

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 12/27/21: Entry Requirements Change 1/1/22: "Booster" Vaccine Recipients Still Require NO Testing; ABSOLUTE LAST CALL For Ultra-Low SkyMed SALE PRICING (FINAL 5 days to Beat The Price Increase); SIX Vacation Giveaway Open for Entries -- Complete List of Prizes; [Issue #1327 -- 37 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1327 ---- Monday, Dec.27, 2021
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:

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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml 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_xsm/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 1/9/2022 1/16/2022 2 Royal Palm Beach Resort 2bedroom 2 bat, sleeps 6 just steps from the beach. Just completely renovated. 2nd floor. Avoid elevators. Great location near restaurants and shopping. Week 1 also available same unit. \$2,200 per week. Nancy. 2679091200 nancy@probatelawpro.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 7/3/2021 7/24/2021 Weeks 27, 28, 29 Simpson Bay Resort & Casino Marina Penthouse, 1 of 5 suites on top floor, incl. dedicated parking space; spacious living space, approx. 1700 sq. feet; sleep 6 w. 2 bedrooms, king beds, 2 twin Murphy beds, 2 full baths, 2 convenience safes; updates include stainless steel kitchen appliances, granite counters, 4 bar stools; 6-seat dining table, living room w. T, enclosed patio w. wet bar, convertible sofa, add'l 4-seat table & chairs; large balcony w. hot tub overlooks Simpson Bay; easy access to beaches, pools, tennis courts, gym, restaurants; walking distance to many fine restaurants in Simpson Bay; pictures available upon request; willing to negotiate multiple purchase; \$16,000 per week Pat (239) 234-1070 patc4226@gmail.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/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmewegroup>

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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16. *ABSOLUTE LAST CALL*****

FINAL 5 DAYS: Huge SkyMed Sale Must End 12/31:***

**IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED,
TIME TO ACT IS RUNNING OUT**

**Beat The SkyMed Price Increase Because...
SkyMed Never Does Sales
-- Except Right Now, and
Your Renewal Pricing is Price-Guaranteed Forever**

Up to 21 Free Weeks added with new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases! Ends 12/31/21

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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 Entry Requirement Change 1/1/22: Booster Recipients Still Do NOT Need Testing

With the growing global presence of the omicron variant of Covid 19, nations have been working hard to minimize the impact of this variant on their people and on their healthcare systems. One country doing this is the Dutch side of SXM, home of SXM Airport, with the vast majority of island visitors enter the country.

The Dutch side has announced updated entry Requirements effective January 1, 2022, less than a week from now. The most important aspect of the announcement is that people who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster still do not need to be tested prior to visiting SXM. That fact is huge, since in an informal unscientific survey we took a few weeks ago, it appeared that the vast majority of people visiting the island are fully vaccinated — and by now, likely boosted as well.

Here is the entire text of the announcement of the new Entry Requirements effective January 1, 2022:

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS SCHEDULED TO CHANGE AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2022; APPLICABLE FOR PERSONS 18 YEARS AND UP

22 December 2021

Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA) Omar Ottley hereby informs the public that, given the rapid worldwide spread of the Omicron variant, Sint Maarten will be implementing various protective measures.

With Omicron fast becoming the dominant variant in numerous countries, the following changes to Sint Maarten's entry protocols will go into effect as from Saturday January 1st 2022 for all incoming travelers to Sint Maarten.

Unvaccinated persons will require a 48 hour PCR test, while persons who received both doses of an approved COVID vaccine will require a 48 hour PCR test or a 24 hour antigen test. **Persons who are 18 years and older and who have taken a booster shot will be able to enter Sint Maarten without a COVID-19 test.**

Persons 17 years and younger who are eligible to take a COVID-19 vaccine can enter without a COVID-19 test once they have taken both doses of an approved COVID vaccine.

From SXM Weekly News: Our [Guide to Entry Requirements](#), mentioned elsewhere on this page, has been updated as of today (Monday, 12/27/21) to reflect this upcoming change. The change will not be fully integrated into the text of the Guide until just before January 1, later this week. When SXM further updates Entry Requirements, we will publish those updates here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

2. Will US "Return Requirements" Change?

Because of the emergence of the omicron variant, there has been speculation that United States return requirements for international travelers may be updated. We have seen nothing that substantiates this speculation. If there are any changes in US return requirements beyond the need to test negative a day before returning to the US, we will publish that information in the edition of *SXM Weekly News* following the announcement, and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

3. Royal Caribbean Ship Returning from Cruise Finds About 0.8% Testing Positive

A Royal Caribbean ship returning to Florida after a Caribbean cruise which included a stop in SXM found that a very small percentage of passengers tested positive after returning to Florida.

The percentage was tiny, less than the percentage of positive tests taken in the general population of a number of US states recently. Most of the people who tested positive had been fully vaccinated and had no symptoms.

Here's the [story about the cruise ship from NPR](#).

See the next story in this section about the Ying / yang of Omicron.

4. The Polar Opposite "Ying/Yang" about Omicron

Because it appears to be one of the more contagious variants of Covid 19 seen so far, omicron has been getting a lot of media attention.

There are two important facts here:

The first is that the composition of this variant includes some aspects of the common cold, which may be why it is so contagious.

The second is that so far, when people test positive, they may either be symptom-free or may have symptoms similar to the common cold. That's not something for which most people would seek Covid testing, let alone be worried.

What this may mean is that omicron could be more widespread than people may imagine. At the same time, its clinical significance, if in fact it mainly mimics the common cold, may be significant not for itself or its effects on people but for its impact on the world's healthcare systems. **The problem:** people who do catch the common cold may well decide to get tested and overwhelm testing facilities *while people who are genuinely sick with more clinically significant versions of Covid or other infections may be reluctant to go to busy testing centers.*

Based on the contagiousness of omicron, some people are thinking they shouldn't vacation — but most people are sticking with cherished vacation plans and are dealing with cabin fever more than with any concern about this Covid

variant of apparently negligible clinical significance.

In our opinion, Omicron itself is not sufficiently consequential to allow it to deter people from vacationing. Your opinion may well differ. We are not doctors here and don't pretend to know what happens next — but to us, what appears to be generalized concern about omicron actually is something of a tempest in a teapot.

5. Hydrogen Powered Zero-Emission Airplanes Coming

The reality of climate change has been manifesting itself worldwide in very serious ways. Among them are unprecedented melting of polar ice caps, rapid melting of the ice in Greenland, more hurricanes and typhoons of greater severity, more very serious fires around the world, other severe weather outbreaks in the US such as tornadoes, rising sea levels, parched farmlands, and thawing of Siberian permafrost releasing thousands of tons of methane into the atmosphere every day.

Although scientists have long since concluded that the cause of this is human activity, not everyone agrees. Nonetheless, it appears that man must take action to do whatever humanity can do to try to mitigate climate change that's happening in front of us.

Most of us know that the world is moving toward electric automobiles and eventually, inexhaustible nuclear fusion powered electric generating plants and the elimination of fossil fuels. Electric airplanes are on the horizon and so, too, are hydrogen powered airliners which offer the advantage of zero emissions.

Here is [that story](#).

6. Entry: It's STILL Not Complicated, Unless...

Getting into SXM has gone from a fairly complex business to a rather simple one, where you get tested if you are not fully vaccinated and have had your booster (see related story above). No testing is necessary for fully vaccinated & boosted individuals. Then, either way, you apply for preapproval for entering the island via the EHAS website.

However if you are unvaccinated, things are getting more complicated for you. Worldwide, increasing numbers of nations are requiring proof of vaccination before you can enter certain establishments — and such Entry Requirements appear to be increasing in numbers and locations.

As such business Entry Requirements become more numerous, we will post details about them here in SXM Weekly News as they relate to SXM and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), also as they relate to SXM. We do suggest you carry a copy of your proof of vaccination and booster when traveling about the island — a copy should be sufficient. No need to carry the original. You can also carry an image of it on your phone.

We explain all this clearly and simply in our **Guide to Entry Requirements**; see next article. The process is quick and simple, especially since testing still remains widely available across the US despite omicron. The Guide also tells you what kinds of tests are acceptable and what kinds aren't, among a significant number of other important points.

See next story.

7. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition, Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions (UPDATES 12/27 FOR 1/1/22 CHANGES)

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 SXM's Electronic Health Authorization System EHAS website, through which visitors to SXM apply for the required preapproval. The Guide updates today, 12/27/21, to include the new requirements effective January 1, 2022.

To download the new second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, *which is free*, go to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can get there [through this link](#) if you are a 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 -- or just [go here](#).

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 evolves and hopefully wanes. It was updated again recently, and will continue to be updated as necessary.

WEATHER:

8. SXM Weather About to Morph in Winter-Style Dryness

SXM's weather patterns appear to be morphing into their usual winter form, which generally happens after the first or second week in January, sometimes a bit earlier. December has been typically windy and the Fall has seen a fair amount of shower activity, which is about normal. Into January, there are fewer, shorter showers.

Instead of high temperatures in the upper 80s and sometimes warmer during Summer and Fall in SXM, high temps in midwinter here are generally around 84° with nighttime temps generally around 74. It is rare that the temperature here ever gets cooler than 70° and if that happens, expect locals to start wearing sweatshirts or jackets and hats.

9. 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.*

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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks..

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

11. Two Side-by-Side Two Bedroom Condos at Rainbow For Private Sale by Owner

This is a very rare find that may just resonate with close friends or extended family members that want to relocate or at least back a condo or two here in SXM.

Two side-by-side two bedroom condos at Rainbow on the buildings fourth floor are available now for private sale directly by their owners. They have been well maintained in the residents are happy with the location, but one is overseas in Europe most of the year and the other has bought a villa for his growing family.

These can be bought as separate villas or you can buy both, do a bit of construction, and wind up with a big four bedroom condominium. Here are the details:

Asking \$540K per 2 BR condo. I don't own these; a friend does. PM me your name, phone number, email address, and your interest and I'll give the info to the owner for callback. I'm doing this as a favor for a long-time friend.

12. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available This Winter

Dozens of new listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale for 2022 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, www.everythingsxm.com. If you're looking for a place to stay, that's where to find it. All of our listings are from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program so you deal directly with timeshare owners — there are no middleman or agents or anything else charging commissions. Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.

Dozens of new entries were posted over the last few days.

13. 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*.

14. 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 package 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

15. NEWS About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates - Updated Dec. 6, 2021

We are now working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, car rentals, 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

*****ABSOLUTE LAST CALL*****

FINAL 5 DAYS: Huge SkyMed Sale Must End 12/31:***

**IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED,
TIME TO ACT IS RUNNING OUT**

Beat The SkyMed Price Increase Because...

SkyMed Never Does Sales

-- Except Right Now, and

Your Renewal Pricing is Price-Guaranteed Forever

(first price increase since 2013), and You Can

Get Up to 21 Free Weeks added to new, renewal, and upgrade SkyMed purchases (Ends 12/31)! :

16. IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED, ACT NOW:

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. You'll find an overview of all **SkyMed Services** [here](#), and you'll find **Frequently Asked Questions** [here](#).

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 various 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 (MUST END 12/31/21):

- **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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) 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 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) 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 ANYTIME at 508-591-3483 (new number, where you can also text us) 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.*

When and Where 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.

- **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, here's some important info. **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 21 or younger). **We always tell people who are 50 or over about the most important advantages of SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships. 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 currently only about \$1.35/day total.* Multiyear memberships are even less expensive and have more features; contact me for full information about features of each type of SkyMed membership. **Ultimate memberships protect you worldwide.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger.

- [SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, callback number, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
12/27/21

17. TWO MORE HUGE DECEMBER BARGAINS FROM SKYMED FOR BOTH BUSINESSES & FAMILIES (YOURS AND YOUR KIDS)

For FAMILIES: Buy SkyMed for your grown children and their families -- get global coverage at bargain prices for your own family and for them at prices that will be gone forever 12/31 (but that you lock in forever buy before 12/31/21).

For BUSINESSES: Get "Key Person" memberships for all your top employees (and their families); global coverage is available.

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, callback number, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
12/27/21

18. Black Friday Sale Continues for our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program:

Join or Renew Your Membership in Our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Today; Great Last-Chance Sale Prices & You'll Beat The Coming Price Increase!

Our biggest sale of the year -- now better than ever since it precedes a price increase on multiyear memberships coming January 15 -- is now underway. It offers pricing that will not be back... take advantage of these great BLACK FRIDAY OFFERS before they disappear, soon!

What's In It For You:

All multiyear memberships bought starting 11/21/21 receive one full year of membership in addition to what's stated on the site. Want two full years? Our LONGEST DURATION multiyear membership offers TWO FULL YEARS EXTRA, on us, through the end of the sale (date to be announced). BUY NOW, THIS SALE WON'T LAST FOREVER and can end any time. And because of the looming price increase, these values will soon be gone forever....

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 in efforts already underway.

Please don't put it off... we do ask you to join (or renew, if you're already a JMB member) today. Thank you.... Please allow several days for processing your new membership or renewal / reinstatement.

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

19. Anguilla Finally Reopens to Day Trips

Anguilla has finally reopened to day trips after disallowing them for quite some time.

Its requirements allow only fully vaccinated individuals who have taken specific allowed vaccines for Covid 19 and have taken a nasopharyngeal test with negative results within a short specified period before visiting.

All of the details of the new Anguilla requirements are [here](#).

20. Reggae Christmas Music

If you had arrived in SXM early in November, you would have discovered that Christmas music started then and has continued ever since. Beyond that, Christmas music on many radio stations doesn't end after 12/25 — it continues into early January, proof that the 12 days of Christmas in the Caribbean is more like the two months and 12 days of Christmas.

What's more, the music played on many radio stations here is different than what you might be used to in the US. Here is a list of several Reggae Christmas songs you would find here in SXM. These are in no special order - and you can find these and many others on YouTube:

- == Auld Lang Syne (We are here because we are here because we are here because we are here)
- == Oy Oy Oy How Will Santa Get Here (We have no Reindeer in our Country / No Chimney)
- == Hello to My Friends Around the World [Cab Drivers politicians (etc. etc.) Merry Christmas]
- == Woman: "All I want for Christmas is you"; Man: "I want a piece of pork for my Christmas"
- == Man: I want a piece of rum cake
- == Christmas in the Caribbean (Jimmy Buffett)

Many more: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Reggae+Christmas+Songs

21. Grand Case-Class French Dining is In Simpson Bay at Vesna Taverna

For many years, **Fish Pot** was the top-rated French restaurant in Grand Case, at that time the undisputed "culinary capital of the Caribbean." A gentleman named Yannick was the chef/general manager there ensuring that everything on

the culinary side of the house contributed to the restaurant's unrivaled reputation for perfection.

At the end of the 1990s, Yannick met and before long married Vesna, a young lady who had come on a vacation from Europe and fell in love with SXM like so many of us do. Together, they've stayed here and built their culinary careers together at Vesna Taverna in the heart of Simpson Bay.

Today, Vesna Taverna is owned and operated by two top-notch chefs, Yannick in the kitchen and Vesna out front, who also sets the menus and makes all of the desserts herself. "Vesna's" as many people call it is one of the most popular restaurants in Simpson Bay, on the lagoon side of airport road just north of the Simpson Bay drawbridge.

Because Yannick spent those 15 years in Grand Case at the Fish Pot, he brings authentic Grand Case-class culinary magic to Simpson Bay in a relaxed ambiance and with pricing that doesn't break the bank.

Beyond that, Vesna and Yannick both continually upgrade their culinary education in Paris every year -- this year they were at Le Cordon Bleu to which they'll again return in June. Their prices are very fair for their fine quality food.

We have often published their featured dinners in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), where a quick search will yield lots of comments from fans of their Vesna Taverna restaurant. The restaurant is closed Sunday night and Monday night but now in high season is open every day for breakfast and lunch, available until 4 PM daily.

Yannick is French and Vesna is half Greek and half Macedonian. Their menu typically includes many flavors from around the world, with a number of French favorites plus several Greek items available both at lunch and dinner. Virtually everything is flown in from top-grade sources in France and elsewhere. Salmon is flown in every couple of days from Nova Scotia and Morrill sauce, which is consistently delicious, is supplied directly from France as well. Come soon for dinner, but by all means make reservations first since this small restaurant is frequently fully booked and you do not want to be turned away.

If you're thinking about breakfast or lunch, many sandwiches and salads and smoothies are available at lunch and there's a spectrum of traditional American style breakfasts plus eggs Benedict along with our favorite, the Bagel tower featuring homemade traditional bagels.

Vesna Taverna has been a frequent winner of our annual **Everything SXM Award of Culinary Excellence** and has also been featured as Restaurant of the Week on a number of occasions here in *SXM Weekly News*. They have our highest recommendation.

22. Tiger Shark Spotted off Great Bay Beach: Why Here?

This was posted within the last several days in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) by Robert Gottlieb. We're running his post followed by a comment:

"Yesterday while jet skiing in Philipsburg St. Martin my 14 year old son Ben saw beneath him a 12 foot Tiger Shark. He turned to get a better look and the shark came up to the surface so Ben was able to see his eyes and the shark itself. Ben could also see his Dorsal Fin as the Shark continued to swim. Ben came back to the beach safely."

Comment from *SXM Weekly News*: Sharks live in oceans around the world; the oceans are their home. Some are migratory, covering hundreds of miles or more during seasonal migrations often following food species.

Tiger sharks are not unusual in this area, though they usually stay away from areas where there is much human activity. Late last year, when a woman from France was swimming about 300 feet from shore near Orient beach, she was fatally attacked by a tiger shark — the first serious attack we had heard of here in more than 40 years. The above meet-up between jet skier and another tiger shark is the first encounter we've heard of since the incident a year ago.

The presence of sharks is not a reason to stop swimming off ocean beaches here or anywhere else, nor should it affect jet skiing. It *is* a reason to stay near others relatively close to shore. Swimming 300 feet from the beach is too far out to be helped if a shark is around -- and that could happen anywhere, any time.

As we noted above, shark attacks are incredibly rare here. Just maintain an awareness that they do live in the oceans around the world and it's best to stay within earshot and eyesight of other swimmers closer to shore.

23. "Green Flash" Video Shot from SXM

Have you ever seen the legendary green flash milliseconds after sunset here in SXM? Many people have, but many more have not. When the sun is setting into the ocean on a cloudless sky, you stand a good chance of seeing it —

especially if you have a quality camera and are using its sunset setting to get pictures or, even better, video.

Earlier this year we shot this video of such a sunset from the Burgeaux Bay area (Beacon Hill). The camera was handheld on top of a wall so the video isn't motionless from that perspective. Nonetheless, the video brings you the sun full-screen and it's especially dramatic if you are viewing it on a computer or notebook as opposed to a phone, thanks to the larger image.

Here is [the link](#).

24. Why Did *The Daily Herald* Not Print Last Tues. & Wed.?

The SXM *Daily Herald* is the island's most popular newspaper, published five days a week on the Dutch side. People look forward to seeing it to see what's going on on the island, around the world, and in the Caribbean.

But when people looked in their usual spots to pick up a copy last Tuesday and Wednesday, there was none. People who distributed the paper were telling some shop owners that the *Daily Herald* had run out of newsprint, the stuff papers are printed on. On its website, the *Daily Herald* was saying that it had a shortage of printing materials due to supply chain issues and expected to start publishing the paper as usual on Thursday — which it did.

The newspaper was written and published as usual on Tuesday and Wednesday but was not printed — it was made available as a free downloadable PDF on the *Daily Herald* website. We're sure that limited the number of people it reached during the last few days leading up to the Christmas holiday. Nonetheless, on Friday we drove down Backstreet and saw more people there and we've seen on any day in years. Front Street was closed off due to ships in port. It probably would have been good for Backstreet to be closed as well so both streets acted as pedestrian malls enabling easier shopping for both locals and visitors.

If the *Daily Herald* ran a story about its supply chain issues which prevented it from publishing paper newspapers, we never saw it. To us, it was major news.

25. What's Happening on New Year's Eve?

This year, SXM is busier than it has been in several years, and the week between Christmas and New Year's is always one of the busiest of the year.

Special menus at restaurants usually lead New Year's Eve celebrations here. Menus for many of the top restaurants on the island will be posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) over the next several days, and should also appear in the local paper when it next publishes. Ads posted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) typically include the full menu plus photographs and contact information for reservations.

Bear in mind that since this is one of the busiest years in recent memory, reservations for New Year's Eve are absolutely essential. As of today, some restaurants are already close to capacity for New Year's Eve — so act quickly to get reservations at your favorite restaurant. If you must cancel, make sure you tell the restaurant so they can offer your table to others.

Some restaurants here and across the US may take your credit card number when you make a reservation and charge you if you cancel but don't notify them (we've long suggested they do exactly that)..

26. Six-Vacation Giveaway Entries Now Underway; Complete Prize List for "Eight Million Thanks"

EverythingSXM.com will be celebrating 8 million visits to its suite of SXM websites by giving away SIX SXM vacations late this coming March.

The vacations will be at:

Villa En Sea high on a hill overlooking beautiful Great Bay and downtown Philipsburg;

Colony Manor Golden Daze condo on Simpson Bay beach;

Simpson Bay Resort, Marina, & Spa in the heart of Simpson Bay, on its own private beach;

Belair Beach Hotel on its own private beach minutes from Philipsburg;

Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, on its own private beach with a gorgeous multi-level pool and lots of great restaurants on-site; and

Azure Hotel & Art Studio, a small family-owned hotel on the beach and within walking distance of many fine Simpson Bay restaurants.

In addition, there will be a car rental from **Leisure Car Rental** for the grand prize winner, several dinners for two at top island restaurants (see below), and a \$400 women's or men's watch from **Caribbean Gems** in Philipsburg.

Dinners for two will be at **Mario's Bistro; Emilio's Restaurant; Isola Restaurant; Vesna Taverna**; and **IZI Ristorante Italiano**. (There may be more).

Our **GRAND PRIZE** winner will also appear live on **Island 92 radio with Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin** on his Fresh Air in the Morning Program.

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN AND IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF SXM WEEKLY NEWS, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN. [ENTER HERE](#). If you do NOT subscribe, you must go to sxmweeklynews.com now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN.**

27. Where to Park in Philipsburg (Revised 12/20/21)

From Rakhee Sakhrani, Royal Jewelers, Philipsburg (Edited 12/20)

Visiting Philipsburg but don't know where to park or there are no spaces available? Take a look at the map for road markings/names posted by Rakhee in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). [Use the Search feature in the group to find her posts; the maps are there.] .

I added a few pictures for easy & convenient visuals of the parking spots! There are free & paid areas. It's approximately a 5-7 min walk to front street from these spots!

Free Parking: The Pondfill: Unmarked spots: As you drive into town, you can pull into a spot, it's usually unpaved/dirt/rock area.

Marked free parking spots: There are designated free parking lots on the Pondfill. These are usually full by 11am. If you are an early bird great, otherwise you may have to wait 'til a car pulls out.

New Government bldg free lot: Another free lot, but it's a decent walk to front street. Take the turn by the center roundabout and head toward the white/yellow/green(roof) building.

Paid parking: Center of town: The parking lots is literally in the center of town by the WIB Bank/KFC. This fills up very quickly. **The lot reopened on Monday, December 20, 2021.**

Old Library: This is a new area for paid parking. Very convenient. It is \$2.00 an hour. Easy walk to front street.

Bobby's Marina: This is a little farther down Philipsburg, however it is a great place to park. It's near the grocery store Fairway. Once parked, there is a pathway accessible to the boardwalk via Greenhouse restaurant. Takes you straight to front street. It is a nice scenic walk.

We hope this helps! Don't forget to visit us after you park. Royal Jewelers 44A Front Street (Across from Horizon view hotel)

Thanks Rakhee Sakhrani for this information!

28. Award-Winning Simpson Bay Restaurant For Sale

VERY WELL KNOWN, AWARD-WINNING SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE. Prime location with on-site parking; all-new kitchen; experienced staff. 100 seats -- indoors and outdoors. Great 6-year lease; motivated owner. TURNKEY OPERATION; SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY. For information send your name, address, email address, qualifications for buying, and phone number VIA WHATSAPP TEXT ONLY to Jeff Berger; WhatsApp 721-588-4188. Jeff will pass the information to the owner. WHATSAPP TEXT INQUIRIES ONLY PLEASE. Asking 595K..

Note from Jeff: I have no involvement in this transaction; am just gathering inquiries for the owner, a long-time friend.

29. How to Adopt an Island Dog ("Coconut Retriever")

Have you ever thought how wonderful it would be to adopt a dog or cat from SXM? "Rescue" animals come in many breeds and sizes and all they need is a new forever home — perhaps with you.

If you think it's prohibitively expensive to adopt a rescue dog from SXM, we have a pretty wonderful surprise for you: it's way less expensive than you may think.

For example pups from SXM Paws can be had for ROUGHLY a \$150 adoption fee, and a flight fee of \$125 with Jet Blue (American Airlines is about the same). Kittens from The Island Vet are \$90 and flights same cost as above. That's very affordable.

Watch for posts about available animals in our Everything SXM Facebook Group. Or, if you'd like to do it now, contact Cyndi Shell in our Everything SXM Facebook Group; she coordinates adoptions with many people directly from our site.

30. Restaurant of the Week - Vesna Taverna

See story 21 about Vesna Taverna, this week's Restaurant of the Week.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 12/27/21). Now open every day for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining and very reasonable pricing.

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 12/20/21) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (12/20/21) now combined with Pineapple Pete at the Pineapple Pete location, opposite IZI Ristorante Italiano in Simpson Bay. GREAT sushi rolls and sashimi and much more.

Emilio's: outside Philipsburg (featured 12/6/21) offers extraordinary fine dining in an historic, classic ambiance. **Not to be missed.** <https://emilios-sxm.com/menus/dinner-menu/>

Jai's Contemporary Indian Cuisine (featured 11/29/21), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the side of the building from Republic Bank.. Outstanding dinners (and soon lunches a few days weekly) in Jai's, a fun new contemporary fusion restaurant operated by two young SXM graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). Super creative, artfully presented, phenomenally executed selections spanning a spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 11/22/21). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 11/15/21) 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/>

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 (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, 9/7/2021: Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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>

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.

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.

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.

31. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries

Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales:

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app**. It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone**: If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message: that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters**: Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only**. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL**, since all responses are made by email.

32. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 12/27/21)

Our JMB SXM Web Media Sponsors help make it possible for us to research, write, produce, and email you *SXM Weekly News* every week. They also enable us to spend lots of hours making sure our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) fulfills its mission to be SXM's only authentically managed [by a seasoned journalist] interactive conversational SXM news and information portal on Facebook. And their help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the working going into enhancing our Island Discount Program now for its thousands of loyal members. Thank You for patronizing our Sponsors! (JMB Communications is based in Massachusetts, USA).

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

COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE (NEW):

Coffee Lounge & More: Head of town in Philipsburg and Simpson Bay near Domino's

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

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)

COFFEE LOUNGE & More, Head of town in Philipsburg & Simpson bay near Domino's (**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 11/29/21

33. 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](#).

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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 508-591-3483. More info? See skymed.com/jmb or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

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.**

37. 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 11/22/21)

1. **SkyMed – Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@skymed.com. Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.** (Our old numbers were knocked out by the recent Cape Cod storm and are still funky.)
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application only.** Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. **INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL,** since all responses are made by email.

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)

12/27/21 #V4-1327 12/25/21 9:00 pm AST | [Terms of use](#) |

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