

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 2/21/22: Planet Hollywood; Airport Update, Part 2; "Normalization"; Vacation Rentals Expanded; Restaurant Updates (Two Stories); Dutch Marines; Reservations; Lobster; Up to 22 Weeks of Free Medevac Protection from SkyMed With Certain Purchases [Issue #1336 -- 43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1336 ---- Monday, Feb. 21, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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St. Maarten & St. Martin
"SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

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This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News,
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Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 360,000 people around the world...***

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



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Download PDFs of Recent Editions ---- Attention iPad, iPhone, Note, and Android Users

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.

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and you're in

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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 3/5/2022 3/19/2022 week 10 & 11 **Royal Palm Beach Resort 2 Bedroom 2 Full Bath Oceanfront Condo, Completely Remodeled 2021**, living room w/sleeper sofa, full kitchen w/granite counter tops, dining area, cable TV in living room and each bedroom, breathtaking views from master bedroom, living room & balcony. Onsite restaurant and many more within walking distance. A supermarket is also located within walking distance.

Activity desk to book your island excursions, boat trips, jet skis, scuba diving, snorkeling, etc. \$1700.00/week
John 1-302-547-3353 deborahmunzer2@gmail.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 2/11/2023 2/18/2023 Week #6 Atrium Beach Resort and Spa Selling ocean-view 6th floor studio unit with king-size bed. Fixed week, deeded property. Wonderful view of the harbor and Simpson Bay Beach. Fully equipped kitchen with dishes, TV, air conditioning. Resort brings clean towels daily and fully cleans unit mid-week. Private balcony. Recently remodeled bathroom and new deck furniture. Grocery stores, numerous restaurants, and casino within walking distance. No need for car. Excellent retreat after enjoying the island by day! Transfer fees responsibility of buyer. \$7,000 Gina 612-618-9969 ginaltruiitt@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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How To Get a **GROWING LIST of 300+** Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits

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

Not a member yet? See http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. Cost: \$59 for one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

SECTION 1: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Covid, & Weather, Etc.

GETTING HERE:

1. Objective: Normalization

Normalization — the return to entry policies and procedures that were in effect prior to Covid — is being meticulously examined by key people within the Dutch side government.

It's important to remember that Covid is a moving target. Despite the fact that omicron has been a relatively benign variant of Covid, there are already other variants presenting different issues. Omicron is by far the dominant variant on SXM and to our knowledge, no others of any consequence are currently on the island, with the exception of Delta which is not as easily spread as omicron.

SXM has moved deliberately when making changes to its Entry Requirements in the past. That deliberation has resulted in the island currently having somewhere in the vicinity of only 100 active cases (or probably less by the time you read this). That said, variants happen, and they can be benign or problematic depending on where and how fast they spread and on the severity of the illness they cause.

No intelligent government should make any move on the basis of the so-called benign omicron variant. It wasn't the first variant and it won't be the last. It may be the 14th round of this marathon fight against Covid and Covid may seem to be on its heels but it has *not* been knocked out. We all need to continue to take the precautions that have brought us this far and to rely on authorities — in the USA, in Canada, in the Caribbean, in Europe, and elsewhere — to tell us what we need to do to remain safe.

Stay tuned. Just as soon as we hear of any forthcoming changes, we will publish them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and will also publish them here in the next available edition of **SXM Weekly News**.

2. Summary Report on Airport Renovation: Part 2 In A Series

This is the second article in a three-article series concerning SXM Airport. The first article appeared within the last

couple of weeks and reported on information gathered by *SXM Weekly News* Editor-in-Chief Jeff Berger during an exclusive interview with Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM Airport) CEO Brian Mingo. To read that exclusive story in its entirety, please go to our [SXM Weekly News PDF Archives](#).

We recently met again with Mr. Mingo and the head of the National Recovery Program Bureau, Claret Connor, along with Mirto Breell, who along with a seasoned team is overseeing the airport rebuilding/renovation "build back better" process.

Here are a three clear points based upon that recent interview:

- The project will be completed incrementally, with portions being finished and put into service by Fall 2022. More on that follows these bullets.
- Final completion of the entire project is expected during Q3 of 2023; the project is currently on schedule.
- Among the many entirely new features being built into the all-new Princess Juliana SXM Airport terminal are the baggage handling system; all-new x-ray machines; bag drop and new kiosks; redesigned check-in counters; flight information and advertising displays that are larger than before; new elevators and additional escalators; new terrazzo floors; car rental booths; redesigned airline ticket booths; new passenger boarding bridges (commonly referred to in the US as jetways); a new baggage service office; new bar areas; and a new executive lounge with a sushi bar and showers.

As elements of the airport renovation are completed and put into service for both arrivals and departures, we will be reporting that information in real time both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

The third article in this series will feature responses to very specific questions we asked Mr. Mingo, Mr. Connor, and Mr. Breell during our recent exclusive interview with them in the SXM Airport executive offices in Simpson Bay. Stay tuned...

3. For Boeing, New 787 Airworthiness Certifications Remain Elusive

Boeing has had more than its share of quality problems with its aircraft. The disasters surrounding its 737 Max were well documented — and took hundreds of lives and cost the company billions of dollars.

Now, there are serious issues with Boeing 787 aircraft — few of which currently serve SXM. The aircraft is currently used on very long range routes and has been seen in the past flying from European ports of embarkation to SXM. Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich owns a 787 now (in addition to his 767) and has flown it nonstop between SXM and Moscow, for example.

This material is from the *Washington Post* about the litany of issues Boeing has faced:

"During a trip to Japan in 2015, an auditor with the Federal Aviation Administration discovered a Boeing subcontractor was falsifying certifications on cargo doors for hundreds of 777s and had been doing so for years, according to interviews and government documents.

"Back in the United States, Boeing mechanics were leaving tools inside plane wings, precariously close to the cables that control their movements. Workers also were improperly installing wires in 787s, which could increase the risk of shorts or fires, FAA officials found. Repeatedly, safety lapses were identified, and Boeing would agree to fix them, then fail to do so, the FAA said.

"The agency launched or was considering more than a dozen legal enforcement cases against the company for failing to comply with safety regulations, a review of FAA records shows, with fines that could have totaled tens of millions of dollars."

Here is [the story](#) on the current 787 issues.

4. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled Or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed as happens fairly often now due to winter weather or omicron related issues?

This recently published [article](#) gives you exact answers.

5. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition, Just Revised, Answers All Your SXM Travel Questions

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 has been updated to include the new requirements effective since 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.*

Etc./Weather

6. Our Hurricane / Weather Center Has Been Updated for 2022

Effective today, Monday, February 21, the hurricane/weather center in our main site, www.everythingsxm.com, will have been updated for the 2022 hurricane season. All 2022 hurricane names will be posted by Monday and there will be other updates to the site. We suggest you bookmark the page so you have easy access throughout the coming hurricane season which starts June 1 and ends November 30.

7. Sea Levels To Rise Another Foot by 2050, NOAA Says

NOAA is reporting that sea levels between now and 2050 should be expected to rise an additional foot — that's more than the sea level rose during the entire preceding 100 years.

Although many people have expressed doubt on global warming/climate change, polar ice caps especially at the North Pole are melting and permafrost in Siberia and elsewhere is going away, as is ice that covers much of Greenland. Melting ice is the cause of rising seas which are particularly alarming to island nations such as SXM which may ultimately be in peril should climate change continue unchallenged.

See the detailed story [here](#).

8. "SXM Past, Present, & Future" Increasingly Provocative

Just look at this [unique video](#), now more poignant than ever.

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***

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

10A. LEAD STORY: Is "Planet Hollywood" Coming to SXM After All?

The unit of Sunwing that manages vacation properties bought the Sonesta Great Bay Beach Hotel and Casino and quickly watched hurricanes Irma and Maria destroy it completely. Once they had demolished everything that was ruined by the storms, the only building still standing was the Royal Islander at Great Bay.

Not long after Sunwing had bought the property, there was an announcement that Planet Hollywood would locate a major resort there. That's when the hurricanes hit and lawsuits began. Although the lawsuits ultimately lost, the development failed to proceed because of both the hurricanes and their enormous damage to the island and the

enormous impact of the Covid Pandemic, which further torpedoed global tourism.

During the last couple of weeks, there has been quite a bit of work going on at the parcel of land where Great Bay Beach Hotel formerly stood. Brush has been removed, and the land has been cleared as if site preparation is about to begin in earnest.

Since the current site preparation work is now underway — including some heavy equipment on the property — people are wondering what comes next.

Will Planet Hollywood be built after all? Airplanes from the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas have been spotted here in SXM on multiple occasions since November; might that have something to do with what is to happen next at the once would-be Planet Hollywood site in Great Bay? (The sands airplanes could also have something to do with to-be-announced final plans for the Westin St. Maarten resort and casino; word about that is still about six weeks away.) People in the hotel industry on SXM who are normally able to obtain information on projects like this are saying that the government agencies involved in whatever is happening at the Great Bay site aren't currently answering questions.

Our sense is that site preparation work will continue, hopefully with some announcement being made in the next several weeks. Our guess (and advice from people who are close to projects like this on SXM) is that construction could start early this summer.

It really doesn't make much difference what nameplate is on the resort that appears likely to start construction here soon. What matters is the quality of the resort, the quality of its marketing, and its ability to contribute in a major way to the future of the island's economy. The island can use a project that appeals to a higher-and demographic -- one which also is younger, since the timeshare owner demographic here continues to age. The future is people who are younger and more affluent and our bet is that this resort will appeal to that demographic.

As soon as we have more definitive information, we will publish it here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

11. Top Source of Vacation Rentals: Owners at SXM's Condos & Timeshare Resorts, & How To Find Them

For decades, we have posted timeshare condo vacation rentals and sales — hundreds of them — on our main site, www.everythingsxm.com. Now, because of the enormous boom in the sales of condominiums on the island, including the Cliff, Rainbow, the 14 towers, Drake condominiums, and many others, we will be publishing privately owned Condominium Rentals integrated with our timeshare rentals effective at once. We have already notified our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program members that they are now able to submit ads to rent out their SXM condominiums through our site effective immediately; they need only login to the secret site and click Submit an Ad to post. We will know it's a Condominium ad when we see the name of the condominium project, and we will add the word CONDO ahead of the rental or sale at to differentiate it.

Expect CONDO ads to join our TIMESHARE RENTAL/SALE ads in the next few weeks at www.everythingsxm.com. As always, advertising will be accepted only from the direct owners of the condominiums who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. If you'd like to become a JMB member and be able to take advantage of over 300 discounts and other benefits, click the page curl on our main site, everythingSXM.com, for more information.

12. An Overview of SXM's Major Timeshare Resorts

A few years ago, we published an overview of all SXM timeshare resorts in our main site, everythingSXM.com. Although that listing is about to be updated based upon many new features added at all SXM timeshare resorts over the last few years, it nonetheless will fill you in with solid basic information about the resorts — valuable if you're looking for a place to stay (see the above article, #11 in this issue) and want to know a little more about each timeshare resort.

It's important to remember that the changes at each resort have been major since most resorts had to be completely renovated from roof to basement after hurricane Irma hit here in 2017. The resorts didn't stop with simple renovations — rooms were completely redone, in many cases new wings were added, many new restaurants have sprung up not only in resorts but near them, and in general the the entire timeshare product in SXM has improved by orders of magnitude over what it was before — and it was quite outstanding before.

Our full story is [here](#).

13. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Condo Rentals Available This Winter & Beyond

Dozens of new listings of timeshare (and soon other) 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 middlemen or agents or anyone else charging commissions. *Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.*

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

14. 2023 Timeshare & Other Condo Rentals Now Being Accepted for Posting On Our Main Site

Although the 2021/22 vacation season on SXM is busier now than the island was pre-Covid, there are already expectations that the 2022/2023 season will be even busier. That's why over the last few days we have opened our listings to rentals/sales ad submissions for 2023, something we don't usually do until late March.

As always, ads will be accepted from both timeshare owners and private condominium owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. Submit an ad by logging into the secret site using the orange login box below the masthead on every page of everythingSXM.com. If you don't recall your password, use the forgot password link in the login box to recover it. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. Before submitting, make sure your membership doesn't expire for at least three months into the future — that's required to enable you to post advertising. You can also renew your membership directly from the secret website.

Want to submit timeshare condo rental or sale ads for SXM even though you're not a JMB Website Supporters member? Membership is required, so click the page curl in our main everythingSXM.com site and you will find information on how to join JMB Website Supporters, our island discount program that in April will celebrate its 20th birthday.

15. 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*.

16. 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 everythingshm.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

17. Reminder: \$100 Jewelry Gift Card Emails Sent to All JMB Website Supporters Members: News About JMB Member Discounts / Benefits Updates (Updated 1/31/22) How To Get Your \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems

One of the newest benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership is a \$100 Gift Card from Caribbean Gems. The Gift Card was sent last month by email to all members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**, and will soon be added (for one-time use only) to our members-only passworded "Secret" Website. Details on its use accompany the card.

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 here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We hope to finish these updates late during Q1, 2022.

JMB Website Supporters currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

Want your own \$100 Gift Certificate to Caribbean Gems? Join JMB Website Supporters and we will send it to you. We recently sent Certificates to all JMB members.

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

18. Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site

In case you missed it, story 11 above tells you that we are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their timeshare owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from both 2022 and now 2023.

For details, please see story 11 above.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

19. Huge News from SkyMed:

Up To 22 Weeks FREE (PLUS Military/First Responder Free Weeks) with New Multiyear SkyMed Purchases ===Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection

**IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SKYMED,
NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT**

SkyMed Never Does Sales

-- Except Right Now:

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for your upcoming trips!

Buy it NOW, *BEFORE* you need it -- just like fire insurance.

For info see the links below, for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-591-3483 (you can text to that number & leave voicemail 24/7). NOTE: My prices for multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.

.....SKYMED's BEST PROMOTION EVER IS NOW UNDERWAY!.....

For ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS in 2022:

**22 FREE weeks added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*
12 FREE weeks added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES*
22 FREE days added to all new Annual memberships**

**"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonus for US & Canadian Military Veterans
& FIRST RESPONDERS:**

**6 FREE months added to all new 5-year ULTIMATES*
3 FREE months added to all new 3-year ULTIMATES***

***What are "Ultimates"? See next story.**

20. DETAILS: Only \$1.64/day Gets You Guaranteed Renewable, Price-Guaranteed-Forever SkyMed Annual or Multiyear Medevac Protection:

• **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 *LOWER THAN THE PRICES ON THE SKYMED WEBSITE*:

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 2022 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

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 is far more economical than the \$15/day per family for short-term coverage -- it's now only about \$1.64/day total.*** Multiyear memberships are also about \$1.64/year 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

***What is the SkyMed Ultimate?**

The Ultimate is SkyMed's best - and least expensive (on a daily cost basis) form of medical evacuation membership. With SkyMed "Takes You Home"® services in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, plus Global Emergency Travel Services (GETS) almost everywhere else worldwide, the Ultimate is for people who visit Europe, Africa, Asia, and almost anywhere else your wanderlust takes you. It also delivers 18 critically important travel-related services as opposed to 12 with SkyMed annual memberships. **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships [here](#).**

[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
2/21/22

21. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do?

We've always said SkyMed **TAKES YOU HOME®** when you become critically ill or injured -- home to doctors and hospitals you know and trust, and home where your health insurance *works*. ***In recent weeks as many of you have decided to resume traveling, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.*** Several examples are right here:

*For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com or call me at 508-591-3483. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 33 years, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® when you become critically ill or injured while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available. Cost for family membership is as little as \$1.64/day on annual and multiyear plans. **IMPORTANT: Buy directly through me: our pricing for multiyear memberships is much lower than SkyMed's pricing published on the web.***

On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

An MD from Florida who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A woman from Virginia shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

A member of the clergy fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.64/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger 24/7 at 508-591-3483 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. *You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.*

Anything can happen anywhere: Do it now, BEFORE YOU NEED IT. To learn more, visit www.skymed.com/jmb -- our new SkyMed site, now live. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's online pricing for all multiyear memberships, the BEST memberships for most people age 50 or over. More contact info is above.

Thanks for reading this.

22. French Side Carnival Canceled; Other Events Continue

The latest: the French side Carnival, long a highlight of the social and tourist season on that part of the island, has been canceled. Don't confuse this with the Dutch side Carnival, which has not been canceled, and which is far bigger and lasts much longer — that's still on and though we are sure some social distancing protocols will continue to be enforced, there is no indication that it will be canceled.

Covid numbers here, in fact, dropped to 61 active cases as of Saturday evening and may well be noticeably less by today, Monday, February 21. Only a couple of weeks ago, Harmony Nights, formerly known as Mardis de Grand Case -- celebrated for decades in that seaside culinary community, was canceled due to concerns about Covid.

Oddly, the electronic music Festival scheduled to start soon on the French side — attracting musicians and music lovers from around the world — is still on.

On the Dutch side, preparations continue for both the upcoming Heineken Regatta, which takes place early in March, and for the Dutch side Carnival. For more information on the Heineken Regatta, look [here](#). For more information on the Dutch side Carnival, click [here](#).

23. Dutch Side Police Enforcing Immigration Rules for All Restaurant Employees

A week ago last Friday evening, after last week's issue of *SXM Weekly News* was already mailing, the Dutch side was executing what it refers to as controls (Americans would call them police raids) on a number of dining establishments suspected of hiring illegal workers to work as restaurant staff.

There has been a lot of finger-pointing ever since. We are not going to get deeply into this since it is a matter involving island politics and law enforcement, two areas of little interest to tourists. But restaurants are of major interest to tourists since they do have to occasionally eat — and SXM is known globally as a Mecca for people who love extraordinary dining. It's high season, and occasionally chefs decide to quit, move on, or get sick or injured and need to be replaced at once.

SXM has no quick mechanism to grant residency or work permits (meaning a day or two) so some restaurants do what they feel they have to do to be able to stay open and continue operating. Residency and work permits on the Dutch side can take months to obtain and restaurants could easily go bankrupt if they had to close while waiting for approvals.

Because of supply chain issues, wholesale food prices have skyrocketed, putting restaurants under enormous pressure to maintain revenue and profitability during SXM's all-to-short high season, which is now.

A week ago last Friday, numbers of enforcement officials including immigration people, police, and others involved participated in raids ("controls") at several Dutch side restaurants. Astonished diners put down their forks and watched with their jaws dropped while ninja-dressed government officials did their thing.

We won't comment about this except to say that events like this don't solve the core problem, which is slow processing of applications for work permits or residency for restaurant employees. As one restaurateur told us, if restaurants are forced to close, where will tourists eat? No restaurants closed and business as usual continues across both sides of the

island, but this is news and that's why it appears here.

24. Restaurant Reservations Essential as High Season is at its Height

Restaurants are routinely now turning people away on all opening nights because we're at the height of high season. Make reservations -- and if you decide not to use them, be fair and empathetic to the restaurant and cancel your reservation as far ahead as possible.

Don't go anywhere, any day, without reservations....

25. Dutch Marines in Exercise on Mullet Bay Beach

There are Dutch Marines stationed on the Dutch side of the island who are available in case of emergencies — major hurricanes, for example. To ensure that they remain at peak readiness for action in any emergency, they periodically are involved in military exercises on the island.

Roughly a week ago, we saw several Dutch Marines troop trucks heading west by SXM Airport to the vicinity of Mullet Bay Beach to conduct an exercise. There was no advance notice and beachgoers didn't really know what was happening — but military training activity was underway on the beach, startling many people but amusing many others as the young Marines did their thing on the beach.

26. Road Repairs Promised; Front Street Repairs Resume

A few weeks ago, SXM said it was diverting millions of dollars to repair Dutch side roads, many of which are suffering from widely scattered potholes. We've seen evidence of some temporary repairs and some that look like they will last a while; that road repairs are actually underway is an event welcomed by tourists and locals.

Meanwhile, the East end of cobblestone "paved" front Street had been previously repaired to correct depressions which had appeared over the years. Repairs to the road are continuing west of the center of town, where crews are removing Cobblestones and re-flattening the surface of the underlayment before replacing the Cobblestones to provide a smoother surface for vehicular traffic.

Cobblestones are not attractive for women wearing high heels — so if you plan to visit Philipsburg we suggest comfortable footwear, perhaps sneakers which should be comfortable on the full length of Front Street. Please see our story below in this section concerning Philipsburg parking.

27. Newbies - A Heads Up About Speed Bumps

In general, the French side of the island does a reasonably good job about painting white triangle shaped warnings as well as warning signs near speedbumps. The Dutch side has some warning paint and signage near some speedbumps, but others come as tooth-jarring surprises.

Especially if you are new to the island, be on the lookout for speedbumps, which can appear on widely used roadways with or without warning. If you become a repeat visitor as most people do, you will remember these locations and slow down on future trips.

28. Mongoose & Wild Monkeys: They're Both Here

We haven't mentioned this in a while, but for newbies here is some news that you might not have expected:

SXM has a population of perhaps one or 2000 or more wild Vervet monkeys. If you search for "wild monkeys in St. Maarten" on YouTube, you will find a video we shot about 20 years ago at the old Summit Resort where some tourists were handing a banana to a monkey that promptly went into a small tree near the Summit Resort pool to munch the banana, to the apparent concern of a group of cats that also called the resort home.

Vervet monkeys started out as pets for some folks on the island, but when the monkeys grew to adulthood they became unmanageable and several were released. Their numbers increased like rabbits and they found lots of food available in fruit and nut trees as well as garbage pails on both sides of the island. We have photographed them and run pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). They are often seen at Loterie farm, near Dawn beach, etc. We recently saw one while taking the northbound hill/mountain road toward the union road from Philipsburg; he/she was bounding quickly across the road..

Mongoose have no curiosity about people. They move quickly across streets in areas with a lot of brush. It takes a sharp eye to find them and even then, they seldom linger long enough so you can take a picture. We've seen two on this trip, one near a small pond on the French side while photographing birds and the other on the busy dirt road which leads from the RN seven road to the still-not-renovated Club Orient naturist resort on Orient beach.

29. Bovin Restaurant Opens: Much More Than Just a Pretty Steak

The long-awaited Bovin steakhouse has now opened at Simpson Bay Resort next to La Patrona on the Marina Plaza, which is also home to the Replay sports bar.

Although it is nominally a steakhouse that offers several different varieties of steak to satisfy the pallets of the most discriminating carnivores, the restaurant also has a salmon entrée, salads, and more. The ambiance is warm and inviting and the restaurant has two rooms, one of which can be used for private parties.

The grand opening officially happened last Wednesday, when island dignitaries were invited to a ribbon-cutting and dinner. We've been to this restaurant twice already. It brings delicious steaks to a new seaside location open to the public. The plaza outside the restaurant is a beautiful spot to watch the sun set over the Caribbean. We loved the Bovin Steakhouse and plan to return soon. Highly recommended. See our Restaurant of the Week feature, below.

30. Where to Get Lobster on SXM

Caribbean spiny lobsters are plentiful here, with many caught in the waters of Saba and more caught in both Anguilla and SXM. Lobsters are on the menu in one form or another at a majority of SXM Restaurants.

There is an ongoing debate about whether the best tasting lobsters come from New England or from the Caribbean. If you want to taste both side-by-side, both New England lobsters and Caribbean spiny lobsters are available at SkipJack's restaurant in Simpson Bay — although the New England lobsters are far more expensive since you have to pay their airfare to SXM. The largest salt water lobster pool on the island is the free range pool behind Astra, next door to SkipJacks. The Astra lobster pool has only fresh lobsters from Anguillan waters. Both SkipJacks and Astra put their current pricing on a sign in front of their restaurants; bear in mind that the prices are per pound, not per lobster.

Other places that sell lots of lobster in the area are both Pineapple Pete and the nearby Toppers restaurant. Which kind of lobster is best and where do you prefer to get yours? Post about it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

31. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM

Regardless of what questions you have about SXM, you can find the answers to any questions either in the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (where we post our current Guide to Entry Requirements) that answers many questions) or you can simply post a question on our site.

We have over 32,000 members, more than other active SXM Facebook sites combined. Our site is also a unique news and information portal, not typical social media where people post pictures of smiling cats, monkeys standing on their heads, and other pointless items. Our SXM site is strictly SXM focused with no drivel. Join it today at www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM.

32. Restaurant of the Week: Bovin Steakhouse

See story 29, our feature about the Grand Opening of Bovin Steakhouse.

Setting / Location: On the Marina Plaza next to La Patrona restaurant at Simpson Bay Resort. Very scenic especially at sunset. Sofas are outside so you can lounge in comfort near gas heating stations, which usually aren't needed but are there just in case.

Offerings: Although this is a steakhouse offering several choices of steaks fit for the hungriest carnivores, there are vegetarian offers and delicious salmon too -- and delicious salads. This place will gain a wider audience than its "steakhouse" moniker may imply. Save room for their delicious homemade desserts. Simpson Bay Resort is getting a well-deserved reputation for culinary excellence and Bovin is certain to add to that.

Summary: Beautiful upscale ambiance, talented servers, experienced management, and outstanding food. We expect Bovin to gain a lot of fans quickly. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Bovin Steakhouse at Simpson Bay Resort, Marina Plaza next to la Patrona (featured 2/21/22) Upscale restaurant offering sumptuous dining, outstanding service, and more than just steak (though we expect lots of steak lovers will flock here.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/14/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai. Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Go...you'll become a regular.

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/7/22) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

SkipJacks Seafood Grill, Bar, and seafood Market (featured 1/31/22) is one of the largest seafood restaurants on the island, located in a remarkable site overlooking Simpson Bay Lagoon and many megayachts. With many types of fresh fish cooked to order, SkipJack's is best known for lobster, both the local spiny variety and even some flown in from Maine. Pick your own and have it prepared as you like it. Lots of other choices too for all kinds of appetites. Classic attentive service and delicious everything. It's a must.

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/> . Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ 1/17/22 Mario's is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have -- here in SXM or anywhere else. Go. Phenomenal dining. 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.

The Coffee Lounge, (featured 1/3/22) Simpson Bay next to Domino's and in Philipsburg at the head of town.

Great freshly roasted coffees, pastries, and sandwiches. Don't miss it.

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/>

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, 9/7/2021: 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>

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.

33. Watch for our Everything SXM Awards of Excellence, Being Distributed Now

Early every year for the last 10 years, JMB Communications has been distributing its **Everything SXM Awards of Excellence** to superior businesses throughout the French and Dutch sides of the island. We been working on our 2022 awards and will be distributing them over the next few weeks. Once we've distributed all of them, we will show you the list here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#).

We highly recommend all of these fine establishments.

34. Six-Vacation Giveaway Entries Now Underway; Complete Prize List for "Eight Million Thanks"; Want One?

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

Want one?

The vacations will be at:

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

Colony Manor Golden Daze condo directly 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; Mama Pizza; Movida; IZI Ristorante Italiano** and **Spiga** in Grand Case. *All are subject to limitations set by the owner; if you exceed*

the limit, you are responsible for the excess.

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 BUT YOU STILL MUST ENTER. [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. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

35. 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!

36. 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.

37. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 2/7/22)

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

COVID TESTING:

Medcare (near Avantika in Puerto del Sol)

Test-to-Fly (new 1/22)

CUBAN CIGARS:

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

DOLLAR STORES

[All in One Place](#) (Near Carrefour and now in Simpson Bay near Domino's)

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.)

FASHIONS FOR WOMEN

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road, Simpson Bay, opposite Atrium Hotel. (New 1/22)

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 Publisher](#)

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

PHARMACIES

Simpson Bay Pharmacy

Orange Grove Pharmacy

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

Mary's Boon (new 1/22)

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)

NAVY BEACH

BOVIN STEAKHOUSE

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)**

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

Flamboyant on The Boardwalk, Philipsburg (new 1/22)

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

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>

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

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 2/21/22

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. 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.

40. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

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

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

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

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

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

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.

42. 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?

"2022 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)

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