay Resort & Casino Marina Penthouse, 1 of 5 suites on top floor, incl. dedicated parking space; spacious living space, approx. 1700 sq. feet; sleep 6 2. 2 bedrooms, 2 king beds, 2 twin Murphy beds, 2 full baths, 2 convenience safes; updates incl. stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; 6-seat dining table, living room w. TV, enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, add'tl 4-seat table &**

chairs; large balcony w. hot tub overlooks Simpson Bay; easy access to beaches, pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to many fine restaurants in Simpson Bay; pictures available upon request; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; \$17,000 per week Pat (239) 234-1070 [patc4226@gmail.com](mailto:patc4226@gmail.com)

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmewegroup>

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

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

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

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**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. FAA Gets Even Tougher With Unruly Passengers**

Although fortunately there have not been any major episodes of unruly passengers on flights to or from SXM reported in recent months, those episodes continue to happen on domestic flights in the US and elsewhere. As a result, the FAA said this week that it will [get even tougher](#) with those passengers, slapping bigger fines on them along with tougher penalties.

As we said here before, American Airlines has already announced that it will not resume serving alcohol in their main coach cabin until mid-January at the earliest. Alcohol is regarded as a contributor to anti-mask outbursts aboard commercial airline flights. However, people who have been drinking in airport lounges appear to be an ongoing problem — and that's something that can only be addressed by the Airports themselves....

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**2. Airlines Moving Toward Requiring Vaccination for Domestic, International Passengers**

Airlines flying international or domestic routes appear to be moving toward requiring all of their passengers to be vaccinated in order to fly.

Although this has not yet been formally announced for any major players among the airline serving SXM, we think it is highly likely to happen — and that people who love the Caribbean should expect it.

Here is [more](#) on what is happening.

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### 3. Know The Testing Apparatus in Your Area Before You Need to Use It

It makes sense to know what the Covid testing apparatus is in your area before you have to use it. Most of our readers use either Walgreen or CVS for their pre-flight testing according to EHAS guidelines. Both of those national chains require customers to use their websites to make testing reservations.

To get an idea of how far in advance you must make appointments, we suggest you check those sites for availability in your area of the tests you want and see how far in advance appointments are currently being accepted. Keep that information current and handy so that when you actually need to schedule your appointment, you'll be successful at getting the dates you want.

It's kind of like driving somewhere new in unfamiliar territory with or without a GPS. The GPS makes things much easier; current, accurate foreknowledge of the testing apparatus in your area makes scheduling the tests you want far faster and easier.

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### 4. Why We Moved Our "Guide to Entry Requirements" Onto our SXM Facebook Site

Once something is published in *SXM Weekly News*, the next step for it is to be put into our archives. People were also printing our Guide to Entry Requirements and saving them for later use — a bad idea since Entry Requirements can change literally at a moments notice.

When Entry Requirements change, we update the information in our Guide. We then communicate the fact that a change has occurred on the main discussion page of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). *People who are going through the process of applying for preapproval to visit SXM are best advised to refer to our Guide to Entry Requirements in the Files area of our Facebook group when they are going through the process. Since Entry Requirements can change, it is never a wise idea to refer to something you printed or saved on your own computer or among your own valuable papers. That information could be wrong at the time you refer to it.*

That is why we moved the information from *SXM Weekly News* to the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

As we repeatedly say in that group: *For ACCURATE answers to all Entry Requirements / returning to US requirements questions, see our complete GUIDE TO ENTRY REQTS in the FILES area of our FB SXM site. FILES are here: facebook.com/groups/mysxm/files. Use the SEARCH window for "Entry". The Guide has JUST been updated.*

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### 5. Keep Reconfirming Your Flights on Your Airline's Portal...

US airlines continue to work to staff up to meet the flight crew needs of the increasing numbers of flights they have scheduled for this fall and winter. They are also continuing to return some mothballed aircraft to service. Both of these processes are complex, and in the middle of all this the airlines are seeing inconsistent and sometimes opposing steering currents in the marketplace. The desire to travel is high, and among fully vaccinated people that desire wins out. But people simultaneously are concerned about the Delta variant and other variants that may play a role in travel decision-making.

Consequently, it is wise to keep rechecking your flights on your airline's portal to be sure there have been no changes in flight times or days. If you have connections, those can be impacted by flight changes. We suggest you do this every week to be sure the itinerary you think you have is your actual final itinerary.

#### **WEATHER:**

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### 6. Hurricane Season Keeps Chugging & Chugging

The height of the 2021 hurricane season is now, and the next storms to be named will be Nicholas and Odette — both of which are likely to be named in the next few days, one in the southern Gulf of Mexico between the Yucatan and Mexico and the other off the coast of West Africa.

Those are not the only areas where possible storms are being monitored. For more, see info about our Weather Center, below.

September is usually the busiest month of hurricane season, and October is not far behind. As usual, since the vast majority of our readers live within a couple of hundred miles of the US East or Gulf Coast or Atlantic Canada, we publish the tropical Outlook at least once or twice a day every day throughout hurricane season. We also publish advisories for named storms affecting SXM and/or our readers multiple times a day every day. Points of embarkation in many cases are not far from the coast, so the future course of hurricanes matters to our readers because a storm's course can affect not only SXM, but also the airports from which passengers fly to get there.

For much more hurricane information, see the other articles in this section and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 7. Hurricane Names Still to Come: Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, Wanda

As noted in the previous story, both named storms Nicholas and Odette are expected to form this week in the southern Gulf of Mexico and also off the coast of West Africa respectively. That leaves only six storms more on the National Hurricane Center's list of potential storms for this year: Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor, and Wanda.

There is a good chance that the NHC will run out of names and need more. In recent years, they have used the Greek alphabet for the names of extra storms. This year, however, they will release a supplemental list of hurricane names if the pre-issued names are exhausted. If that happens, we'll publish the names in the supplemental list here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 8. See Our Online Weather / Hurricane Center for the Latest Tropical Forecasts / Developments

Our newly updated **weather/hurricane center** at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) delivers current forecasts for up to six storms simultaneously, and it provides all the latest watches and warnings for all storms as well as satellite images, radar images, and radar loops.

Whenever anything happens that may directly impact SXM, you'll see it covered in near real time in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If the island is threatened at any time by any major tropical weather systems, we will also send a bulletin to all of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** members advising them of that situation.

**We also highly recommend that if you live on the US East or Gulf Coast or in the Canadian Maritimes or in SXM, you seriously consider subscribing to Rob Lightbown's remarkably inexpensive custom weather forecasting service which gives you a heads up on what's happening in the tropics as it affects you personally, your business, your home, and your travels. Although our site (our weather center) tells you a lot, we are journalists and not meteorologists — Rob is a seasoned meteorologist and his direct reports will be highly useful to you for planning how to react when a storm is approaching your area.**

We also strongly recommend you always listen to local authorities for any dangerous weather systems that may be approaching your area. Rob's site is [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com) and it discusses tropical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and much more — the best site we know of for key weather information when you really need it.

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## 9. Hurricane Supplies Checklist

If you live or work in any area that is ever faced with any disaster — hurricanes, floods, wildfires, blizzards, etc. — you need to be prepared. The following list was prepared by Florida disaster officials and it is very comprehensive, including many things you may not have thought of. Not everything it lists may be appropriate for everyone, but much that is listed here is very important for most people.

[This document](#) is a downloadable Adobe Acrobat PDF; just click the link and you will have the downloaded Hurricane



Supplies Checklist, which you should save and also print out for immediate reference and use.

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## 10. 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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## 11. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

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

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

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

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## 12. 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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### **Changing Your Email Address?**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your SXM Weekly News subscription***

**Quickly and Easily**  
**at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)**

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

### **13. 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**

### **14. 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 this past weekend.**

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

### **15. 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.**

### **16. 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..

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

### 17. Finally, News About The Westin...

Until the global Covid Pandemic struck, there had been a steady but slow dribble of information coming from the property of the Westin St. Maarten about the future of that resort, casino, and hotel. The reports were all positive, agreeing that the resort would reemerge as a five-star property — though possibly with a different nameplate, since the Westin brand is a property of Marriott. The owners never addressed that directly, though from a variety of sources over many months we had heard that steps were being taken within the property to convert it to five-star status.

Well after Irma had caused the property to shut down four years ago, the Coral Beach Club — the Westin's substantial timeshare operation at that property — reopened and was receiving guests, but verifiable information about the future of the main resort became almost impossible to come by.

The hospitality industry worldwide has been hit enormously hard by the Covid Pandemic, causing many hospitality enterprises to severely limit expenditures for development and expansion — even in situations where insurance would pay for much of the damage and very low interest-rate loans could pay for the rest on a long-term basis.

Finally, though, despite all this, we have news this week on the Westin's future. Our source is a long time friend associated with the property. His comments:

*The final nameplate on the hotel is to be awarded after the hotel completes its remodel. The right side of the hotel is to be gutted into larger units sold as 90-day ownership properties. The entire property has to be a 5 star hotel. The desire is that the Resort be a Ritz -- but that name will not be applied until after renovations have been completed [and the property gets everyone's thumbs up -Ed.]. Rumor: owner was there two weeks ago.*

Our guess — and it is only a guess — is that the property could be back open for the 2022 – 2023 winter high season.

We will do our best to keep you posted.

### 18. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condos for Rent from Timeshare Owners

**Listings Updated:** 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 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 SXM timeshare owners who are JMB Website Supporters members, 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 from a security perspective.** If there were ever any issue, who know who these folks are.... but there have never been any issues with our sellers. The ads were updated just days ago with dozens of new weeks added. The weeks are never offered 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 either, which enables you and the timeshare owner to deal directly with each other without third-party fees.

[Go here](#) to see our current selection of SXM timeshare weeks for rent and for sale. The list is 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*.

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## 21. Where to Find SXM Condo Rentals from JMB Members for 2021-22: Everythingxsm.com

SXM timeshare owners who are members of JMB Website Supporters are posting 2021 and 2022 timeshare rentals on our main SXM website, [everythingSXM.com](#). Much more information about available rentals is on our timeshare rentals and sales page there. It is certainly not too early to start making reservations for next Winter and beyond.

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## 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 everythingxsm.com.

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

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

## 23. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates

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. SKYMED NEVER DOES SALES -- EXCEPT RIGHT NOW:

### Up to 21 Free Weeks added to new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases!

#### • **WHAT IS SKYMED?**

SkyMed is a medical evacuation membership company. "SkyMed Takes You Home" when you become seriously or critically ill or injured when traveling anywhere throughout the USA, Canada, all the nations of the Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. Global protection is also available. SkyMed members pay nothing for SkyMed-arranged medical evacuation flights that would cost non-SkyMed members \$35,000 and up – payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership before you need it – just like fire insurance.

#### **LOW GROUP PRICING:**

All of the SkyMed memberships we sell go to either members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, to members of our online SXM groups, or to readers of SXM Weekly News. The prices we charge for all multiyear Ultimate memberships are substantially less than the retail prices you will see online from SkyMed's website. Call or email us (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.

#### • **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. ABSOLUTE LAST CALL:

**FREE YEARS OF JMB MEMBERSHIP OFFER MUST END 9/15 & WILL NOT BE FURTHER EXTENDED:**

**To All SXM Weekly News Readers:**

**This brief email was sent recently to all recipients of SXM Weekly News:**

This time of year is our toughest season, when we work long hours making sure we have the latest news – including the latest about tropical cyclones near SXM -- gathered, written, and posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and written in detail for each edition of *SXM Weekly News*, along with many other breaking news stories affecting our readers and all SXM tourists.

**The cost of producing and distributing SXM Weekly News is paid for through memberships in our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program which offers about 300 SXM discounts and other benefits. If you're not a member, we need your help today and we humbly ask you to please become a member today.**

Our costs to produce and distribute *SXM Weekly News* are substantial and if you're not already a member of JMB Website Supporters, PLEASE join today to help us continue working for you.

### **How You Can Help:**

Until Sept. 15, we will give all new JMB Website Supporters members a full additional year added to your new multiyear JMB membership. **New, Renewal, and Reinstatement JMB memberships purchased for the maximum term offered get two added years -- as do all new and renewing MILITARY/FIRST RESPONDER memberships.** This MUST END 11:59pm PDT Wed. 9/15.

To sign up, please visit our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com), and click the page curl at the top of the home page. That takes you to where you can join, helping us continue to produce *SXM Weekly News* ... continue to organize and deliver our complete Weather Center / Hurricane Center on our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com) ... and continue to expand our JMB Website Supporters benefits significantly this Fall in efforts already underway.

Please don't put it off... we do need your help and ask you to join (or renew, if you're already a JMB member) today. Thank you...we've been writing *SXM Weekly News* since 1992 and with your help now, we can keep it going. Please allow several days for processing your new membership or renewal / reinstatement.

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

## 26. Not To Worry About "Missing" Maho Beach

If you've seen pictures in the last week of Maho beach, you know that at the moment it's all rocks and little sand — not much beach.

Not to worry.

Hurricane Larry passed by a few days ago and sent huge swells throughout the Caribbean, temporarily either washing away or adding to various beaches. It's temporary — the beaches always come back. Though we can't give you their exact schedule, it will surely be soon. (It's just Maho.)

The latest information on all Atlantic tropical cyclones is in our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com), in the Weather Center there, and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 27. Fall Weather on SXM

Although fall is nominally the rainy season in SXM, the fact is that if there are tropical showers they don't generally last

long even though they might be briefly heavy. There's plenty of sun every day (or almost every day) and the temperature stays in the mid to upper 80s with mid to upper 70s at night.

It is hurricane season, so you may expect an occasional tropical wave with gusty winds and more impressive tropical downpours. Note, they don't usually interfere much with your tropical vacation. Days are still plenty long -- lots of sun to go around.

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## 28. Tourism Continues to be Busy

Tourism was busy all winter long, and summer maintained the pace with more summer business than SXM has experienced in some time.

The news concerning tourism — SXM's top industry — is all good, as you'll see in the next couple of articles. As of now, winter tourism looks like it could be the best season since pre-Covid 2019....

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## 29. Front Street Feels a Bit Relieved - But Not Totally

Front Street in Philipsburg is the center of commerce for the Dutch side of the island. Philipsburg is known for Front Street jewelry and souvenirs shops, and its beautiful beachside boardwalk with a spectrum of restaurants and other attractions.

We've heard from a few merchants recently and though the sample isn't statistically significant, it does tell us that they are relieved that recent months have brought more business than they've seen since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic. They had been recovering from the ravages of hurricane Irma four years ago so positive signs in the market are warmly welcomed by both the merchants and all their employees.

One thing referred to consistently is that promotion on the World Wide Web is yielding results that were better than expected, enabling good businesses to attract new business — and that really matters.

Of course, hurricane season isn't over and won't be until at least the end of November, officially. But the good news is that the island is doing well despite obstacles added by mother nature — and with the help of tourists like all of us, it will continue down the same path.

See related stories in this section.

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## 30. SXM Leads the Pack on Caribbean Stayover Tourism Increases

SXM has always had fiercely loyal visitors who come to the island year after year after year. Many own timesharing, and many of those eventually gravitate to buy condos on the island, available in a spectrum of prices.

If you check the Sponsors list below in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*, you will find top island real estate agents who can help you through every step of the process.

But we digress. The fierce loyalty of SXM visitors has helped fuel a surge in stayover tourism in SXM. In fact, the island leads all its competitors in the increase in stayover tourism — which is even better this year and promises to be still better yet in 2022.

See all the figures in [this story](#).

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## 31. French Side Discussions / Negotiations Continuing...

As we mentioned here during the last couple of weeks, there have been some demonstrations on the French side by members of a "collective" speaking for and determined to improve the lot of a number of residents on the French side, often most pointedly regarded as from the Sandy Ground area.

The negotiations are continuing. If or when there is major news concerning the negotiations from either side or from both sides, we will attempt to publish it at once in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and also in the next regular issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

You'll be interested in the details provided in the next story.

## 32. List of Demands From French Side Demonstrators "Collective"

"Demands" is probably not an appropriate description of what the collective of demonstrators is asking the prefect and the government of the collectivite to deliver. We also wouldn't call it a wish list, because it seems far more serious than that.

Nonetheless, here is an English translation of what members of the demonstrators collective would like from the parties with whom it is negotiating:

*The collective's "platform of claim" removal of the vaccine requirement against covid-19, maintenance of free tests, failure to establish a strict health protocol, the recruitment of caregivers and the training of Saint-Martinois in the field of health, the urgent need for health materials in the hospital, territorial development and hospital expansion, clarifying the situation of the Webster family in East Bay, the COM situation which disturbs the citizens, update on the development of the PPRN, the 50 geometric steps (land prices), establishment of an emergency paid training plan for young people and establishment of sports and cultural activities. Establishment of special financial assistance for low-income and unemployed people. Downward revision of public landfill for individuals and professionals. Give priority to Saint-Martin carriers and truckers. Take stock of the situation at the Sandy Ground Bridge. Take into account the representatives of neighborhood councils who must be consulted in certain areas. Set up the transfer of environmental competence to the COM to resolve certain situations. Forcing shops and businesses to close on the day of the abolition of slavery. The non-prosecution of the demonstrators.*

We'll continue to keep you posted.

## 33. Restaurant of the Week: La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort

La Patrona is not a Tex-Mex restaurant. In fact, it's not the traditional type of Mexican restaurant that is seen across the US and in the Caribbean, which is somebody's idea of what's Mexican as opposed to authentic Mexican.

Royal Resorts is based in Mexico and it owns Simpson Bay Resort. The person behind La Patrona is Julieta Sanchez, a key person in the Royal Resorts hierarchy and the architect of its La Patrona restaurant concept. She designed the restaurant and she designed its menu along with a number of highly contributory staff members.

*Authentic Mexican from the ground up*, La Patrona delivers the same kind of upscale Mexican dining enjoyed today in Mexico by people who crave fine authentic Mexican dining. It brings to SXM, for the first time, the real thing, which is far different from the TexMex that many people are used to. People visiting La Patrona for the first time look at each other and quickly exclaim that *this brings Grand Case quality to authentic Mexican fine dining on SXM*.

Nothing else compares.

The extensive menu brings new flavors, textures, and aromas to what may have been your past concept of Mexican dining. The choices are delicious, multifaceted, and memorable. The restaurant is a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence.

La Patrona quickly became one of our top favorite fine dining spots on SXM — and we are sure you will feel the same way. Drive to valet parking of the street near the bottom of the hill, or park on the roof at the Marina parking garage after telling the attendant that you're going to La Patrona. Tell the folks at the restaurant that it was recommended to you by Jeff Berger and *SXM Weekly News* — they will be happy to see you. Reservations strongly recommended.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort** (featured 9/13/21) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

**La Rosa Restaurant**, Maho Plaza, 9/7/210: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. [www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 8/30/21) 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) (8/30/21)** now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnasxm.com](http://www.vesnasxm.com) (featured 8/16/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday



through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

**Blue Bitch Bar** [www.bluebitchbar.com](http://www.bluebitchbar.com), formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

**Mama Pizza**, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 8/2/21) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have a number of fresh fish entrees you should not miss. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach, and on the main drag through Oyster Pond, French side. <https://www.facebook.com/Mamapizzaisthebest>

**Astra Steak & Seafood** (featured 7/26/21) 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/>

**Emilio's**: outside Philipsburg (featured 7/19/21) offers fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 7/12/21) 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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/>

**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.

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.

## 34. Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual Memberships

Many people who buy SkyMed memberships first request short-term protection. Is that the best solution for most people? That's a decision you have to make, but before you do, we wanted to give you a little information about SkyMed's types of memberships so you can get a better feel for exactly what is offered.

First, short-term memberships are available only for a specific defined short term. They protect you with SkyMed Takes You Home® membership that applies throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Short-term protection cannot be upgraded or renewed since you buy it for specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for any benefits. When you want protection for a future trip, you must make a separate application for it. It is economical if you seldom travel and if you take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per person, or a maximum of \$15 a day per family (parents and kids).

We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. We feel the single most important benefit is that SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health. Details are in SkyMed's Member Services Agreement. We currently have members who are still traveling and are in their upper 80s and 90s.

The cost of annual memberships per family — far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- is only about \$1.35/day total. Multiyear memberships are even less expensive and have more features; contact me and I can send you full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide. I can answer all your questions by phone in a matter of minutes, and we can also conveniently take your application by phone. Phone us any day at 508-747-8281 during daily business hours, 9am to 8pm. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger's office.

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## 35. Where & When SkyMed Protects You

Basic SkyMed short-term and annual memberships protect you throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the #Caribbean In that SkyMed universe, SkyMed *Takes You Home*® when you become critically ill or injured. Optional protection covering most of the rest of the world is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Transportation Services, a SkyMed company.

For much more SkyMed information please see a few of SkyMed-related articles that appear later in this issue.

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## 36. 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."

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## 37. 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).***

## **38. 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](#).

## **39. 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.

## **40. 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](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.

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

### SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Answers to Common Questions

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

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

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

#### Q2. Who is protected?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweeklynews/SkyMedServices.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Q16. Can I sign up online?**

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

**Q17. Who can get SkyMed?**

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

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

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

**SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:**

*We are following the White House #Coronavirus Task Force '15 Days to Slow the Spread' guidelines released March 16th, 2020. We have team members fully functional and working from home. We are all connected on line and have*

access to all programs necessary for efficient operations. We have a seamless business operation whether employees are working in the office or from home.

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

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

**Resources to help you:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eleanore Klein, President  
SkyMed Group of Companies

From JMB:

**How to Contact Us or Sign Up**

Jeff is a SkyMed Ambassador. Reach him directly at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. You can also find him in Facebook Messenger through [www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm) or you can email him at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the Subject **SkyMed**. He has an alternate Skype number too, 508-591-3483.

It is always best to sign up by phone directly with Jeff at the numbers above – it's fast & easy.

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

## 42. 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.

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

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

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

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

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See

[skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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

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

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

### 45. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 9/13/21)

#### **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**

**CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS**

Alisha Brookes

**CUBAN CIGARS:**

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

**DOLLAR STORES**

[All in One Place](#)

**DUTY-FREE SHOPPING (NEW)**

**Great Deals on Watches, Bags, Wallets, Sunglasses and Fashion Jewelry:**

<https://www.facebook.com/buy.sxm>

**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*.

**Jennifer's Vacation Villas**

**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.**

**BrightPath Real Estate (new)**

**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>

**40Weeks (new)**

**Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

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

Updated 9/13/21

**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.**

**46. 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](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?>

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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)

9/13/21 #V4-1314 9/11 6:00 pm EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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