

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 4/18/22: Rob Lightbown Issues His '22 Hurricane Season Prediction; Using Our "Guide to Entry Reqs / Returning to US Reqs"; Why "Normalization" May Not Happen All That Quickly; Mask Reqs for US Airlines Stays Put, for Now; Christopher Elliott on the Proposed jetBlue / Spirit Merger; Small Plane Crashes on Landing in St. Barth, but No One Reported Injured; Author Russell Clark's Latest SXM Novel; Airfares Continue Rising as Demand Soars; Lots of Reasons an SXM Summer Vacation Is a Better Choice Than Where You're Thinking of Going; Letter to SXM Weekly News Readers from Jeff Berger [Issue #1343 -- 37 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Happy Easter & Happy Passover!

Vol. 4, #1343 ---- Monday, April 18, 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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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.*

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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 6/25/2022 7/2/2022 26 Simpson Bay Resort, Spa, and Marina Lovely penthouse unit in Flamboyant building directly on the beach. Master bedroom is upstairs with gorgeous view of Simpson Bay. A second bedroom is on the first floor of the unit.** There is a full kitchen and living room and great balcony with breathtaking view of the beach and the turquoise waters of the bay. There are 2 bathrooms, one with master bedroom and one downstairs. Renter will be responsible to pay a \$50 resort tax at the end of the week upon checkout. \$1,650.00 Pam 757-868-6001 [pam\\_falls@msn.com](mailto:pam_falls@msn.com)

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

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

**SALE** 11/6/2022 11/13/2022 Week 45 **Flamingo Beach Club** Beautifully renovated studio, sleeps 4, water view overlooking the pool. \$5,000.00 Marie [mobolero@hotmail.com](mailto:mobolero@hotmail.com)

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

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

### **"Like" Our All-New "Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" MeWe Group**

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

### **Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:**

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

[http://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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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...**

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### All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\*

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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. Exactly Where to Find Our Guide to SXM Entry Requirements / Return to US Requirements (Updated)

Tens of thousands of tourists will be visiting SXM this summer and fall, with hundreds of thousands coming next winter. Planning for all of these visits is well underway.

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 must still apply for the required preapproval.

To access the just-updated second edition of our Guide to Entry Requirements, *which is free*, go [through this link](#) (revised) to the files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). You should be able to access the file easily if you are already a Facebook member.

Further updates may happen as the number of hospitalizations on the island stays very low. See next story.

## 2. Thanks to Rising Covid Numbers, "Normalization" of Reqts for Americans Returning to the US May Not Happen Quickly

As recently as a few weeks ago, it had been widely expected that US Entry Requirements (for people returning from overseas trips) would be relaxed because of greatly diminished Covid cases overseas.

But as most readers know, during the last several weeks, Covid numbers have been spiking just as many protocols for preventing Covid infections have been relaxed in various jurisdictions worldwide. We have not reached herd immunity and part of the reason is that not enough people have been immunized with the available Covid vaccines.

Consequently, normalization of US return requirements for American citizens who have visited foreign countries including SXM appears unlikely to happen anytime soon — although we hope we're wrong.

As always, we will keep our eyes on US return requirements and will update our Guide quickly when those requirements change; please see the prior article.

As we have been reporting, the last several months have seen a marked improvement in the numbers of Covid cases in SXM, which has resulted in a certain degree of softening of the Dutch side Entry Requirements as described in our Guide (see story #1, above).

### 3. Mask Requirement for US Airlines Stays Put Until Early May

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has elected to continue mask requirements on US airplanes until May 3. The full story is [here](#).

Although most passengers are tired of the requirements, most also understand the requirements have helped stop the spread of Covid for airline passengers. But now, rising numbers of infections throughout much of the world appear to be the reason for this decision.

Airline passengers should be reassured that passenger airliners are not the petri dishes that some people believe they are. To the contrary, the flow of air inside passenger jets is from the ceiling to the floor — not laterally, which could easily spread viruses from one passenger to another. Moreover, the air inside today's passenger airliners changes about once every three minutes — and hospital-grade HEPA filters are used on those same airplanes to help remove viruses.

At some point, mask requirements should go away as we genuinely move beyond the Covid Pandemic: for now, however, government officials seem focused on trying to prevent the further spread of Covid viruses in a virus-weary world.

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### 4. jetBlue Cancels a JFK-SXM Flight...as Airline Staffing Issues Hit Home

Within the last several days, jetBlue had told passengers who already had boarding passes for one of its JFK to SXM nonstops this past weekend that their flight had been canceled. In addition, thousands of jetBlue passengers who had confirmed reservations to SXM from Fort Lauderdale between May 1 and September 30 were notified weeks ago that their flights were canceled. The airline has discontinued flights between Fort Lauderdale and SXM temporarily because of staffing issues.

Perhaps because the airline is based in New York and perhaps because it does so much business there, many people may have assumed that New York would be the last place to see flight cancellations — but they would've been wrong.

JetBlue has become the poster child for a phenomenon that is happening throughout America's economy. Although unemployment is low, one of the reasons is that hundreds of thousands of people, if not millions, have left jobs that they determined during the Covid Pandemic were unpalatable. As a result, there is a national shortage of truck drivers, airline pilots, airline personnel, retail workers, and airline telephone reservationists. The phenomenon has become known by several names, most notably *The Great Resignation*.

The bottom line is the same across the spectrum of employees across the US: while staying home during the last two years because of Covid, many simply decided that the jobs they had before Covid are not what they want to be doing going forward, and they have quit in huge numbers.

Many airlines today are competing with other airlines for personnel who may not even be interested in returning to jobs in the airline industry. As we have said here for several weeks, this is not a situation that lends itself to a tidy or quick solution.

Demand for air travel is at record highs, far ahead of anything most analysts had expected so soon after the pandemic. Oil prices spiked a couple of weeks ago and seemed to be declining somewhat, though the market remains extremely volatile.

The situation with airlines may not get better until US airline mask mandates go away, which could possibly make former airline personnel feel less likely to encounter passenger hostility... That could conceivably lead to some returning to work. Is that mere wishful thinking?

Hopefully in the near future we will all find out.

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### 5. Are You Flying in a 737 Max? Why It Doesn't Matter...

Soon after Boeing 737 Max Airliners began returning to the air several months ago, passengers expressed concern about whether they wanted to fly in the newly fixed airplanes. Neither Boeing nor the airlines that fly the 737 Max — grounded for about two years after two widely publicized fatal crashes that were later blamed on faulty software — went

out of their way to celebrate the aircraft type's return to service. They just started flying them again.

In all probability, the 737s Max is now the most thoroughly tested, painstakingly reviewed and upgraded aircraft in the skies. As most people who fly already know, air travel is far safer than driving your car. Boeing has a lot going on the safety of its 737 Max aircraft — and do the airlines flying this new flagship aircraft.

Except for JetBlue, which doesn't fly any Boeing aircraft, most US carriers serving SXM fly Boeing jets — so the chances are you may well fly a 737 Max on a future flight to the island. Relax and enjoy your flight: that airplane may very well be the safest passenger jet currently flying in the skies of planet Earth..

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## 6. Got a Spare \$45,000? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a MedEvac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$45,000 or more payable in cash in advance could be what you must pay out-of-pocket should you need 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 does everything. That \$45,000 you might have to spend without SkyMed 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 and getting your records to your Destination hospital.** By contrast, SkyMed does all of that and its members pay \$0 for the evacuation or ambulances.

Setting up medical evacuations 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 that single quick phone call.

For more information, call us today at 508-591-3483 or [Jeff.Berger@skymed.com](mailto:Jeff.Berger@skymed.com). Include your phone number and time zone so we can call back and get all your questions answered. We can also take your application by phone in roughly 10 minutes.

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## 7. 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**

## 8. Rob Lightbown Issues His '22 Hurricane Season Prediction

What follows are excerpts from meteorologist Rob Lightbown's full prediction concerning the 2022 hurricane season. His complete report — available to subscribers of his private forecasting service — will be of enormous interest to everyone who lives on the Atlantic coast or in the Canadian Maritimes or in the Caribbean, where hurricanes may strike. Learn much more about his forecasting service — available for a remarkably economical fee — here, at [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

Here is our brief summary:

**Summary:** I am forecasting yet another above average tropical storm and hurricane season. The reason for this is due to the potential for a third consecutive year with La Nina conditions, the forecast of above average ocean water temperatures and the possibility of widespread average to slightly lower than average wind shear conditions.

With that said, there is some uncertainty with exactly how active things may be. The reason why is because there aren't too many cases in history that have a third consecutive year with La Nina conditions. Those that do (which include 1894, 1910, 1917, 1956, 1975, 1985 and 2000) ended up overall with near average or below average activity.

**The Numbers:** 16 Named Storms, 9 of those storms becoming Hurricanes and 3 of those hurricanes becoming Major Hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale).



There are about three areas that I'm most concerned about for this upcoming season in terms of a tropical storm or hurricane impact.

**The First Area Is** the Leeward Islands, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Both the analog data and the seasonal guidance such as the NMME, CFS and European seasonal guidance are showing signals that this is going to be a spot to really keep an eye on.

**The Second Area Of Particular Concern Is** a corridor from the northern Bahamas and southeast Florida through South and North Carolina to the Mid-Atlantic coast and Southern New England. Analog data points to that tropical storm/hurricane activity could be steered in this direction. These indications are supported by all of the seasonal guidance.

**The Third Area Of Concern Is** the Northern US Gulf Coast from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle. With the possibility of an East Coast mean trough, it could lead to any systems pushing across the Caribbean to be steered northward towards the US Gulf Coast.

Even though your area may have a low or medium risk this season, be aware that any small fluctuations in the upper level weather pattern at the "wrong" time could threaten the low or medium risk areas.

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## 9. Top Sources of SXM Weather/Hurricane Info for 2022

Here are SIX 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 Center / Hurricane Center" at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 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](#) 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 so you'll 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.
6. 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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## **SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc**

## **10. 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. It is generally updated weekly and we have already started to accept rentals for 2023. Rentals were recently added for the Christmas holidays at the end of this year.

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## 11. Hundreds of SXM Timeshare & Condo Rentals Available for 2022 and Now 2023

**Dozens of new listings of timeshare (and soon other) condominiums for rent and for sale for both 2022 and 2023 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 week.

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## 12. 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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## 13. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

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

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



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

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## 14. 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](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 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 15. 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](#).

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## 16. Reminder: Members May Now Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and Privately Owned SXM Condominiums On Our Site

We are now accepting advertising for both timeshare resort condominiums as well as privately owned condominiums on the island directly from their owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from both 2022 and 2023. Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

Not a member? Join us by clicking the page curl on our main site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). All the details you need are there.

See next story.

## 17. JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program Major Update Expected to Complete This Summer...

The huge update we have been working on for some time of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program — which coincides with a major server upgrade and upgrades to two mission-critical programs for our new servers — is taking longer than we had originally hoped.. Unfortunately, this seems to be a common theme among many businesses dealing with personnel shortages among their principal contractors. In any case, we believe this major upgrade should be finished sometime this coming summer. We will keep you aware of program changes and apologize for the delay.

## 18. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters and SkyMed Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 4/18/22)

**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.**
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.
3. **Our new email is [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com);** use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. Thank you.

### 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.**

**\*\*\*These MILITARY benefits are IN ADDITION TO the benefits for all new members!\*\*\***

**20. THE STORY: 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](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*® 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  
4/18/22

## 21. 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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## 22. Consumer Advocate Christopher Elliott on the Proposed jetBlue / Spirit Merger

Consumer advocate Christopher Elliott, whose work is published in *USA Today* and in many other publications, is perhaps best known for his consumer advocacy on behalf of airline passengers and everyone who travels anywhere on planet Earth.

See his site, [elliott.org](http://elliott.org).

He is clearly on the side of travelers and has expressed dissatisfaction with the level of charges airlines are levying for things that at one time in history were free....

In this [absorbing article](#), he explores the proposed merger between jetBlue and Spirit Airlines. He explains things that are similar and dissimilar between both, and opines about why the proposed merger may hurt airline service instead of enhance it as jetBlue says.

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## 23. Small Plane Crashes on Landing in St. Barth; No One Reported Injured

No one was injured late last week when a small Piper aircraft crash-landed in St. Barths.

The airport there has a notoriously short runway, much of which requires approaching aircraft to fly in low over a street atop a hill and immediately hit the runway on the side of the hill, so the aircraft can stop before the short runway ends at a beach next to the water. The airport can be used only by small STOL aircraft with highly experienced pilots.

Video of the incident indicates that the aircraft didn't descend quickly enough after crossing the road, then came down hard on the runway -- so hard that its right landing gear collapsed. The aircraft then spun out of control into grass off the runway. Fortunately, it did not catch fire and no one was injured. An investigation is underway into the exact cause.

Here is more about [another plane](#) that had a much less happy landing in St. Barth a number of years ago. Here is the story of last week's [crash landing](#).

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## 24. Author Russell Clark's Latest SXM Novel Takes You Back to SXM In an Instant....

We've written here before about SXM adventure novelist Russell Clark's series of novels on the life of a number of characters in SXM and elsewhere. Their paths across the island weave through places familiar to SXM visitors --



restaurants in Simpson Bay, jewelry stores on Front Street in Philipsburg, the world's steepest zipline, plus beaches you're familiar with and night sports you've quite likely enjoyed.

The latest book in the series about Ben Carlisle is *Celebrating in the Islands*, and you can get it in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle editions on Amazon [here](#).

**Notes:** *The Flying Dutchman, St. Maarten's and the world's steepest zip line, holds the answer to a mystery thousands of years old. To unearth its secret, Paul needs a diversion of onlookers, and calls on Sylvie and friends to distract with their flirtatious best. Debi and Dean have their much anticipated island wedding. The unique, fun-filled ceremony and party, celebrated with free-spirited friends, will be remembered for the ages. With planned gatherings on the Dutch side, impromptu beach parties, and discovering intimate settings on French beaches, celebrating in the islands has never been better.*

Once you've read author Clark's latest, you'll want to go back and see all his previous SXM-related novels. Links to all of the books can also be found at <https://islandtude.com/>

Great fun beach reading in the entire series.

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## 25. Airfares Continue Rising as Seat Demand Continues to Soar

If you're planning to visit SXM this Summer, Fall, next Winter, or next Spring, buy your tickets now. The demand for seats has continued to soar though the price of crude oil and jet fuel remains volatile thanks to Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Seats may well become more expensive -- and more difficult to come buy as scheduled flights fill up, so buy now.

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## 26. Flying This Summer? Here's Something Else You Should Know

**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](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(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.

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## 27. Lots of Reasons an SXM Summer Vacation Is a Better Choice Than Where You're Thinking of Going...

Reason #1...The weather... SXM summer weather is tempered by the temperature of the ocean, which can be in the upper 80s. The likelihood of temperatures in the high 90s — which can easily happen in the sweltering US during the summer — is almost impossible in SXM. Beyond that, SXM has lower humidity than you will typically find in large US metropolitan areas — and there is also normally a soothing seabreeze. The only negative is that toward the end of August, tropical cyclones may be nearby.

Reason #2...Traffic... SXM during the summer is typically not busy, since many people in the US flock to the Jersey shore, Long Island beaches, Cape Cod, Florida, Southern California, or mountain lakes across the country. So in SXM, there are fewer people so there is less congestion across the island, on its beaches, in its restaurants, at the airport, on the roads, and so on. Less congestion everywhere -- and far better weather -- and lowers accommodations costs are

very good things.

Reason #3... Better beaches. The spectrum of beaches in SXM is probably better than where you come from. SXM has some perfectly legal nude beaches, too, sought by thousands of tourists during the year who have long since concluded that tan lines are ugly. And many beaches have concessions or hotels offering beautiful accommodations, great food, and a lack of crowds that would be a welcome relief from the hordes you're accustomed to in the US.

Reason #4...Most of SXM's great restaurants on both sides of the island remain open during the summer -- service is at its best and as you know, dining in SXM is downright spectacular. Rent-a-car rates are lower in summer, too.

Reason #5...Dozens of high-quality jewelry stores in Philipsburg, the jewelry capital of the Caribbean, are ready with great pieces for upcoming birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, engagements, UPGRADES, and much more.

Reason #6... The best and biggest surprise you can ever give your spouse or partner or girlfriend / boyfriend / family... Just do it...

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## 28. 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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## 28a. Restaurant of the Week: Melange International Grill

**Setting / Location:** Wyndham Port de Plaisance Resort, next door to the Princess Casino.

**Offerings:** A spectrum of international dining delights to please every palate. (Note: If you like Asian food, try their Mandarin Pan Asian Restaurant, a 30-second walk to the other side of the entrance to Princess Casino. Both restaurants offer open-air seating.) American, Caribbean, Fusion, Brazilian -- you've got to try this place. See next section.

**Summary:** Check their full menu [here](#). Click on each section for a much larger view. Gluten free choices available. There is an eclectic menu that truly offers something for everyone. You can visit a dozen times and have entirely different selections on each visit -- all delicious with generous portions. Don't put it off...

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Melange International Grill, Port de Plaisance (next to Princess Casino entrance).** (featured 4/18/22) A spectrum of delightful offerings from Europe, the USA, and South America. One of the most eclectic menus on SXM. Delicious dining.

**Mama Pizza,** Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 4/4/22) 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>

**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 (rum is the French spelling) and rum cake when you dine. Open until late night. Sports on TV. From cops to billionaires, everyone loves Toppers.

**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....

[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.

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.

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## 29. 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).

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## 30. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED):

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.**
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.
3. **Our new email is [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com); use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

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## 31. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 4/18/22)

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)

## **BOUTIQUES**

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort

## **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)

### **FISHING CHARTERS**

**Taylor Made fishing charters**, Captain Dougie. Full day or half day Call WhatsApp # 721-524-7510

### **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)**

**My Net Immo (French Side)**

## **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**

**NAVY BEACH**

**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)**

**Villa Kimon**

**Daffodil Villa**

**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 4/18/22

## 32. 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](#).

## 33. 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.

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## 34. 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.

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## 35. 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).

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## **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](http://skymed.com/jmb) or 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](#)**

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**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](http://island92.com) ...**

**and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air most Mondays**

**between about 9:45am and 10am island time  
on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.**

## 36. 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](#) 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](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

Tourism is returning in a big way and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases in the months ahead. Contact us today for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):**

**[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)**

### Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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) 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](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?>

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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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