

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 10/18/21: Delta Wants Unruly Passenger Data Sharing; AA Flight 4817; the Cause of Southwest Air's Meltdown; SECRETS Review; About "The Morgan"; Halloween; Thanksgiving in SXM; [Issue #1318 -- 45 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1318 --- Monday, October 18, 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

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

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Important Note:

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

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

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

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

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Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

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

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

SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 11/20/2021 11/27/2021 Week 47 **Royal Palm beach** I have a 3 bedroom 3 bath unit for Thanksgiving week, I have 2 bedroom units for every week this year and taking requests for 2022 \$2,399.00 Bryan 610-715-5436 brytheguy2001@yahoo.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/26/2022 3/5/2022 9 **Sapphire Beach Club Deluxe studio**, sleeps 4, 5th floor, 3rd building, panoramic ocean view, no obstructions, Heineken week, property has pool, bar, restaurant, spa and underground parking purchaser responsible for transfer fees. \$5,000 Debbie 807-275-9809 debbiemctaggart@gmail.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

"Like" Our All-New "[Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM](#)" MeWe Group

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. What Really Happened on American Eagle Flt. 4817

It is always better to be too cautious than not cautious enough. That was the story behind the story of American Eagle flight 4817, an AA regional jet flying from Indianapolis to La Guardia that after landing reported a "security incident."

At La Guardia, the plane taxied to a remote part of the airport where passengers were told ordered to evacuate. A passenger aboard the flight had said that another passenger was acting in a peculiar/suspicious manner. This wasn't a case of an unruly passenger complaining about masks; it was characterized at the time as a security issue.

At the end of the day, officials said it was much ado about nothing. Nothing harmful was found on the aircraft and the passenger who was the subject of the security incident will not face charges. Nonetheless: when you see something, say something -- you never know.

Here is [the full story](#).

2. What Caused The Mess at Southwest Airlines

Southwest airlines had to cancel about 40% of its flights several days back, and days later it was still giving excuses for its failure to be able to deliver on scheduled flights for tens of thousands of displaced passengers over several days.

There are a few ways in which Southwest reminds us of Eastern Airlines. First and most obviously, they both are named after spots on the compass. Second, both carriers leverage their aircraft to the hilt, which means they have few

spare aircraft and when something goes wrong with one, the airline seldom has backup planes readily available.

What happened in Florida wasn't a combination of weather issues like Southwest had claimed. If weather issues had been the problem, then all airlines serving Florida would have had the same problem. They did *not*.

Southwest can't even use the grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft as an excuse — it operated the largest fleet of the 737 Max in the US — but those planes haven't been grounded in months, so that wasn't the problem.

Many airlines have lots of flights to Florida but they are doing fine. When airlines have a problem with aircraft, most of them have spares available so flights resume quickly.

Southwest is different. Without sufficient spare aircraft and crews to fly them, Southwest had painted themselves into a corner due to weather issues, planes and crews out of position, and virtually no spare airplanes -- so consequently they had to cancel hundreds of flights and inconvenience tens of thousands of paying passengers.

At the end of the day, Southwest management caused this problem — not the weather. Perhaps it's time for Southwest's top people to re-examine how that airline operates so it stops creating time-wasting scenarios in the lives of its passengers.

3. Delta Wants All Airlines to Share "Unruly Passenger" Data

When passengers behave in an unruly manner aboard commercial airliners, the airline generally bans them from flying on that carrier's airplanes again.

Delta wants to expand that practice.

It is asking all major airlines to share unruly passenger data so that unruly passengers are unable to fly on *any* major commercial carriers. The idea would improve the safety and comfort of flights aboard all major airlines in the USA.

Here is [more on this story](#).

4. Carnival Freedom is SXM's First Full-Fledged Cruise Ship Arrival

Carnival Freedom last week was the first full-fledged Carnival cruise ship to return to SXM. Many other ships from other lines as well as from Carnival will soon be calling regularly on SXM as they did pre-Covid.

Here is the full story about Carnival Freedom, quoted from an article published last week in *The Daily Herald*:

PORT ST. MAARTEN Carnival Cruise Line resumed cruise calls to the island on Tuesday, October 12 when Carnival Freedom arrived in port with 1700 passengers as first destination of call on its itinerary. The last Carnival Cruise Line vessel on a regular cruise call was back in March 2020.

Minister of Tourism and Economic Affairs Hon. Roger Lawrence said on Tuesday, "Today is a day of celebration, after 19 months, we have received the first transit visit to St. Maarten from Carnival Cruise Lines.

"As we continue to move our country forward, it's milestones like this that we need to acknowledge and celebrate. It is a pleasure to welcome the fun ships back to our shores."

Port St. Maarten Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alexander Gumbs said on Tuesday: "We have great cooperation with Carnival Corporation, and we are very pleased to welcome them back to the destination. They have and continue to be a great partner and the island can expect to see other Carnival brands calling at the destination in the coming weeks.

"We continue to work diligently with the cruise industry in their staggered approach to the resumption of cruising. Port St. Maarten stands strategically located, a world class cruise terminal and one of the region's most dynamic ports that serves as a gateway to cruising.

"The port and the destination are at the cusp of a significant rebound as major cruise lines work towards the return of full fleets to cruising. We are anticipating a steady rebound of business.

"Through the fourth quarter of 2021 up to the end of December, we are expecting approximately 125 cruise ship calls including the resumption of MSC Cruises and others to the destination from a transit perspective.

"As a port, we are in a transition phase to becoming a key cruise destination again as the industry continues to bring more vessels online as more travelers book a cruise."

Port St. Maarten Management and team members met Carnival Freedom Captain and other representatives at the gangway where they received a warm St. Maarten welcome. Tokens of appreciation were exchanged on behalf of the port and the destination.

Captain of Carnival Freedom Roberti Costi: "I have been many times before to the island of St. Maarten in the 1980s. We are extremely happy to be back. This is a great destination."

Crew members were not allowed to disembark during the vessel's port call which [is] in line with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and the cruise line's own protocols.

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.

Carnival Corporation has 24 ships that operate 2- to 17-day voyages, departing from every coast in the U.S. as well as other homeports.

Carnival Freedom was launched in 2006 and made its maiden voyage in March 2007. The vessel is part of the Conquest-class and has a gross tonnage of 110,000. It is 952 feet in length and has a passenger capacity of 2,980 and a crew complement of 1,150.

5. Flying to SXM: Testing "Looks" Daunting, But Is Simple

Tourists gravitating toward visiting SXM come to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with two primary questions and concerns: first, what are the Entry Requirements; and second, how do they ever get through such a daunting list of requirements?

Our [Guide to Entry Requirements](#), available in the files area of our everything SXM Facebook group (you must first join the group to be able to access the files area; to enter, you must answer very brief vetting questions), *greatly simplifies what many may consider to be a daunting list of requirements and we answer questions or clarify the answers to questions repeatedly asked by tourists.*

Although there are a number of questions answered in our guide, the process actually has only four clear steps: first, take the required test; second, submit your negative test results in the proper format to EHAS online, while at the same time buying the required insurance on the EHAS application-for-preapproval site; third, print your preapproval from EHAS and your proof of insurance; and fourth, bring all that with your tickets and passport to the airport. In other words, **test; apply, print; go.**

All the information you need to successfully apply for preapproval to visit SXM is explained in plain English in our guide, which you will find [here](#).

6. 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.

7. 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:

8. Tropical Wave Brings Rains to SXM (Tues/Wed)

A tropical wave passing through the Northeast Caribbean brought intermittent heavy showers to the island on Tuesday and Wednesday, causing some street flooding on parts of the island. Although this is rainy season, most showers are still relatively brief, though some may be heavy.

See other articles in this section for much more information about weather. Throughout hurricane season, our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) publishes tropical outlooks, watches, warnings, and advisories that relate to SXM or to US airports feeding SXM. [We urge all readers of SXM Weekly News to join that free SXM Facebook group.](#)

9. "Madden-Julian Oscillation" Slows, & La Nina is Back

The Madden Julian oscillation (MJO) is like the ripple you see in a rug when you shake it out outdoors. The MJO goes around the world at the equator roughly once a month, and when it is in the Atlantic during hurricane season, it increases the possibility of tropical cyclone formation.

The Madden Julian oscillation was expected to be in the Atlantic again right around now, but it was delayed somehow in the Pacific. In addition, La Niña conditions have formed in the Pacific. One result of La Niña conditions in the Pacific is to enhance the possibility of tropical cyclone formation in the Atlantic during the several weeks still left in the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season, which ends November 30.

That's why forecasters are keeping their eyes open for the possibility of storm development during the coming weeks. We are too — and if anything develops that is noteworthy, you will see it in the Weather / Hurricane Center in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. When storms are active, we also post tropical outlooks, advisories, watches, and warnings as they are issued by the National Hurricane Center not only for SXM, but for areas around US and Canadian airports feeding passengers to SXM.

10. Tropical Development Possible by 10/25 in Western Caribbean

According to Rob Lightbown, chief meteorologist for Crown Weather, our go-to source for tropical weather information throughout hurricane season and beyond, tropical development is possible in the Western Caribbean within the next week or so. If it occurs, the system's movement from the Western Caribbean is decidedly less certain, though Meteorologist Lightbown has said that it could go west toward Central America, north toward Cuba and the Bahamas, or Northeastward toward the greater Antilles, the Virgin Islands, and the Leeward Islands, though he added that the Leeward Islands were far less likely to be an area of concern.

For the latest information on all this, see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). If you are ever in the path of any tropical system — in the Caribbean, the Bahamas, or along the coast of the US from Texas to Maine, or if you are in the Canadian Maritimes, we urge you to sign up for Crown Weather's very inexpensive private forecasting service which gives you Rob's latest complete information on storms and where he believes they will be going. We've subscribed for many years and find the service immensely valuable. Learn more at www.crownweather.com.

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

Our newly updated **weather/hurricane center** at 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 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

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.*

15. Where to Download an Official NHC Hurricane Chart

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

Or read this:

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

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get. The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are now available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like SXM. You might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

Changing Your Email Address?

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

COVID-19: General Information

16. 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.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING THE GUIDE TO ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

17. 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, 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 quite recently.**

Going Home to the US: (NEW SECTION)

18. 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, 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.

Etc.

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

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

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

20. First Complete Recent Review of the New SECRETS All-Inclusive Resort

As posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) by reader John Shea:

My fiancée and I just spent six days at the Secrets resort. To preface this review, you must note we were a group of 140 guests. This was by far the largest group they have had at one time here so far.

Unlike other Secrets resorts (my fiancée and I have personally been to five now) this Secrets felt more quiet, as it's secluded on the French side of the island. We loved the more intimate feel. It's not as big and fine tuned as other Secrets resorts. You have to remember they are a newer resort after the remodel and still trying to get fully staffed. So if you're expecting glitz and glam, give this place a few years and it will be.

With the size of our group and the lower amount of staff at the resort, we had some of the nicest smiling faces every

day, working hard to make our experience the best possible with a group of 140 people. Most days we spent on the beach which was beautiful. The beach didn't have drink service every day but the tiki bar is very close. So you will spend time grabbing your own drinks.

They had service at the pool. The pool food shack was actually very tasty for lunch. Sandwiches, pizza, burgers, all pretty good. Find Claude! He is the best bartender at the resort. Rolinda runs the swim up pool bar and is equally awesome. TIP! Do it. Tip the staff and they will take care of you. We left a hefty tip our first night and note in our room to keep our fridge stocked with what beer we liked. We came back and it was fully stocked. Never ran out.

A Bartender (not mentioning name as to not get them in any trouble) knew we loved Captain Morgans. First day they asked for our room number. When we got back to our room there was an entire bottle and a plate of limes waiting for us. So, tip. Be kind. It comes back to you.

The food choices at the resort are still picking up. All decent but not knock your sandals off. The breakfast buffet in the morning was great. Olio and the Hibachi were our favorites but definitely plan a dinner off resort. We went to Ocean 82. Absolutely stunning views and the food was amazing. It's a 10 minute taxi from the resort. The town [Grand Case -Ed.] has a cool downtown shopping area with ocean side bars and live music at night.

My next number one recommendation is to get off the resort. I know most people go to all inclusive resorts to not leave but DO IT. The island is beautiful. We did the Flying Dutchman Zip Line. Stunning views and not as scary as it looks. We snorkeled and did catamaran sail one day out of Cole Bay on the Dutch side. We saw a sunken submarine, sunken helicopter, and old war cannons from ships. We rented jet skis for an hour tour right off the beach at the resort in Anse Marcel Bay. I wouldn't recommend doing the two hour tour, as the hour was perfect amount of time. We saw some really cool coves and beach villages along the French outer banks.

All in all we had a great time but please remember this island was ravaged by a hurricane not too long ago [2017 -Ed.]. The resort is still working out some kinks and adapting daily. The staff delivered big time. I'm sure you will come to enjoy this little slice of paradise as we did...

21. Likely Tourist Asks "What's The Morgan Like," Gets Unexpected Earful

Several years ago, US credit card magnate Ray Sidhom bought what was at the time called the Caravanserai Resort out of bankruptcy and quickly sent an email to all of its timeshare owners telling them that their ownerships were null and void. There was no talk of compensation and nothing offered in terms of keeping timeshare owners whole after property that cost them in aggregate millions of dollars had been taken away from them.

Since there is no class-action law in SXM, a number of Caravanserai timeshare owners banded together and took Sidhom to court in litigation that has yet to result in any changes to the status of the timeshare owners. There have been a number of other steps that Sidhom has taken that are alleged violations of court orders, litigants say.

In the meantime, allegedly without court permission, Sidhom has demolished some parts of the resort and early-on changed its name to Alegria, which had a slogan something like "the place where happiness begins." Clearly from the perspective of Caravanserai timeshare owners, Alegria was anything but "the place where happiness begins".

Several years have passed since Sidhom took possession of the property. In taking trips through public parts of the resort in the intervening period, we have seen very few customers. In the last year, Mr. Sidhom has again changed the name of the resort to the Morgan.

No matter what the name is of this resort, Mr. Sidhom cannot escape from what he did to timeshare owners of that property a few years ago. Seeing promotion of the Morgan, a prospective SXM tourist recently asked in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) what people thought of it. The poster immediately drew a number of derisive comments from people who were familiar with what Mr. Sidhom had done to Caravanserai timeshare owners. Many said that there were no circumstances under which they would ever put one penny into that resort, regardless of what its name might change to next.

Here is the thread with [the question about the Morgan plus all the responses](#). You will be able to read this completely only if you are a member of our [free] [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which is private -- not visible to nonmembers. That Facebook Group currently has over 30,000 members -- almost entirely tourists.

22. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos Available Directly from Timeshare Owners

Need a place to stay in SXM now or next year? We have hundreds of timeshare condominium weeks FOR RENT or FOR SALE directly from their timeshare owners / (JMB Website Supporters members) on our main site, everythingxsm.com. These are all from members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program - not strangers. Great prices as well since there are never any middleman / middleperson commissions.

23. Full-Ownership 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.

24. 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*.

25. 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.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

26. 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

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

REWARDS FOR REFERRALS FROM SKYMED MEMBERS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS:

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

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

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

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY)..

--Jeff Berger

28. Join Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Today: *It Funds SXM Weekly News!*

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:

To sign up, please visit our main site, [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](#) ... 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.....

29. Relatively Quiet on SXM, Briefly, as High Season Approaches

Mid-October tends to be a relatively quiet time on SXM each year. Many hotels are doing upkeep or high-level maintenance, as are some restaurants, with more maintenance or remodeling activity getting underway as restaurateurs return from their seasonal closing to get work done before reopening for the season.

Although high season technically starts mid-December, the reality is that the island starts getting busy just after mid-November, when tourists by the thousands flock to the island for Thanksgiving week.

As we've mentioned here over the last few weeks, everything we are hearing indicates that this will be a busy winter on the island. Airfares are rising — so if you have not yet made your air reservations for travel to SXM, we urge you to do it before this month ends — the sooner the better.

30. Covid Numbers on Both Sides of SXM Continue to Decline

Our everything SXM Facebook group for many months has been publishing Covid statistics from both the French and Dutch sides of the island. For the last several months, thanks to strong measures taken by the governments of both sides of the island, the weekly numbers of active Covid cases on both the French and Dutch sides have been steadily declining. Earlier during the year, active cases on each side were in the area of 250 per side, while today they are in the vicinity of 70 per side -- and are continuing to decline.

We will continue to publish Covid Statistics as long as both sides of the island continue to report them. We remind all readers that it is in your best interest to make sure you and all your family members and friends are fully vaccinated so we can soon say goodbye to more than 18 months of life with Covid.

31. Yes, Halloween & Thanksgiving are Celebrated in SXM, Sort Of

Halloween is celebrated in lots of places around the world, SXM included. If you're looking to attend a Halloween party somewhere when you're on the island October 31, put your spooky clothes on and have at it.

As for Thanksgiving, though it isn't an official holiday on the island, because many thousands of Americans are on hand every Thanksgiving many restaurants (especially those owned by Americans) put on a full traditional Thanksgiving dinner for every Thanksgiving — turkey, all kinds of pies, squash, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, apple cider, cranberry sauce, and lots more. *The epicenter of Thanksgiving on the island is usually Toppers restaurant. Topper, who hails from North of Boston, roasts dozens of turkeys every Thanksgiving. His restaurant has moved to the carousel building in Simpson Bay which expects to have a full house during the upcoming Thanksgiving.* [Toppers Rhum Distillery is co-located there now along with the Restaurant.]

If you plan to have Thanksgiving dinner on the island, we strongly recommend you make reservations early. This holiday will be remarkably busy and you don't want to miss out.

Us? We may just see you at one (or more) of the many restaurants serving traditional Thanksgiving dinners!

32. Watch Baseball Championship Series & Basketball and Hockey in SXM

They're all in many sports bars and casinos, mostly on the Dutch side. One of the largest sports bars -- serving excellent food too -- is the recently enlarged Replay on the deck under the Marina building at Simpson Bay Resort. Lots of room indoors and out, many big TVs, great sound system. Award-winning Ziggy Chang is the bartender here; tell him we sent you.

33. Restaurant of the Week:

This feature returns next week.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Topper's <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 10/11/21) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, now in a beautiful new over-water setting at the Carousel building on Simpson Bay lagoon. Lunch, dinner, and late dining. Karaoke. Co-located with Toppers Rhum Distillery so have some rum (rhum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 9/27/21). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

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

Pineapple Pete, 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 Sushiitto) (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 (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, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsbuirg. (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 (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 (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

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 5/31/21). Open for lunch and dinner except Mon., when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's 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/ 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.

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 4/15/19. Just go....

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

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

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

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.

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.

36. 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.

37. Join Our New Conversational Everything SXM Group on MeWe, the Facebook Alternative

For years, you have been able to obtain a great deal of SXM information and photos/videos in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Unfortunately, not everyone is a fan of Facebook, so we have started a new Everything SXM group on a platform that has become a strong competitor Facebook — it is called MeWe.

We urge all fans of *SXM Weekly News* to become members of MeWe and join our group there; [here is the link](#).

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

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

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

The US REQUIRES Covid tests for everyone returning there from SXM. Details are in our Guide to Entry Requirements, published early in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*. Ask about testing locations on SXM that you can use — to do that, go to our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). **Please do not ask questions there about your state's requirements — our group is SXM centric and will not accept such posts. Your state's web portal is certainly the best**

source of current, accurate information about requirements related to returning international passengers.

39. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

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

SkyMed® FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answers to Common Questions

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

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

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

Q2. Who is protected?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q6. Is there an age limit for applications?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q16. Can I sign up online?

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

The process normally takes about 10 minutes, if that.

Q17. Who can get SkyMed?

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

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

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

SkyMed World Headquarters business office operations:

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

We are on duty 24 SEVEN for our members.

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

Resources to help you:

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

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

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

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

US State Department emergency assistance coronavirusemergencyUSC@state.gov

World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int

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

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

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

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

*Eleanore Klein, President
SkyMed Group of Companies*

From JMB:

How to Contact Us or Sign Up

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

From:
JMB Communications
Membership Services
support@jmbcommunications.com

41. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 10/4/21)

AMUSEMENTS

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

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti
Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:

www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran (new)

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

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)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

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

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible.

Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

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

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

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

40Weeks (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

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

Wedding Planners / Wedding Venues

[Fawnette Scott-Angelides - Azure Hotel and Art Studio](#) (Fawnette is a minister and she owns Azure, a venue on beautiful Simpson Bay Beach, where beach weddings are her specialty)

Sint Maarten Marry-Me Destination Weddings (new)

Updated 10/4/21

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.

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

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

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". **Or PM us on FB for an even faster response.** We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

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

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 3/15/21)

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

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

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

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

10/18/21 #V4-1318 10/17 5:00 pm EDT | [Terms of use](#) |

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