

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/21/22: Mask Mandates are History in Most Places; World's Largest Cruise Ship Visits; Great News for Canadians Returning Home; Important Message to Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger; Monkey Madness; Assertive Donkeys; When to Buy Tickets for Next Winter; Enter Our All-New Six-Vacation Giveaway [Issue #1340 -- 43 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1340 ---- Monday, March 21, 2022  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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 Island Discount Program](#) 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 more than 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](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

**Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:**

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

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

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Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

#### **SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

**RENTAL** 4/2/2022 4/9/2022 14<sup>+</sup> **Simpson Bay Resort Flamboyant Building on the beach. Sleeps 6 in 2 king bedrooms, 2 bath, with 2 Murphy beds in living room area. Magnificent views. Close to restaurants, bars, entertainment, and grocery store.** Renter pays \$50 timeshare tax \$2,500 Jan (540)256-3418 [janleeth@yahoo.com](mailto:janleeth@yahoo.com)

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

## SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:

**SALE** 2/12/2022 2/18/2023 Week 7 **Diamond Flamingo Beach Resort** Completely renovated deluxe studio with one bath, full kitchen, 1st floor beach front ocean facing suite. Has T.V., free Wi-Fi, safe. Resort has beautiful pool and is within walking distance to grocery store, casino, and great restaurants. Prime school vacation week. \$12,000 Mary Jane 978-369-9305 [maryjtn@gmail.com](mailto:maryjtn@gmail.com)

See them all at [http://everythingsexm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](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](http://www.linkedin.com)

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

[http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

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

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

**Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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. Effect of Oil Prices on Airfares MAY be Less than Expected**

There seems to be little doubt that the volatility in oil prices will continue as long as Russia continues its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Nonetheless, there are some indications that rising oil prices may have less of an impact on future airfares than may have been previously expected.

Delta airlines has reported recent fare increases of about 10% 痠 · with hopes of maintaining fares at that level. Many airlines do some hedging in the oil markets to keep prices reasonable which may help them in the near term.

The operative word in our headline is *may*; we will be keeping an eye on crude oil prices over the next several weeks since increases in crude translate directly into jet fuel prices which will impact airfares.

Negotiations are underway reportedly between Russia and Ukraine. Some Russian sources have indicated that there may be an agreement close at hand 痠 · but others discredit such assertions as Russian propaganda. *We will keep an eye on crude prices to keep you posted 痠 · but if you're planning a trip to SXM any time in the next year, we strongly suggest you buy tickets now at current prices 痠 · to beat future possible increases.*

**2. Effective April 1, No Requirement for Negative Testing for Canadians Returning from Overseas**

Huge positive news came out of Canada last week: effective April 1, there is no longer any requirement for negative testing for Canadians returning from overseas.

Here is that [complete story](#).

If you are from the United States, please see the next story.

**3. No Change Yet in Return-to-US Requirements**

Although Covid numbers continue to plunge here in SXM, the US CDC (Centers for Disease Control) just got around to changing the rating it gives foreign countries; it says that SXM has improved from level IV to level III. Apparently they

haven't been watching the Statistics from here, which seem to be significantly better than those in the US: there were only 26 active cases on the Dutch side as of late Saturday, which is deserving of a **go visit** rating rather than what the CDC did.

Perhaps as a result of the CDC's attitude, and its lateness to properly recognize what is actually happening in foreign countries, there are no changes yet in return-to-US requirements for American citizens. We will report when this changes immediately in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); by a Bulletin to members of our [JMB Website Supporters island discount program](#); and in the following issue of *SXM Weekly News*.

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## 4. World's Largest Cruise Ship, Wonder of the Seas, Due Here Today

With a total capacity of over 9,000 passengers and crew members, Wonder of the Seas, Royal Caribbean's latest new oasis class cruise ship and now the largest cruise ship in the world, sails into the port of St. Maarten today, Monday, March 21.

[Here are some statistics](#) about the ship. Here is [much more detail about the ship and its itinerary](#) until more than a month from now, when it sails across the Atlantic for summer in the Mediterranean before returning in November to the Caribbean for regular service to SXM and other islands.

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## 5. Why to Buy Winter 2022-23 Tickets Now

Because of the current volatility in crude oil prices, the cost of jet fuel, cruise prices, and all other commodities either created with or shipped using petroleum-based products are likely to increase in cost - barring a miracle in Europe. Locking in prices for fares for trips you are taking next spring, summer, fall, or winter seems like a smart move that could wind up saving you significant dollars.

*Barring any problems in the tropics during hurricane season, demand next winter (as well as in the near term over the next six months) for trips to the Caribbean could well be at record levels - so we strongly suggest you lock in fares now while prices are still reasonable.*

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## 6. Got a Spare \$40,000++? If Not, Get SkyMed Medical Evacuation Protection BEFORE Traveling Anywhere

***\$40,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you must pay out-of-pocket should you need an emergency medical evacuation while traveling anywhere in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, or anywhere in the Caribbean.***

**By contrast, SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® for zero dollars** when you become critically ill or injured in any of those countries if you are a SkyMed member. All it takes is one phone call and SkyMed arranges everything. That \$40,000 you would pay if you're not a SkyMed member assumes that you can make all the arrangements, find and hire the jet, make sure it is properly outfitted for the specific medical problems you face, staff it with appropriate medical professionals who are cleared to travel back home to the US or Canada, and take care of customs, immigration, and loads of other paperwork including ambulances to and from airports and getting your records to the destination hospital.

It sounds complicated because it is - and having to do all this in a medical emergency is a daunting task for anyone who has never done it. For about \$1.64/day for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership, SkyMed will do all of this stuff once you make a single quick phone call: For more information, call us today at 508-591-3483 or email

[Jeff.Berger@skymed.com](mailto:Jeff.Berger@skymed.com)

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## 7. Guide to SXM Entry Requirements Updated

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.

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## 8. 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.

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### **Etc./Weather**

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

The hurricane/weather center in our main site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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.

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## 10. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.*

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## **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](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)**

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## 11. 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 鏡淳 ¥ 申 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](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks..

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

## 12. 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 痠 · 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 痠 · we have had zero complaints there as well.

Third, if you'd like a condo on SXM 痠 · to rent or buy 痠 · see our timeshare and other condo rentals, hundreds of them, on our main site, [everythingSXM.com](http://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.

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

**Dozens of new listings of timeshare (and soon other) condominiums for rent and for sale for 2022 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://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.

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## 14. 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 痠 - 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.

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## 15. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help

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

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

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

See the video [here](#).

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

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## 16. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, everythingSXM.com and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there.

For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of everythingSXM.com. As a member, you will have access to a growing package of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at 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.

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### **SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits**

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

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

We are now working to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, car rentals, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our **JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program**. As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). We hope to finish these updates during Q2, 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](#).

If you're a JMB member and have not yet seen your Gift Certificate, email us at [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com) with your full name and membership number and we'll email it to you. It can be used **ONLY** by current JMB members with active unexpired memberships. Your membership card **MUST** be presented at Caribbean Gems to receive the discount.

## 18. 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.

## 19. 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

**20. 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.**

**21. 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 鏡淳 ¥ 申 payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must get your SkyMed membership before you need it 鏡淳 ¥ 申 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](mailto: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<sup>速</sup> 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](mailto: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  
3/21/22

## 22. Answering Your Questions: What Does SkyMed Really Do? *---An Important Message 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](mailto: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](http://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.

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## 23. SXM Significantly Busier Than Usual for Late March; Continued Busy Outlook Through Summer

As the calendar hits late March every year, the number of tourists on SXM usually starts a late winter/early spring decline 痿 · but that is not happening this year.

**SXM continues to enjoy what seems to be a post-Covid surge in tourism.** From downtown merchants to restaurants to hotels and timeshares, SXM businesses are enjoying for the first time in about five years a solid stretch of good business. Business in the fall of 2017 was literally obliterated by category five hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane in Atlantic basin history. Two years later, just as the island began to feel something of a recovery, the Covid Pandemic hit.

**For SXM businesses, the good news does not end there:** expectations are that the rest of this spring and particularly this summer will see unusually strong SXM tourism from the US, once most remaining Covid restrictions are lifted and people celebrate a return to normalcy.

Despite the volatility in oil prices (see story in section 1), airfares have not risen as much as might have been expected 痿 · another positive note.

Regarding fall expectations, only mother nature knows what is going to happen during hurricane season 痿 · but there's good news on that front as well, which is that SXM is far better prepared to withstand the next hurricane than it was back in 2017 when Irma and Maria both landed here thanks to **Build Back Better**.

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## 24. Mask Mandates Largely Gone, as are Closings Before 2am

Mask mandates are now pretty much gone across the island, as are bar/restaurant closings before 2 AM. ☒☒ Since Entry Requirements on the island are still in force, a complete return to normalcy has not yet occurred 痿 · but the signs are quite clear that it's coming.

Beyond that, the United States reclassification of SXM from level IV to level III concerning Covid, though ridiculously late, nonetheless is an improvement. As of last Saturday afternoon, the number of active Covid cases on the Dutch side was down to 26. At that height of the omicron phase of the Covid Pandemic earlier this year, it was around 2600 痿 · an enormous thoroughly positive change. ☒☒ We will continue to report on Entry Requirements and what hopefully will be the last days of the Covid Pandemic in our Getting Here section at the beginning of this newsletter (section 1).

## 25. Grand Prize Winners of Our 2021 SXM Vacation Giveaway Dining Their Way Through SXM

EverythingSXM conducted a vacation giveaway in March of last year even though at that time tourism numbers were still down. Tens of thousands of entries were placed by want to be vacationers, among whom were Patty and Bob from far northern Maine, where brutal cold was the order of the day throughout the entire winter.

They arrived here in SXM about 10 days ago, staying for the first week at **Belair Beach Hotel**, their vacation prize, where they were greeted with an enormous food basket and where Gingerbread Caf , the hotel's restaurant, (which by the way may have the very best French toast on the entire island), remained open so they could have a bite to eat. They had been awake since 4 AM that day to catch their flights on American Airlines, which lost their luggage somewhere in Pennsylvania (it arrived a couple of days later). They were tired and ravenous, and Gingerbread saved the day.

Their car rental prize from **Leisure Car Rental** took them everywhere the following week including to **Vesna Taverna, Isola, David Foini's Izi Ristorante Italiano, and on Friday night to Mario's Bistro** - all of which were prizes in our vacation giveaway. Patty reported about all of it on Friday morning in a roughly 20 minute segment on **Island92 radio with Jeff "Dr. Soc" Sochrin** - thoroughly enjoying their vacation experience, which continues this week on the French side.

Our warmest congratulations to Patty and Bob and our best wishes for continued wonderful tropical vacations here on SXM..

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## 26. We're Giving Away SIX SXM Vacations - Want One?

EverythingSXM.com will be celebrating 10 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](http://sxmweeklynews.com) now to subscribe FREE before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

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## 27. Don't Forget Your Free \$100 Gift Certificate from Caribbean

## Gems - Yours With Our Compliments

If you haven't yet taken advantage of the \$100 gift certificate we have available for you from Caribbean Gems, plan to do so on your next trip to SXM. Whether you're buying something for \$150 or \$5000, that \$100 savings is still in your pocket.

This offer is exclusively for members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program, which currently offers about 300 discounts and other benefits across the island. If you are not yet a JMB Website Supporters member, know that the program is undergoing a significant metamorphosis/upgrading now to add still more benefits to our "Benefits Master Index", a process which we hope to finish sometime in June.

If you're currently a JMB Website Supporters member and don't have your certificate, email us with your membership number at [JMBCOMMS@Gmail.com](mailto:JMBCOMMS@Gmail.com) and we will be happy to send the certificate to you by email if your membership in JMB Website Supporters is current. If it isn't, you must renew it before visiting the island, since the current, active membership card is required to use the certificate. We will email you a certificate once your membership has been renewed. ☒☒ Don't ask for or attempt to present a certificate unless you have your current, valid JMB website supporters membership card in hand 痠 · it is a strict requirement to use the \$100 gift certificate and Caribbean Gems 痠 · either store in Philipsburg on Front Street. ☒☒

## 28. The Next Big Thing on SXM: The 2022 Dutch Side Carnival

Easily rivaling the Heineken Regatta in anticipation but likely surpassing it in pure unadulterated fun this year will be the 2022 St. Maarten Carnival. Carnival related events begin on March 30 and end early in May. We posted the complete schedule for the 2022 carnival last Friday in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#); see that post for specific information.

For more, go [here](#).

## 29. 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**痠 · /strong>

**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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.**

Available exclusively to Americans and Canadians. SkyMed TAKES YOU HOME® 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.

## 30. Antoine Jurczenko Passes; Known for Antoine's Restaurant in Philipsburg

We have just learned of the passing of Antoine Jurczenko, dad of Daniel Jurczenko. Antoine was best known as the founder of Antoine's Restaurant in Philipsburg, in its day a revered culinary landmark. We miss him and give our warmest condolences to Daniel Jurczenko, his wife Tina and their family. A thread about this was posted late last week in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 31. On Beaches, Hardly Any Seaweed

Much of this issue has brought you substantial good news about SXM; here's more.

*On the island beaches, there is currently hardly any Sargassum seaweed. Broken off from the Sargasso Sea which is well Southwest of Bermuda, this special kind of seaweed has impacted beaches in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and countries all away down to northern South America for the last 10 years. Right now, and for much of this past winter, it hasn't been much of a factor here in SXM. When it is, special equipment comes in to remove it. At this time of year, special efforts are made to ensure that no sea turtle nesting sites are approached.*

We recently ran a story about sea turtle nesting sites, from which you should stay away to protect the fragile hatchlings.. See that story in our [SXM weekly news PDF archives](#) by using the search window for Turtle.

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## 32. Many Many Mangoes May Mean Mean Monkey Madness!

Although no official census of them has been taken, many people believe there are at least a couple of thousand wild Vervet monkeys on the island. Years ago some people had them as pets but released them when they became too big and difficult to control. In the island's lush climate and with many wild fruit and nut trees growing almost everywhere, the monkeys have thrived. Although some tourists think they're cute, they're actually a nuisance since they love to visit residents vegetable gardens and have a feast 瘼 · in groups.

This year, the island's mango trees are putting forth bumper crops, a great thing unless the monkeys get there before the mango tree owners do. Monkeys defend what they regard as their food or their territory, so it is not at all unusual for people who own mango trees where monkeys are feasting to have to hide from mean monkeys that may throw mangoes at them. You read that right 瘼 · and some of those monkeys throw like pitchers at spring training...

If you have or are near mango trees and monkeys are present, watch out.

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## 33. Want a Donkey to Stick Its Head in Your Car?

Have you ever thought about how much fun it would be to have a donkey stick his head in your car?

We don't think it's such a nifty idea, given the fact that some insects could occupy a donkey's fur. Nonetheless, people drive to the hill in Anse Marcel before the French side dump, since on that hill donkeys are raised. Some people arrive with food for them which the donkeys are happy to take.

For this enterprise, we suggest you get out of the car, dump the food near the donkeys, and get back in the car and close the windows. But if you are adventurous and don't mind donkey breath or insects, leave your windows open and they might just stick their head inside your car looking for food.

To each his or her own....

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## 34. Restaurant of the Week: Mandarin Pan Asian

**Setting / Location:** At Wyndham Princess Port de Plaisance near the Casino entrance, Mandarin Pan Asian offers a spectrum of "pan Asian" dining, both in their large seating area indoors and outside in their protected terrace dining area not far from the yacht basin.

**Offerings:** Mandarin Pan Asian offers lots of Far eastern dining choices (Thai, Chinese, Japanese), but our favorites here are all their Japanese offerings. Unlike many other restaurants in SXM, they offer a significant variety of fish -- not just salmon and tuna and one or two others. Lots of preparation choices including sashimi, nigiri sushi, and lots of creative rolls. Pricing is reasonable for SXM and the quality of the fish is very fresh and delicious.

**Summary:** Great dining (takeout available), excellent portion sizes, experienced servers, reasonable prices. Plus, they are a winner of our Culinary Award of Excellence for 2022. Lots of easy parking in their adjacent lot.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Mandarin Pan Asian at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 3/21/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Highly recommended.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

Blue Bitch Bar [www.bluebitchbar.com](http://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](http://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](http://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. Dinner Reservations Remain 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.

## 36. 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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mySXM).

## 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](mailto: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.

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## 38. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 3/21/22)

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](http://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:**

Medwork (first floor 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](http://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](http://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 3/21/22

## 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 鏡淳 ¥ 申 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](http://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? Email Jeff at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto: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](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) 鏡淳 ¥ 申 along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership 鏡淳 ¥ 申 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 [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com) (new address) 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 continues to increase 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) 鏡緒申 -- 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 鏡緒申 here: [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) 鏡緒申 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 鏡緒申

- A. Where to Get Member Info: [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://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](http://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?鑄緒申>

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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](mailto: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](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

Privacy Policy [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

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