

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/7/22: Heineken Regatta; WestJet to Buy Sunwing; Planet Hollywood; Westin; Emilio's; Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins - Watch Out for Nests; Letter to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1338 -- 42 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1338 ---- Monday, March 7, 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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IMPORTANT: "Jeff1620" is an unmonitored send-only email address. For Contact info, see [#Contact Us](#) at the end of this newsletter.

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Important Note:

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

Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by nearly 370,000 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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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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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_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 3/12/2022 3/19/2022 Week 11 **Royal Islander La Terrasse 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit, sleeps 6. Located on the fifth floor. Enjoy a panoramic view extending from beautiful Maho Bay to the hills leading to Philipsburg. Watch the planes land and take off from the comfort of your extra large balcony, or for a closer look, from the special viewing area alongside the runway, steps from the pool.** It's a short walk to Maho Beach, Sunset Beach Bar and Driftwood Boat Bar. Great restaurants and shops, casino, entertainment and a grocery store are steps away. Underground parking garage on site. Very well maintained property. Management and staff are the best! \$2,000 Dotty 609-242-0782 philip.damore@yahoo.com

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 3/12/2022 3/26/2022 Weeks, 11 and 12 **Flamingo Beach Resort Ocean Front Studio, Fully Equipped Kitchen, 3rd floor next to elevators, 2 tv's, free WiFi, safe , 2 hot tubs next to beautiful pool , barbecues , fire pit, and onsite free laundry. With in walking distance to grocery store , casino, and great Restaurants.** Weeks 11,12 Both \$4000.or \$2000. each John 516-731-5132 Tapman4u@aol.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

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

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

http://www.everythingsexm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml

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

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

Not a member yet? See http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml. 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. Canadian Airline WestJet to Acquire Sunwing

Canadian airline WestJet plans to acquire Sunwing, a relatively small discount carrier also based in Canada.

WestJet was founded in 1994 by David Neeleman, the serial entrepreneur who later founded jetBlue Airways, Azul Airways in South America, and his newest project, Breeze, which connects a number of smaller cities in the US.

More on this acquisition is [here](#). Its impact on flights to SXM from both carriers is unknown.

2. Entry Requirements Changed March 1; Further Changes Probable

SXM made relatively minor changes to its Entry Requirements effective March 1. By the time you read this, the update of our **Guide to Entry Requirements** will have been completed in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); you can access the Guide directly by clicking [this link](#).. If you aren't a member of Facebook, you can join our site with 32,000+ other fans of SXM — just answer our brief vetting questions.

The changes this time are relatively minor and reflect the trend toward softening requirements as Covid begins to transition from Pandemic to Endemic.

We expect further changes but can't predict timing. We also believe the US will change its "returning home" requirements but we don't know when, or exactly what it will do.

As soon as we hear that further changes are forthcoming, we will publish them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and we'll also publish them here in the next available edition of **SXM Weekly News**. If the changes are profound, we will also publish a Bulletin for members of our [JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program](#).

3. 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.

4. Our "Guide to Entry Requirements," Second Edition Answers

All Your SXM Travel Questions

Our **Guide to Entry Requirements** (Second Edition, just updated again) 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 currently must apply for the required preapproval.

To access the 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.

Etc./Weather

5. How Well is SXM Prepared to "Weather" Another Major Hurricane?

The entire theme of the rebuilding that has followed the destruction wrought by hurricane Irma in 2017 has been *build back better*. For the most part, that is what has been done across much of the island.

Many private homes here have always had corrugated metal roofs. Unfortunately, major hurricanes peel back such roofs much like the top of an old-fashioned herring can was peeled back by a key; that's why you still see a number of roofless residential structures scattered around SXM.

Despite this, hotels have been built back much stronger — and have been designed expressly to withstand hurricanes even if they match the 185 miles-per-hour sustained winds and much higher gusts that were encountered with hurricane Irma. As a result, were SXM to be hit by another storm of that magnitude, the expectation is that it would have a significantly faster return to normalcy — not overnight or even a few weeks, but far faster than what happened in the wake of Irma

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

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. 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**

8. 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

9. Will The WestJet/Sunwing Deal Affect "Planet Hollywood"?

Not long before hurricane Irma hit in September 2017, the Sonesta Great Bay hotel/resort was sold to Sunwing travel, an arm of Sunwing, the Canadian budget/vacation airline. The entire resort — except for the Royal Islander timeshare building on the site — was destroyed by Irma and had to be demolished.

In recent weeks, there is been extensive site preparation work done. What's happening? A major Planet Hollywood Resort planned for this site was announced several years ago, but met with stiff opposition from a neighbor. Then the Covid Pandemic hit, so what was a busy resort before Irma is still currently an empty lot.

Is Planet Hollywood now going to be built? Clearly something is underway on the site but government officials approached by sources usually able to access this kind of information haven't given any significant feedback. Nonetheless, we are consistently hearing that construction on the site could begin in as little as three months.

Will it be a Planet Hollywood? We don't know — but the property is prime resort real estate on a beautiful beach, so resort development here not only seems inevitable, but highly likely to begin in the near term.

As far as we know, the property is still owned by a unit of Sunwing travel. Will the WestJet acquisition of Sunwing affect this project? We doubt it. We expect construction to be well underway by the time the WestJet/Sunwing project completes.

As always, we will keep you posted.

10. Due in About a Week: Answers on The Future of the Westin St. Maarten Resort & Casino

From what we are hearing, we should finally know the answer to the long lingering question about the future of the Westin St. Maarten resort and casino in about a week.

Unconfirmed reports we received earlier from people connected with the property indicate that the nameplate may change to a JW Marriott, one of the most upscale of all Marriott nameplates, converting the Westin to a five star resort.

It also appears that the resort is likely to become more exclusive:

The hotel will shrink from 350 to 150 rooms, we've heard.

The other units will become part of the timeshare operation currently flourishing as Dawn Beach Club. Sources tell us that there will be two types of ownership; the first is Fractional, for those owning four weeks or more. Marriott will rent out your unit for you for 20% of the rental.

Unit pricing for buyers for building A on the beach or building D end unit will be \$95,000/week, we are told. Other units will be available for purchase at \$75,000/week.

The resort will also be selling full-year ownerships for prices in the millions.

As soon as we have the final confirmed announcement, hopefully including information about when the Resort will reopen, we will publish it in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) as always and we'll also publish it here in the next available issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

11. Heads Up Concerning Major Websites Offering SXM Villas/Condos

If you've made the decision to rent a villa here in SXM, we urge you to do so from a reputable local company — not some far off website where no one has ever laid eyes on the property let alone verified that it actually exists. We have had many complaints about properties offered on mass-market villa or condo rental sites that turned out to be nothing like what was advertised or that were not in good condition.

There are several courses of action here.

- First, see our Sponsors list in this issue of *SXM Weekly News*, below. The realtors listed there are experienced local companies that know the territory and have a reputation to protect. We've been dealing with them for years and have had zero complaints about their products or services.
- Second, a few villas and several villa rental agencies advertise directly on our pages — we have had zero complaints there as well.
- Third, if you'd like a condo on SXM — to rent or buy — see our timeshare and other condo rentals, hundreds of them, on our main site, everythingSXM.com. It is generally updated weekly and we have already started to accept rentals for 2023. Rentals were recently added for the 2022 Christmas holidays. See story 13.

12. 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.

13. 2023 Timeshare & Other Condo Rentals Now Being Accepted for Posting On Our Main Site

Although the 2022 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 week we have opened our listings to rentals/sales ad submissions for 2023, something we don't usually do until late March.

Now, ads will be accepted not only from timeshare owners but also now from 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 or 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.

14. 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*.

15. 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 everythingxsm.com.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

16. 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. After joining and being enrolled, text us at 508-591-3483 including your email address or WhatsApp number and we'll send yours to you. None are sent by snail mail.

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

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

In case you missed it, a story 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 the story above in this section.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

18. 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.**

19. 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
3/7/22

20. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do? ---A Letter from Jeff Berger to All SXM Weekly News Readers---

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.

21. Heineken Regatta Results

Although the Heineken Regatta ended yesterday, March 6, this edition of *SXM Weekly News* was completed and started mailing on March 5 late in the day. We have been posting race results every day in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), so please go there for complete results and hundreds of pictures.

22. Watch Out for Sea Turtle Nests on SXM Beaches: Nesting Season Begins

Signs of sea turtles nesting in SXM have already appeared on Mullet Bay beach. Because sea turtle eggs are very fragile, the nests are marked off clearly and people are asked to stay away from the area where nests have been located.

Sea turtles nest on many beaches here in SXM from March through October. You can find more information about sea turtles, some of which weigh many hundreds of pounds, by Googling the topic. Videos of baby sea turtles, called hatchlings, can be found on YouTube as well.

23. "Serious Fun" A Bit Subdued As Racing, Not Partying, Takes Center Stage at the 2022 Heineken Regatta

The serious fun for which Heineken Regatta has been known for years was a bit subdued this year, with racing taking center stage.

For Heineken Regatta news and information, see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) which has been carrying Regatta photography and race results every day and has posted hundreds of pictures. There were no major celebrity entertainers this year, no big concerts, and no parties with thousands of participants as has been the case in the past — Covid protocols have been strictly observed to keep Covid numbers below, as they have been here for the last several weeks. For more information about the Heineken Regatta, please also see their main site, HeinekenRegatta.com.

24. SXM Restaurants, Bars Have a Great Regatta Week

It takes a number of talented and experienced crew members to manage all the subtle moves of the fleet of more than 100 boats that participated in the 2022 Heineken Regatta. Since the boats are in Simpson Bay or Simpson Bay lagoon, hundreds of crew members and thousands of SXM visitors zeroed in on Simpson Bay restaurants during the past week, creating one of the busiest weeks there in the past several years. Despite being exhausted, restaurateurs were delighted with a great week for their businesses on top of the great high season which continues. This island needs that business.

25. Kudos to Heineken Regatta Staff for an Extraordinary Job

Lots of creativity and resourcefulness went into developing and executing plans for the 2022 edition of the Heineken Regatta. *SXM Weekly News* wants to recognize the contribution of every member of the Heineken Regatta staff for their

planning and execution of the event. It was well organized from start to finish and sets an example for others planning other events in what are hopefully the waning days of the Covid Pandemic.

26. Island92 "Regatta Radio" Reports The Action From Start to Finish

As has been the case for a number of years, Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin, who has a history of racing in Regattas, broadcast on his Island92 radio station as "Regatta radio" through the full course of the Heineken Regatta. He will be off the air today, Monday, March 7, which is called Regatta Monday — a day to recover from the events of the last several days.

If you receive this before the Regatta ends, you can listen live at 91.9 FM on the island and also online at www.island92.com.

27. Covid Numbers Continue to Drop

Covid numbers across SXM continue to drop. On the Dutch side, which reports daily, numbers have been hovering slightly over 40 confirmed cases for the last several days, with a further slow downward trend still in evidence — all good news. Only one individual, who had not been vaccinated, was hospitalized when the last weekly report was issued late Saturday.

28. Restaurant / Bar Closing Times No Worry on Dutch Side

If you're a night owl, you will be pleased to know that hours of SXM bars and restaurants continue to allow openings well into the middle of the night. With Covid numbers waning, government officials on both sides of the island are looking forward to when normalcy returns totally as Covid becomes Endemic and not Pandemic.

As always, we'll continue to keep you posted about any regulatory changes.

29. Our Annual SXM "Awards of Excellence" List Is Coming Next Week

We have almost completed the distribution of our annual SXM Awards of Excellence, distributed to top SXM tourist-focused businesses that represent the best SXM has to offer.

When we've finished distributing the Awards next week, we'll publish the complete list of winners here in *SXM Weekly News* and also in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Our winners customarily post their awards both in social media and in their places of business, where you will see them proudly displayed. Look for these awards to be sure you patronize the best businesses on the island.

30. Now, More Than Ever: Dinner Reservations Are Absolutely Essential

Although dinner reservations have been absolutely essential for weeks, as we've been saying here and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), the coming weeks will stay busy and you will wind up being turned away if you don't have reservations at virtually every restaurant on the island (with the possible exception of McDonald's).

SXM is paradise, not Utopia. We have been in a number of popular restaurants in Simpson Bay and across the island over the last few weeks and in every one of them, we saw the owners meet people at the door who did not have reservations and they had to tell them **the restaurant was sold out for the night except to people with reservations**.

It is boom time on SXM so be sure to make reservations well in advance at your favorite restaurants. Demand is high and you do NOT want to be disappointed. Don't forget to cancel reservations you decide not to use.

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: Emilio's

Setting / Location: On the gorgeous and historic Emilio Wilson Estate at the Rainforest Adventures area north of the Carrefour market near Philipsburg. Open-air stone buildings, classic service, excellent full-service bar, plenty of parking.
Offerings: Emilio's has a varied menu of Tapas, Appetizers, incredible Mains, and Su Wathey's amazing homemade desserts. Chef Sydney is a master who responds to any special dietary requirements you may have including vegetarian or vegan needs and more. Steaks, chicken, and fish specialties are artfully presented and reasonably priced.
Summary: Beautiful ambiance, talented, experienced servers, experienced management, and outstanding food. Emilio's has a loyal following and just won our 2022 Culinary Award of Excellence. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>, (featured 3/7/22). Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sydney 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.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 3/22). 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

La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort (featured 2/28/22) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

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.

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/>

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 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 Philipsbuirg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

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

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 distributing our 2022 awards and will finish that this coming week. 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. (Actually we're nearing TEN million now!)

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 3/7/22)

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).

NEW TODAY: Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental; Buccaneer Beach Bar; SixT Car Rental.

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

SixT Car Rental (new)

Dollar Thrifty Car Rental (new)

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.**

BrightFuture 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, & BEACH 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 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)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR (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 3/7/22

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 [everything.sxm.com](#) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership (the page still says Military). We'll also need a DD214 (or other police / fire / nursing ID) with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you all to our new best-of-all JMB Website Supporters Platinum Memberships.

40. 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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