

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/14/22: Frontier/Spirit Merger SXM Effects; Rising Jet Fuel Prices; 12th Annual SXM Awards of Excellence Winners; Tijon; Bankie Banx 32nd Annual Moonsplash Reggae Festival; Russian Superyachts Vamoose In a Hurry; Letter to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1339 -- 43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

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Vol. 4, #1339 ---- Monday, March 14, 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 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:



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



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

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

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

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

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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at http://everythingsexm.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://everythingsexm.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:

CONDO RENTAL -- CeaJae Haven 4/1/2022 12/30/2022 Pelican Key. Beautiful, safe, quiet neighborhood within walking distance to stores, fabulous restaurants and beautiful beaches. Condo is one second floor and has studio apartment and one bedroom loft with full kitchen. Beautiful view with balconies in front and back. Private pool for CeaJae Haven residents. Sleeps 4.. Perfect for anyone thinking of relocating to St. Maarten or just wanting to work from home in beautiful environment. Price is 2000\$ per month Rental is for 9 months Marilyn T. Cell number is 631-891-5955 Yworryto@optonline.net

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

SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/22/2022 1/29/2022 Week 3 (2022 OBBR Calendar) Oyster Bay Beach Resort Fixed Week Studio Unit, ANNUAL USE until year 2102, large and well appointed, Main Sail Building, Ocean Front Balcony, well stocked kitchen, upgraded pool and hot tub, on site restaurant, convenience store, gym, laundry room. Only a few steps to Dawn beach with chairs and umbrellas. Lots of activities with a friendly staff. REDUCED TO: \$9,500.00 plus fees. Doug 201-264-0042, df.wylg@yahoo.com

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

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

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

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

Search the *SXM Weekly News* Archives:

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

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

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

www.linkedin.com

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. The Likely Impact on SXM of the Spirit / Frontier Merger; Opposition Likely

Frontier Airlines and Spirit Airlines are moving toward a merger initiated by Spirit. Both airlines, which follow an ultra low cost mantra, have had significant customer service issues. Even airlines that don't have customer service issues but have attempted mergers have found themselves more fouled up during and after the merger than they were before. Some observers are saying that having significant customer service issues increases the likelihood that this merger may lead to worse customer service for customers of both airlines during and after any possible merger.

That's one reason the Attorney General of Colorado is fighting this merger. He also believes that in Colorado, the merger would reduce competition and increase prices. More on the merger proposal from the airlines is [here](#), and more on the Attorney General's opposition is [here](#).

Both airlines currently fly to SXM. Both airlines currently have unenviable reputations regarding the quality of their customer service. However the total number of passengers they carry to SXM is negligible compared to American, JetBlue, United, and Delta, all of which will still outpace any Frontier/Spirit combination.

Also bear in mind that once SXM has preclearance — the direction toward which the island appears headed -- Southwest Airlines has said it wants to come here, possibly from multiple US ports of embarkation, possibly including BWI and FLL airports, among other possibilities. It is also clear that JetBlue is not going to give up any territory to any of its competitors, which is one reason that airline acquired more gates some time ago in the Washington DC area and why it already has a port of embarkation to SXM in Fort Lauderdale.

Bottom line, a Spirit / Frontier merger seems likely to be approved, but expect it to be messy getting set up. Don't expect two airlines with poor customer service records to pull a rabbit out of a hat when trying to merge. Something resembling a mess seems much more likely.

2. Airfares Likely to Increase Thanks to Spiking Jet Fuel Prices

Russia's unprovoked attack in Ukraine has caused a number of responses by Western governments. One of those is the expected ban on imports of Russian crude to the United States. The measure is largely symbolic, since only 8% of US oil imports come from Russia. A much higher percentage of oil imports by NATO members in Europe comes from Russia but as of late last week, those countries showed little interest in following the US move.

Regardless of what further responses Western countries make to the Russian invasion, one thing is clear: oil prices will likely stay high for the foreseeable future, which means that [airfares are likely to increase thanks to spiking jet fuel prices](#).

For countries like SXM that are dependent on tourism, that couldn't happen at a worse time. The country continues to recover from both the Covid Pandemic and some still lingering effects from hurricane Irma. And it is still facing the 2022 hurricane season, which unofficially begins in mid-May and will run until the end of November. As reported elsewhere in

this issue, this hurricane season is expected to be the seventh in a row that is busier than usual.

The good news is that more Americans are traveling now and planning to travel over the next few months — good news for SXM regardless of the cost of crude oil/jet fuel. Whether still-increasing jet fuel prices will have any material bottom-line impact on travel plans remains to be seen, but it certainly is something that SXM will continue to watch warily.

3. French Side Softens Vaccination / Mask Requirements

The unmistakable trend toward a return to normalcy continues in SXM. Now, French side vaccination and masking requirements related to entering businesses on that side of the island are being softened as of today, Monday, March 14. Further softening seems likely on both sides of the island and when it happens, we will report it as always.

4. Guide to Entry Requirements Updated; Likelihood of Further Updates

Our **Guide to Entry Requirements** (Second Edition, just updated) 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.

To access the just-updated 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 directly [through this link](#) if you are already a Facebook member.

Further updates appear likely as the number of hospitalizations on the island stays very low.

5. 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.

Etc./Weather

6. '22 Atlantic Hurricane Season May Be Busier Than Normal for 7th Consecutive Year, European Forecasters Predict

The first of several expected full-blown predictions for what we should be looking forward to during the 2022 hurricane season has been issued by European observers.

Although it is short on details, their prediction says that for a record seventh year in a row, residents in areas routinely impacted by tropical cyclones should expect a busier than normal season.

Here are [the details](#). The big three predictions are yet to come from Colorado State University, the National Hurricane Center, and our own Rob Lightbown of Crown Weather Services in Massachusetts. We will publish all three of those forecasts as they reach us.

7. 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.

8. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

Here are four more sources of current weather info:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at www.everythingsxm.com -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) **On or off the island, listen to Island 92** -- 91.9FM or see www.island92.com. They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG>.

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*




[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***

9. 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

10. No Westin Updates Yet

Updates on the future of the Westin St. Maarten Resort and Casino, now widely expected to become a smaller, more exclusive five-star JW Marriott resort with many more privately owned resort condominium units, have not yet been issued.

Last week, we did publish some news that we had already received about the project. This was the gist of that information:

The hotel will shrink from 350 to 150 rooms.

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 final updates from the owners/developers of this property, we will publish them here in *SXM Weekly News* and if necessary as a Bulletin to members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program.

11. Reminder / 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 in deplorable 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com). It is generally updated weekly and we have already started to accept rentals or 2023. Rentals were recently added for the Christmas holidays at the end of this year.

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 everythingsxm.com.

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

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

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.

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.

18. Full Discount Update Project Expected to Complete During Q2 This Year

As members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program may recall, we have been working with our partners on the island to update and expand our program of benefits for our members. That effort is continuing to be developed and is now expected to be completed sometime during the second quarter of 2022. We have already introduced some aspects of the expanded program including a new one hundred dollar gift certificate for Caribbean Gems, explained below; for those who have not yet used it, we will be emailing a link to that certificate in an upcoming mailing to all JMB Website Supporters members. It has proven itself to be a prized addition to the spectrum of benefits already offered to all our members.

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
2/28/22

21. 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.

22. Our Annual Everything SXM "Awards of Excellence" List of Winners

One of the most rewarding and prestigious experiences for a number of the best businesses on SXM happens every year when everything SXM, owned by our parent company JMB Communications, distributes its Awards of Excellence to deserving businesses across the island. That process was virtually completed last week and includes all of these businesses, published here in no particular order:

Rancho Del Sol; Rum Belly Boat Charters; St. Maarten Marry Me; SXM St. Martin Catamaran Charters; Villa Acropole; Villa En 'Sea; All in One Place stores; Alpha Jewels; Astra steak and seafood; Avantika Thai; Azure Hotel and Art Studio; Ballerina Jewelers; Bovin steakhouse; BrightFuture Realty; BrightPath Caribbean; Candi Billant Realtor; Caribbean Brewing; Caribbean Gems; Caribbean Gems Alaska; Century21; Cigar Mack; Coffee Lounge; Divi Resort; Emilio's; Belair Beach Hotel; Exclusive car rental; Georgina's Nails; Hole in the Wall; Hommage Hotel and Residences; IRE Team and IRE Vacations; Island92; Isola pizza; Isola Ristorante Italiano; Izi Ristorante Italiano; Jay's Fusion Cuisine; Jennifer's Vacation Villas; JN Jewels and Jewels and Beyond; Joe's Jewelry; Kay's Fine Jewelry; La Patrona; La Rosa Ristorante Italiano; Leisure Car Rental; Mama pizza; Mandarin - Melange - Pelican Bistro; Mario Bistro; Medwork clinic; Movida; Orange Grove pharmacy; Oro Diamante fine Jewelers; Oyster Bay Beach Resort; Pineapple Pete - Wasabi Charlie; Ray's jewelry; Roxxy; Royal Jewelers; Sax car rental; Shoppers Haven; Simpson Bay Pharmacy; Simpson Bay resort; Soggy Dollar bar; Sunset Spa; Sunshine Properties; SXM Airport -- Brian Mingo; SXM Cigars; Tijon Parfumerie; Zhaveri luxury; Majesty jewelers; Spiga; SXM beer; Toppers Gelateria; Toppers restaurant; Toppers Rhum distillery; Trattoria Nonna Rosa; Vesna Taverna.

23. Heineken Regatta Final Recap

[Here is the story of the final day of racing](#) in the 2022 Heineken Regatta, on Sunday, March 6.

24. Flying This Summer? Here's Something You Should Know: (three month exclusion)

If you are traveling anywhere this summer, there is a way you can inject tremendous peace of mind into your travels...

For the first three months of any new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership, SkyMed excludes coverage of pre-existing conditions; after three months, those conditions are covered in full. **So...to AVOID ANY IMPACT on your travel plans this Summer or Fall, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned Summer/Fall travel -- then the 90-day exclusion period for preexisting conditions will end before you travel...**

Why get annual or multiyear memberships? SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are \$15/day,

while guaranteed renewable for life, price guaranteed for life annual and multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day -- less than a decent cup of coffee. Call me at 508-591-3483 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

Available exclusively to Americans and Canadians. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME(R) when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is also available through GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, part of the SkyMed group.

25. At Tijon Parfumerie: Create Your Very Own Perfume!

Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case is one of the few places on the entire planet where you can not only buy great island-made perfumes and a huge spectrum of very nice gifts, but where you can also create your very own personal fragrance. They give (brief but thorough) classes where you can learn about blending fragrances *and then actually do it*. It is wonderful fun for everyone (women & men) and you get a fragrance you can refill anytime. PLUS, you can even blend your fragrance virtually if you're not visiting SXM soon -- and you are guaranteed to like it. Their site: www.tijon.com.

See many pictures we posted about this in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

26. Bankie Banx' 32nd Moonsplash Reggae Festival Set March 18-22

From the Facebook Moonsplash page:

Moonsplash Reggae Festival is here! Year 32 !! Year 32!! Moonsplash 2022 will bring the most prominent reggae acts to the tiny shores of Anguilla!

This year promises to be one of the best full moon parties yet, with a jam-packed lineup and three-day extravaganza on the beach! March 18-20, 2022!

Much more information on the 32nd edition is [right here](#).

27. Now: Two Rima Stores on Front Street With Tens of Thousands of Items

The big Rima store that was located on the Pondfill until about 10 years ago closed when the owners had to return to India to focus on a family issue in addition to the business — **but practically everything they ever carried — beachwear, souvenirs, wraps, pareos, and tens of thousands of additional items are in two convenient Rima stores on Front Street, Philipsburg.**

The first Rima store is on the great Bay side of Front Street opposite Coliseum casino west of the courthouse. It is on a single floor and is loaded to the rafters, literally, with practically everything you could want in island souvenirs and beachwear (Tanks, t-shirts, tropical shirts of all descriptions, women's dresses, sweatshirts, and literally tens of thousands of additional items; they have literally lost count). It's a great place to get all kinds of beachwear for yourself, your kids, your grandchildren, and everybody else on your list. **We guarantee you will find stuff you didn't know you wanted until you laid your eyes on it from their enormous selection.**

After you carry your bag out the door, turn left a short distance west; diagonally across the street you will find their new, even bigger three-story Rima store. The top story is a warehouse, but the bottom two stories are open to the public and again are loaded to the rafters.

You may see other stores carry many white cotton dresses and pants for the beach or for nights out but the cost at other stores for whatever reason is astronomical. *Rima carries the exact same styles for a fraction of the price.* In our experience, they offer the lowest price on all their merchandise. Beyond that, the merchandises top-quality and does not lose its color after many years of use.

Tell Kenny, the owner, that we suggested you visit. If you have questions, their courteous staff will be happy to help you — and they can find whatever you're looking for even if it's in the other store.

Considering the fact that the total amount of merchandise in both Rima stores is, we think, greater than the big store that used to be on the Pondfill, it's time you went to Rima. Park in the central parking area downtown behind the courthouse, walk to front Street, then turn right and you will find both stores. It's well worth the trip. They even offer a spectrum of beach bags at surprisingly low prices that you can put to a great variety of uses both on the island and when you return home.

It's our single stop for souvenirs whenever we visit SXM — a total of three floors in two stores with we would guess at least 40,000 SKUs....

28. French Side Roads Sometimes Blocked by Donkeys, Goats

On the roads of SXM, you will see all kinds of things. Over the years, we have seen monkeys, mongoose, piglets, oxen, cows, horses, and other wildlife and domesticated animals crossing the roads across the island.

Wait, what? Monkeys? Yes, there are probably 1000 or 2000 wild Vervet monkeys residing on SXM. Word is that people acquired some as pets years ago but when they grew up, their owners "accidentally" opened the cage door and out they went. There is all kinds of food growing wild across the island including fruit, nuts, and of course gardens at many homes and occasionally, garbage pails, through which monkeys forage.

There are also Invasive iguanas here. Apparently a case of them was delivered to SXM Airport decades ago and it fell on the ground, broke, and the iguanas scampered away in a hurry. They are now across the island and very common. Though fearsome looking, they are vegetarians and are generally docile toward people. The only get confrontational with other iguanas when there is a disagreement over food -- which iguana should be eating it. They have also become the largest component of roadkill on the island. If you see someone picking up an injured iguana from the road, you should trust that it has nothing to do with empathy — and everything to do with iguana soup, which is a real thing and not just the name of a Jimmy Buffett album.

Now we return to the subject of this story: roadblocks staged by herds of goats and other animals. On the French side particularly, you may run into herds of goats on the main RN7 route in the Orient and hope estate area; on the road to the Pinel Ferry; and on the road from French quarter to oyster pond, particularly near the lookout. They aren't particularly responsive to horn tooting, yelling, or any other effort to get them out of the road — they will simply continue doing their thing, which is looking for the next bush from which to eat the next bite of their salad. When they are ready, they will get out of your way.

29. Why do Iguanas Shake Their Heads Up & Down?

If you ever watch Iguanas and other lizards here on SXM for any period of time, you will likely see them look like they are shaking their heads yes— repeatedly. They are not agreeing to your intention to take their pictures; they are expressing territoriality and dominance, according to people who apparently study such things. Many iguanas allow you to get close enough to them to take good pictures, but if they feel threatened they will immediately run in the opposite direction. If they really want to make headway in a hurry, they will use only their hind legs for the running — something to see.

30. 721 Wants Live Music Until 4am, But Many Object

The 721 bar in Simpson Bay is petitioning the Dutch side government to allow it to play music until 4 AM, but people who live in the area won't have it. There are many residences in this area, both condominiums and homes on the hill across the street and on the same side of the road as 721.

Change.org has a petition that as of last week had been signed by hundreds of people in opposition to the 4 AM opening. In our opinion, no bars need to be blaring music in residential areas anywhere near that late.

31. Frequent SXM Visitors Abramovich, Melnichenko Superyachts Added to UK Sanctions List

To put pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, Western countries have placed sanctions on a number of oligarchs, super-rich Russians with global holdings — some or most of whom are allegedly close to Putin.

A number of oligarchs visit this area frequently, including Andre Melnichenko and Roman Abramovich who respectively own Sailing Yacht A, the largest sailing yacht in the world, and both Eclipse and Solaris, two huge megayachts plus a fleet of airplanes. Some have homes in St. Barth. Eclipse is usually seen moored off Simpson Bay every winter.

A week ago last Thursday, in the middle of the night, Eclipse took off to the Northeast, passing north of Anguilla where then allegedly turned off its maritime tracking systems. Satellites indicate that it is now off West Africa, apparently heading for the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal with a number of other megayachts owned by Russian oligarchs. After going through the canal, its ultimate destination is said to be a location in the Indian Ocean which is not responsive to Western block efforts to seize the yachts as compensation for the Russian invasion.

The megayachts are very familiar sights to long-time SXM tourists which is why were running this story about them.

32. 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 the people who wanted to wait at the bar that **the restaurant was sold out for the night except to people with reservations.**

It is boom time on SXM so make sure you make reservations well in advance at your favorite restaurants — particularly for all week this coming week.

33. 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.

34. Restaurant of the Week: iZi Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay

Setting / Location: In its own white building opposite Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay -- a comfortable, modern location with well-ventilated seating areas both indoors and out.

Offerings: Izi offers consistently outstanding, creative Italian fine dining. The ambiance is upbeat. Owner David Foini is a perfectionist who works hard every day to make sure he has the best sources for all his ingredients -- worldwide sources that deliver the freshest, best tasting food on which David and his meticulously trained kitchen crew work their magic. Thousands of people have re-discovered IZI which was recently rated the number 2 restaurant on the whole island and the top Italian restaurant. Great food, attentive service, and of course the star of the show, David Foini. What more could you want?

Summary: Great food, plenty of selections for all dining preferences, and wonderful everything from start to finish. Plus, IZI just won our coveted 2022 Culinary Award of Excellence -- the ONLY Italian restaurant on either Airport Road or Welfare Road to win. Reservations are strongly recommended. Leave room for their homemade desserts!

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izirestaurant.com (featured 3/14/22). 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.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 3/7/22). 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 4hai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 2/14/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best 4hai 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/>. [Featured January 2022] 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.

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.

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 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.

35. 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.**

36. 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!

37. 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.

38. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 3/14/22)

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

Thrifty Car Rental

SixT 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, & 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'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)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

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 3/14/22

39. 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](#).

40. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

41. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Join our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and you'll now find over 32,300 SXM tourists who love SXM as much as you do.

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

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

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

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

**Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-591-3483. 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.

43. 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://everythingxsm.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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Us (Revised 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.**
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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