

From JMB / SXM Weekly News DOUBLE ISSUE - 11/1-21 - 11/8/21: SXM, USA Change Entry Requirements for the Better; All-New "Guide to Entry Reqts." Greases the Skids for Travelers; Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection / Condo Buyer Consumer Protection; "Carbon Grove" Project; Hotel Development Projects; Home Porting; Minor Quake; Opening Hous of Businesses Grow As Covid Cases Plummet [Issue #1320 -- 45 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1320 --- DOUBLE ISSUE - Monday, Nov. 1 2021 - Monday Nov. 8 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
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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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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 12/25/2021 1/1/2022 Week 52 **Flamingo Beach Villas Third floor lockout. Sleeps 8. Side "B"faces the**

ocean. Side "A" faces the pool. Both have a kitchen and a washer and dryer. Large outside porch on each unit. Side "B" has a larger kitchen and a larger living room and the bathroom opens to both the bedroom and the living room. Side "A" has the bathroom inside the master bedroom. Side "A" is \$ 1,200. Side "B" is \$ 2,200. Both for only \$ 3,000. Jay 973-477-4063 jayroger18@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/5/2022 2/12/2022 Week 6 **Simpson Bay Resort** 2 Bedroom Unit. One bedroom third floor with connecting stairs to sleep 2 studio. Facing pool. Upper B Building. Week 7 also available in same unit. Studio can be rented separately. \$10,000 per week or BO Phil Cheryl956@aol.com

See them all at 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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmnewegroup>

Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

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

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

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

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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. SXM & USA Change Entry / Re-Entry Requirements; We Have All The Details

Both SXM and the USA have made major changes to entry/reentry requirements. The changes in SXM were effective on November 1, and the changes in the USA are effective today, Monday, November 8.

In SXM, people who are fully vaccinated and have official proof (completed CDC cards) no longer need to be tested before coming to the island but are still required to apply for and receive preapproval on the EHAS website.

To make it easier for Americans to navigate SXM Entry Requirements affecting every passenger entering the island via Princess Juliana SXM Airport, SXM Weekly News parent company JMB Communications has created a second edition of its widely used Guide to Entry Requirements. The new second edition was officially launched last Saturday morning. All of the details applicable to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals planning to come to the island are in our new second edition of the Guide to Entry Requirements.

Users of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) can download the Entry Requirements from the Files area of that group. We urge everyone preparing to visit SXM to recheck the files area often and make sure they're using the most recent version of our new second edition Guide to Entry Requirements. As the pandemic seems to be winding down, further changes in Entry Requirements are certainly possible in the future — and checking the files area to see what version of the second edition is current is important to make sure you have the latest information.

Meanwhile, the United States has toughened its reentry requirements, focusing on unvaccinated people. Now,

unvaccinated people returning to the US from international travel must take a Covid test within one day of their flight home. Thanks to the small numbers of unvaccinated people who are traveling and to the expansion of hours on the part of testing centers across SXM, testing one day ahead is not a problem on the island. We strongly suggest you check with management of the accommodations where you're staying to get your test scheduled for the day before you leave the island. Antigen test results will be available as soon as a couple of hours after you take your test for returning to the US.

2. Our Completely New "Guide to Entry Requirements" Reflects Simpler, Easier Visitor Entry to SXM

As noted in the first story in this section, our completely new Guide to Entry Requirements — all new and completely different from the first edition — simplifies SXM Entry Requirements to make it easier for our readers to understand exactly what the island is looking for and to successfully navigate the electronic health authorization system EHAS website, through which visitors to SXM apply for preapproval.

To download the new second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, go to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can get there [through this link](#) if you are Facebook member. Otherwise, Facebook will prompt you to join, which is free. To join our group, answer the simple vetting questions. Once you go to the files area, search for Entry and you'll be able to download the PDF of our new second edition Guide to Entry Requirements.

We always urge everyone to download the Guide to Entry Requirements directly from our files area, since that area enables you to ensure that you are downloading the latest available version. We do expect the Dutch side government to make more changes as the Covid Pandemic hopefully continues to wane.

3. Airlines Integrate New Entry Requirements

Once SXM notifies airlines of changes to its Entry Requirements, it is up to the airlines to disseminate that information throughout their network, to ensure that every kiosk or gate servicing passengers headed for SXM has current, complete information. That's now the case, but some fully vaccinated people coming to SXM shortly after the testing requirement was altered for them wisely got tested anyway, thinking that the airline might not have changed its policies to reflect the changing requirements. In a few cases, they were right, and they had the test results the airline was still erroneously requiring. We heard about this involving American Airlines more than any other carrier, but after a couple of days all the airlines seemed to be aligned with the new policies and there have been no further glitches involving fully vaccinated passengers..

Again, see the previous two articles and use our new second edition Guide to Entry Requirements to ensure that you can navigate smoothly through the preapproval process that's still required by SXM.

4. American Flight Cancellations Irritate Consumers (Long Story Short)

Over a period of days, American Airlines canceled thousands of flights in cities across the USA, irritating tens of thousands of customers who had bought tickets on flights that they expected the airline to fly. More than any other airline, American has continued to schedule flights which it doesn't have crews ready to fly. Although passengers ultimately regard that as a boneheaded move, nonetheless [this astute article](#) explains why American continues to do this; it's more complex than it seems.

American has sent an email to some of its AAdvantage passengers telling them how many people it plans to hire to fill open crew positions during the next few months, a project that has been ongoing for them and most other airlines for many months. American is bigger and took radical steps to cut staff when the Pandemic began, and it seems to have had a greater challenge in responding to surging demand than other airlines. Hopefully, before long, this too shall pass — but in the meantime, for the next few months, if you have reservations on American Airlines, reconfirm them frequently by going to American's site, www.aa.com.

WEATHER:

5. After Wanda, National Hurricane Center Announces New

Names for Late-Season Storms

Though the hurricane season seems for the moment to be relatively quiet, the season still has until November 30 to play out — or beyond that should Mother Nature decide to keep forming tropical cyclones in the Atlantic. Wanda was the final name in the 2021 list of hurricane names from the National Hurricane Center. Instead of using Greek names for additional storms as it had in the past, the National Hurricane Center has issued this list of additional storm names should they be needed during the last weeks of 2021: **Adria, Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn, Emery, Foster, Gemma, Heath, Isla, Jacobus, Kenzie, Lucio, Makayla, Nolan, Orlanda, Pax, Ronin, Sophie, Tayshaun, Viviana, and Will.**

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.*

9. 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***

Etc.

10. 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

11. Carbon Grove Estates Condo Project, Accused of Being a Ponzi Scheme, May Go Bankrupt

Several weeks ago, in a published article in the SXM *Daily Herald*, it was reported that an SXM judge had alleged that the Carbon Grove Estates condo project, on the hills east of the Union Road, was a Ponzi scheme. During the last year, we had heard from a number of people who had bought units at Carbon Grove and who complained that they paid money and did not get what they had paid for — and also did not get at that time any refund of their payments.

An article published last week in the *Daily Herald* explained what is happening at Carbon Grove Estates now — and noted that the project may go bankrupt, leaving all of its buyers out in the cold.

The project is named "Carbon" Grove after the name of its principal, Dwayne Carbon. An earlier story on this is [here](#). The story suggesting that bankruptcy may be inevitable is [here](#).

Please see next story.

12. SXM Parliament MUST Enact Consumer Protection for Timeshare and Full-Ownership Condo Owners

We wrote recently here about the need for expedited action on the part of the SXM Parliament to enact long-overdue timeshare owner consumer protection legislation.

Two things here are obvious.

First, the SXM Parliament must ensure that proper input has been given to the protections in this legislation from people who have been victimized by past allegedly nefarious dealings by certain properties. For example, the developer who bought Caravanserai Resort out of bankruptcy notified all timeshare owners by email that their contracts were null and void — a day which "will live in infamy" among everyone familiar with the actions of that developer. That developer was Ray Sidhom.

Eric Loor is another; he was the developer of Ocean Club, which still sits in stark ruins in the Cupecoy area. Loor has never bothered to clean up the property and remove its status as an "attractive nuisance" (US legal term) and according to timeshare owners has never bothered to do anything to take care of them — yet another debacle.

The matter involving the Towers at Mullet Bay fiasco is another mess which is more complicated, but the bottom line remains that the government of St. Maarten has apparently done nothing to this point to protect timeshare owners there.

With a history of such government inaction to stop inequities, it is a wonder that anyone continues to buy timesharing on the island. The fact is that the industry is a good one but the government must take action now to stop the practices that endanger this pivotal industry.

But there is now more to it than that.

The Carbon Grove alleged Ponzi scheme should not be possible in SXM. If indeed this is a true Ponzi scheme, it should never have been allowed to be sold here. It should not be up to the legal system to stop allegedly illegal schemes once they have spiraled out of control and victimized people. Consumer protection should prevent such projects from ever being developed and sold on the island.

True Consumer Protection is important and it is long past the time when action needs to be taken.

Lastly, it is essential that people victimized by the Caravanserai debacle, the Ocean Club debacle, the Towers at Mullet Bay debacle, and the apparent next debacle at the Carbon Grove Estates condominium project should be sought after and listened to to make sure their input gets a fair hearing. Whether timeshare owner consumer protection is coupled with condominium consumer protection or dealt with separately, it's essential that real consumer protection with teeth be enacted here now, not at some future date. But it's also essential that those who have been victimized play a key role in ensuring that what happened to them doesn't happen again.

13. Hotel Projects That Screeched to a Halt During the Covid

Pandemic Should Soon Regroup...

The global tourism economy ground to a halt during the Covid Pandemic and it is just now starting to come back. There were several hotel projects under discussion before the tourism economy collapsed — some of them major. Among the projects that didn't happen were the Planet Hollywood Resort Hotel at the site of the former Great Bay Beach Hotel in Philipsburg; two additional locations for new Adonis hotels; a new hotel at the Port in Philipsburg now more needed than ever due to 54,000 additional people coming to SXM seeking overnight accommodations because of Hhome Porting; and various other projects. We are looking to see what will happen with these projects — plus the old Pearl of China project which had been thought by most to be dead but may in fact still be twitching. There was also talk of an airport hotel across the street from SXM Airport, which would also be timely, and yet another major hotel at the Indigo Bay development.

We are watching all of these and will deliver additional news on them as we have it.

14. Home Porting in SXM Will Add 54,000 Overnight Guests to Island Hotels This Winter

As mentioned briefly in the prior article, cruise ship Home Porting in SXM is good for the port, good for Philipsburg, and great for the island, since it brings a welcomed shot in the arm to the SXM hospitality industry. Home Porting by itself will add some 54,000 heads in beds from this December through March of next year. This is a substantial achievement by the port and reflects great confidence on the part of cruise lines in the ability of the port to do its job and hopefully in the ability of the airport to complete all the rebuilding of the airport by 2023 as previously stated.

In addition, the airport has said many times that preclearance in SXM for people headed back to the United States is a matter of when, not if; and if that is expedited it can help expand the island economy -- and home porting -- even further.

15. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos Available for Rental / Sale Directly from Timeshare Owners

Our main Everything SXM site offers hundreds of timeshares for rent and for sale on the site, www.everythingsxm.com. They're offered exclusively by members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program who pay no posting fees or commissions -- so prices are usually excellent. Check it out.

16. 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.

17. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

A while ago, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

Please check this link to [BrightPath SXM](#), a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM, or relocating there. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side. Ask for Vivian Chamas and let her know you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

18. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

19. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates - Updated Nov. 8, 2021

We are now 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. We hope to complete the upgrade during the first quarter of 2022.

For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#). Please see the next section.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

20. 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

21. 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.....

22. Another Minor Quake Northeast of Anguilla Rattles Plates In SXM But Causes No Injury or Damage

Another minor earthquake, the second in about a week, was felt by some people on the island about a week ago. Its location was roughly 100 miles northeast of Anguilla.

Although the quake was widely felt, we are on the island that did not feel it at all. It caused no damage and no injuries.

However, the original deck at the very first location of Mario's Bistro on the canal in Sandy Ground (long since left by Mario) collapsed into the water after the last quake, Mario told us this past weekend. That restaurant location has been abandoned and unused for several years.

Mario's Bistro has been located for the last couple of years at the Cliff on Cupecoy beach in a gorgeous garden setting on the ocean, and is one of the very best restaurants you'll find anywhere in the Caribbean. It's featured below in our Restaurant of the Week story.

23. Dutch Side Businesses Can Stay Open Until 3am As Covid Numbers Continue to Plummet

Thanks to the continuing decline in Covid numbers across SXM, the Dutch side — home to the majority of dining and entertainment spots on SXM — has further liberalized its allowable operating hours for such businesses. They are now open until 3 AM daily.

24. Political Demonstrations Snarl French Side Traffic

Long story short, the French side has a politically active "collective of collectives" which has a long list of political objectives. Their demands against the French side government in general and the prefet (French Republic representative in the island) in particular are far-reaching and probably unlikely to be realized. When representatives of the demonstrators walked out of meetings with government officials recently, it was reported that both sides intensely distrust each other. Street demonstrations often follow such communications breakdowns.

For whatever reason, some of the demonstrators seem to believe that burning junk cars and trash on French side roads is a neat way to express themselves — when the reality in a tourism economy is the exact opposite.

As a result of the demonstrations, in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) we have strongly recommended that tourists stay out of both Sandy Ground, the area immediately west of Marigot before Nettle Bay (Nettle Bay is fine), and that they also stay out of French Quarter which is the village through which the main route north from Philipsburg to Orient beach runs.

When demonstrations such as this are underway, they generally don't last more than a week or two. The only way normal Frenchside tranquility will return is if some progress is made by the demonstrators — and our guess is that that's likely.

We took a trip from Simpson Bay to Orient beach on Sunday morning via the lagoon Causeway in Marigot, returning the same way. During the trip we saw 11 cars of gendarmes on patrol but no evidence of any current political activity.

If you're interested in following online what may be happening on the French side, we suggest you check the Facebook group SXM Traffic. It was originally founded to communicate traffic situations after hurricane Irma but has been used in recent days to report traffic effects resulting from these scattered demonstrations. Weekday mornings, SOS radio 95.9 in Marigot broadcasts a program on what's happening on the French side.

25. Freedom from Hassles at Bars, Restaurants Will be Far More Likely if Your're Fully Vaccinated...

When you are approved by the Dutch side for entry into SXM, the Dutch side sends your preapproval letter along with a QR code. The expectation is that most restaurants on both sides of the island will scan the QR code to confirm your vaccination status and approve you for entry into their business.

According to an unscientific survey we took in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), only a tiny percentage of people visiting SXM through SXM Airport is not fully vaccinated. Increasingly around the world, businesses seem to be requiring people to be fully vaccinated to interact with businesses such as restaurants and public facilities. Such requirements enhance the likelihood of us all being able to overcome and move on from the Covid 19 Pandemic.

If you're fully vaccinated, it stands to reason that you could be quickly approved to enter most businesses through the QR code scan — so don't forget your preapproval letter copies when you visit island restaurants.

See next story.

26. SXM' EHAS QR Codes = Restaurant / Bar Entry Documentation

QR codes are not exotic new technology. In fact, should you wish to put some kind of language in a QR code of your own, you can do that online. Free apps for cell phones include downloadable QR code readers; the bottom line is that this is simple technology.

To create its QR codes, the island uses a standard format that underlies its QR codes -- and restaurants and other businesses understand what set of facts that QR code is supposed to display. You can see it yourself by scanning your QR code with your phone QR code scanner. This is not rocket science and it absolutely does not invade your privacy.

27. Vesna Taverna Reopens for Dinner Nov. 16; Reservations a Must

For years, Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay just north of the Simpson Bay drawbridge has been open for breakfast and lunch every day but Monday. When owners Vesna and Yannick do their seasonal closing, they close only for dinner. They are now back on the island and are preparing to reopen Vesna Taverna for dinners on November 16, a week from tomorrow.

Vesna's many fans have been eagerly awaiting her return. Word spreads fast and we expect the restaurant will be very busy upon reopening, so if you plan to go by all means phone first. See their [Facebook site](#) for more information -- including perhaps some pictures of their spectacular desserts, all made by Vesna herself.

28. Fed Up With Reckless Bikers, Dutch Side Announces "Zero Tolerance" Policy

The Dutch side does not have a significant issue with bikers doing acrobatics on their motorbikes. Most of the people using motorbikes on SXM just are looking for an economical way to get from point A to point B. There many people doing the same on the French side.

However, the French side does have a problem with unlicensed motorbikes whose owners get thrills from doing acrobatics in the midst of traffic, endangering themselves and anyone near them. Occasionally, some usually small groups of French side bikers ride into the Dutch side and do their acrobatics there to the antipathy of local authorities.

Electronic monitoring of the borders gives police on both sides of the island pictures of what's happening at the borders, and increased cooperation between both sides of the island has enabled communications between the two police groups to enhance police response.

Dutch SXM, fed up with the bikers, has instituted a zero-tolerance policy toward them. Expect faster Dutch side response when any of these individuals decide to put on acrobatics shows on Dutch side roads: the welcome mat is not out for these people.

29. Expect Less Noise in Simpson Bay

Simpson Bay is home to a plurality of Dutch side accommodations, restaurants, and nighttime entertainment venues. Complaints about noise over the last couple of years had risen to the point where within the past year, there's been an improvement in the enforcement of noise regulations. It appears that most of the noise was coming from small venues on "Kimsha" beach (part of Simpson Bay beach) and not nearby nightclubs. Nonetheless, the responsible parties have been warned about permissible hours of operation and permissible noise levels — so people in Simpson Bay, either in hotels or private homes, should expect less noise there during the coming high season.

30. "Voyager" Resumes Normal Ferry Service Between SXM & St. Barth

Voyager, the fast ferry between the Marigot waterfront in St. Barth, resumed service a couple of weeks ago after addressing maintenance issues. Information on its voyages is available at its port of embarkation on the Marigot waterfront.

31. Great Southern Butterflies Baby Boom

In recent weeks, people across the island, perhaps more on "the Hill" northwest of Philipsburg than elsewhere, are witnessing the annual baby boom in great southern butterflies. Rainy season seems to help them along, and rainy season will end early in January.

The butterflies are rather ordinary. But occasionally other butterflies are seen in the same area — though not usually the Monarch butterflies that have been common in the past.

In the United States, if you want to attract Monarch butterflies, you need to plant Milkweed in the spring — it's their favorite plant.

32. St. Maarten People: Diederick Cannegieter & Gary Brown Pass

It is with a great deal of sadness that we must tell you of the passing of two very well-known and greatly respected individuals from SXM: Diederick Cannegieter and Gary Brown.

Mr. Canneegieter (husband of Barbara Cannegieter) passed away a couple of weeks ago. He was an enormously popular figure on the island. From all we read after he passed, [this article](#) to us was the most telling of who he really was.

Gary Brown, a photojournalist and yachting enthusiast, was known from his yachting reports on Island92 and his stories and photography of the Heineken Regatta and other water events. For me he was a special guy since I knew nothing about yachting when I got here, and he patiently mentored me by answering a number of [stupid] questions I had early-on.

Both gentlemen will be sorely missed!.

33. Please Patronize Our Sponsors (Updated 10/25/21)

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 10/25/21

34. Restaurant of the Week: Mario Bistro

On one night when we visited the then-famous LAlabama restaurant in Grand Case back in the 1990s, Pascal Potin told us he wanted to take us to a new restaurant in Marigot — Mario's Bistro.

At that time, Mario's was located in an aging building on the canal next to the Sandy Ground drawbridge. Frequently the floor was wet and the principal waiter, Didier, athletically slid across the floor on his way to our table, tray suspended above his head, and arrived smiling with nothing askew. The food was glorious, the place was busy, it was loud, and it was wildly popular.

That particular neighborhood wasn't an ideal location for an upscale restaurant (and parking wasn't easy either) so many years later, Mario relocated for a few years to Porto Cupecoy, a more upscale area but one which was even noisier thanks to music from other nearby restaurants. Two years ago, Mario moved his restaurant to the Cliff, another upscale location but this one is in a garden setting with beautiful ocean views day and night.

That's the back story and something of Mario's history. Here's the rest of the story:

Mario's is not Italian; Mario in fact is from Québec and is French-Canadian. His restaurant fuses flavors and textures and aromas from around the world. Presentations are exquisite, and the restaurant beats ordinary French restaurants by a country mile. Mario insists on the best quality in all of his ingredients. Though you will see him at times in the restaurant greeting people, most of the time he is in the kitchen ensuring that every dish produced there is perfection.

Whether you crave seafood (his is excellent), beef, poultry, or a vegetarian entrée, Mario's will take fantastic care of you without crazy prices. Mario's Bistro has earned our highest recommendation for the last 25 years -- and the restaurant only keeps getting even better. Mario's is also a consistent winner of our Everything SXM Culinary Award of Excellence.

Located at the Cliff in Cupecoy, easily reachable from across the island, the restaurant is open daily except Monday and it also serves lunch daily. It is on our short list of places not to be missed on the island. Go early in your trip -- you *will* go again.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

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.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 10/25/21). 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

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 (rum 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 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 (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 Marin (R/M is a breakfast/lunch restaurant). Outstanding dinners in Jai's, a fun new contemporary Indian fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, top-notch delicious selections spanning a wide spectrum of flavors, aromas, and textures. You gotta try this place! Highly recommended.

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.

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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

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.

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 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. 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

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. 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 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.

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 everythingxsm.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://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 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)

11/8/21 #V4-1320 11/7 9:00 pm AST | [Terms of use](#) |

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