

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/28/22: Update on Pilots' Unions' Negotiations with Four Major US Airlines; Six Cruise Ships Bring 15,000 Passengers to P-Burg -- 90+ Ships Coming in December; Hurricane Season Ends; Some Rentals Available for December, Many for '23; "Jollification" in Philipsburg; Unique Christmas Music; Sushi Stops at Pineapple Pete This Week; LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - Villa Kimon Vacation Giveaway Drawing Set Dec. 5; Entries MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY 11/30 [Issue #1373 51 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]

Can't see this newsletter? Go [HERE](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.



Vol. 4, #1373 ---- Monday, November 28, 2022
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

Entire Contents Copyright, ©, JMB Communications, Plymouth, MA 02362-1812, 2022.
World rights reserved.

[This Week's Stories](#)

[Airfare, Airlines & Weather News](#)

[Everything SXM Home Page](#)

[Island News](#)

[Lodging News](#)

[Members SECRET Website Login](#)

Member News

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

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

Copyright 息, JMB Communications, 2022. See [Legal](#) for reprint requests, page bottom.

From: www.jmbcommunications.com

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

Add jeff1620@jmbcommunications.com to your address book
to be sure you receive this newsletter every week.

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

********Unsubscribe info is at the end of this newsletter.********

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 over 376,000 people around the world.

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



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



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

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

Download PDFs of recent editions here in our **SXM WEEKLY NEWS PDF ARCHIVES:**

http://everythingsexm.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

TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

TOP STORIES in today's SXM Weekly News:

Getting Here; Weather:

- ***Delta Pilot Contract Negotiations Update***
- ***AA, UA Negotiations Plodding Along***
- ***AA Pilots Flying "On the Brink of Fatigue," AA Union Charges***
- ***ALPA: "Plenty of Pilots," Just No Ability to Quickly Certificate Them So They Can Fly***
- ***JetBlue Pilots Now Also Demanding New Contract***
- ***Watch for Flight Schedule Changes That Make Connecting Times Inadequate***
- ***"Greenliner" Testing More Eco-Friendly Ways to Fly***
- ***Six Cruise Ships, 15,000 Passengers Visited SXM Last Wednesday; Front Street Opened for Pedestrians Only***
- ***P&O Cruises Eyeing Antigua, St. Maarten for Home Porting***
- ***Hurricane Season Ends This Wednesday***
- ***Where to Find Current SXM Weather Info***

SXM Accommodations:

- ***Some '22, Many '23 SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Available***
- ***Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas***
- ***Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help (including Residency)***
- ***How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units***

Other Island Headlines for Tourists:

- ***Woman's Car Goes Haywire in Carrefour Parking Lot; Demolition Derby Results***
- ***Two Accidents Cause Big Traffic Jams on SXM: Were These Delays Unavoidable?***
- ***Jollification, Good Cheer Coming as Philipsburg Gets "Maagical" Dec. 17-18***
- ***Pineapple Pete to Discontinue Serving Sushi Effective December 2***
- ***Your Invitation to Our January 20 SkyMed Member Appreciation Event (You Need Not be a Member)***
- ***VP-BAP, 55-Year-Old Private 727, at SXM Airport***
- ***Plane Watchers: Avoid Walking on Beacon Hill Road***
- ***At Orient Beach, Beware of Rocks in the Water***
- ***Holiday Music Started in Early November & Won't Stop Until January***
- ***The Uniquely Caribbean Side of Christmas Music***
- ***LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - Vacation Giveaway Drawing Set Dec. 5; Entries MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY***
- ***POPULAR DUTCH SIDE RESTAURANT FOR SALE***
- ***SKYMED'S Up to 22 Weeks Free with Ultimate Purchase MUST END 12/31: Buy Now***
- ***Restaurant of the Week:***
- ***First Responders Now Get Platinum Benefits***
- ***Please Patronize JMB Sponsors***

Please see our **[complete Table of Contents](#)** below.

In This Issue: 51 News Stories

Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents

Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at **http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml** and features them here.

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Rental of The Week:

RENTAL 12/17/2022 12/31/2022 Weeks 51-52 The Atrium Beach Resort & Spa 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Beautiful Unit. Ocean View, Full Kitchen, Large Suite. Great Location, Close To Lots Of Great Beaches, Restaurants, Etc.

1200 per week Jason 416-949-2737 jwachtel@rogers.com

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

SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Sale of The Week:

SALE 1/22/2023 1/29/2023 3 Simpson Bay Resort and Marina Beaumontia Building, fixed and deeded Week Sunday to Sunday but you can bank or trade your week one bedroom sleeps four 3rd floor ocean view, week 1,2 & 4 also available Highly discounted from Resort resale 8,000 Richard 815 236-0642 cubsgo100@gmail.com Posted 10-22.

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

Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS -- This Week's Stories

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest. This week's Table of Contents follows these links:

"Like" Our ["Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM" Facebook Group](#):



<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://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

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

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

COMPLETE Table of Contents

Section One: Getting Here: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, Going Home, Etc./ Weather --Scroll Down in This Section--

Getting Here:

1. Delta Pilot Contract Negotiations Update
2. AA, UA Negotiations Plodding Along
3. AA Pilots Flying "On the Brink of Fatigue," AA Union Charges
4. ALPA: "Plenty of Pilots," Just No Ability to Quickly Certify Them So They Can Fly
5. JetBlue Pilots Now Also Demanding New Contract
6. Watch for Flight Schedule Changes That Make Connecting Times Inadequate
7. "Greenliner" Testing More Eco-Friendly Ways to Fly
8. Six Cruise Ships, 15,000 Passengers Visited SXM Last Wednesday; Front Street Opened for Pedestrians Only
9. P&O Cruises Eyeing Antigua, St. Maarten for Home Porting
10. Without Major Infrastructure Changes, "Home Porting" Could Create Traffic Nightmares
11. Medical Evacuation Costs Soar; Got \$45,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency
12. FINAL MONTH == **ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31**: 22 Additional Weeks FREE From SkyMed with Ultimate Global

5-year Medevac Memberships (Act Quickly If You're Planning a Trip to Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia)

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

Etc.; Weather

14. Hurricane Season Ends This Wednesday, November 30...

15. Winter Weather May be Warmer in Many Areas, NOAA Predicts

16. Where to Find Current SXM Weather Information

Section Two: Accommodations (*Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas, Etc.*)

--Scroll Down To This Section--

17. Establish Residency FIRST if You're Buying a Condo or Villa in SXM

17a. For SXM Condo Buyers, Some Critically Important Advice

18. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help (including Residency)

19. Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

20. Some '22, Many '23 SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Remain Available

21. Reminder: JMB Members May Advertise Both Timeshare Weeks They Own and

Privately Owned SXM Condominiums for 2023 On Our Site; '24 Ads Accepted Next March

22. How To Rent Out Or Sell Your Timeshare Units

23. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, & Car Rentals

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

Section Three: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

--Scroll Down To This Section--

24. Discounts/Benefits Updates Continuing

25. Updated Contact Information for JMB Communications, JMB Website Supporters Members

Section Four: Island News, Info, & Features

--Scroll Down To This Section--

26. ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31: Get Up to 22 Bonus Weeks When You Buy SkyMed:

THIS WEEK'S TOP ISLAND NEWS:

27. THE FULL SKYMED STORY: What SkyMed Medevac Protection Is, Where & How It Works, and More

28. Answering Your Questions: *What Exactly Does SkyMed Do?*
---from Jeff Berger

29. BLACK FRIDAY SALE EXTENDED 'TIL 12/7: Get Hundreds of SXM Discounts & Other Benefits

30. Woman's Car Goes Haywire in Carrefour Parking Lot; Demolition Derby Results

31. Two Accidents Cause Big Traffic Jams on SXM: Were These Delays Unavoidable?

32. Jollification, Good Cheer Coming as Philipsburg Gets "Maagical" Dec. 17-18

33. Pineapple Pete to Discontinue Serving Sushi Effective December 1

34. Your Invitation to Our January 20 SkyMed Member Appreciation Event (You Need Not be a Member)

35. VP-BAP, 55-Year-Old Private 727, at SXM Airport

36. Plane Watchers: Avoid Walking on Beacon Hill Road

37. At Orient Beach, Beware of Rocks in the Water

38. Holiday Music Started in Early November & Won't Stop Until January

39. The Uniquely Caribbean Side of Christmas Music

40. LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - Vacation Giveaway Drawing Set Dec. 5; Entries MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY

41. POPULAR DUTCH SIDE RESTAURANT FOR SALE

42. Restaurant of the Week:

43. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web

44. Flying This Coming Winter? Here's Something You Should Know

45. Getting Answers to All Your Questions About SXM

46. Important Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters & SkyMed Sales Inquiries

- 47. Who Our Sponsors Are, and Why You Should Patronize Them
- 48. First Responders / Military / MDs & Nurses Now Get Platinum Benefits
- 49. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How
- 50. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

Section Five: For Members Only (Revised 8/2017)

- A. Where to Get Member Info: www.everythingsxm.com/secret
- B. Password Recovery Info: Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at www.everythingsxm.com.
- C. How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads: Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) (Revised 8/2017)

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

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

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

All JMB Newsletters Read *From JMB*

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

THIS WEEK'S STORIES:

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

GETTING HERE:

1. Delta Pilot Contract Negotiations Update

According to a reliable source from within Delta airlines, something significant may be happening this week with relation to the negotiations between the Delta pilots union and the airline.

For some time, pilots have been negotiating for a new contract from Delta and they have not been happy with the progress of negotiations to date. In fact, as we previously reported, Delta pilots voted in favor of going on strike should that be necessary.

Our source will remain unidentified since the source is not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. But here are excerpts from the source's comments:

Q. Is a new contact offer coming from Delta?

A. *Maybe, we'll see late next week. Our company president has been [called] by the mediator to be at next week's negotiations, along with our entire union leadership. These folks have decision making ability. So we'll see what happens.*

I think management and folks in DC are a little spooked by the prospect of the rail workers going on strike in two weeks and don't want the airlines adding any fuel to that fire??

Officially the union says our CEO has directed the president to get involved in negotiations. Unofficially we've heard that the mediator said get your ass there, [along with the pilots' MEC, or master executive council, the pilots' elected representatives who have formal decision making authority -Ed.].

Up to now the negotiating committee for the union and company have been doing all the work. They get direction from the company and union respectively and are not allowed to deviate from that direction without approval. So that approval authority will be ready for immediate action in the same building if needed next week.

Generally the mediator will not do this unless: 1) a deal is close, or 2) one side is being unreasonable and this is the wake-up call, or 3) if management is being unreasonable they'll force long negotiation sessions and perhaps summon our CEO to be directly involved. Upper management doesn't want to do that.

If they don't move their offer after that pressure the mediator may release [pilots] to self-help, which is the lead up to a strike which could happen (realistically) not earlier than 60 days later. It's actually a minimum of 30 days, a "cooling off" period, but Biden will get involved very shortly thereafter which will extend it an additional 30 days via a Presidential Emergency Board which will recommend a solution to the impasse [which Delta's pilot group almost certainly will reject, these recommendations are almost always slanted towards management -Ed].

If the pilots are being unreasonable than the mediator will "put them on ice" for a while (likely several months) for the union to reconsider its "ask" before resuming negotiations.

SXM Weekly News will continue to watch all negotiations closely, as always.

2. AA, UA Negotiations Plodding Along

Although there has been no public announcement from either American Airlines or United about the status of their contract negotiations, that's usually a sign that negotiations continue to plod along. When we have news from either of these airlines, we will publish it in the next edition of *SXM Weekly News* since the vast majority of our readers gets to the island on AA, UA, DL, or JB, all of which are now involved in discussions with their unions about new contracts.

See next story.

3. AA Pilots Flying "On the Brink of Fatigue," AA Union Charges

Despite the fact that the airlines aren't announcing anything (see previous story), pilots unions' PR arms continue to crank out stories to dramatize the plight of their members.

This recent story charges that AA pilots are flying "on the brink of fatigue" due to tight scheduling which offers no leeway in case of delays, increasing the likelihood of flight cancellations due to bad weather or delays caused by other factors. As the story notes, pilots must certify that they are fit to fly before flying any aircraft; if they are fatigued, they can't fly. That's why in this article they are charging that pilots are "on the brink of fatigue" but *not* fatigued.

Here is [the full story](#).

4. ALPA: "Plenty of Pilots," Just No Ability to Quickly Certificate Them So They Can Fly

Sometimes, semantics can add an enormous amount of confusion and misleading information to a discussion.

As we've explained before, the root cause of the current situation with the airlines is a pilot shortage caused by (in hindsight) an overzealous program at the beginning of the Pandemic to get thousands of senior pilots to retire early, enabling airlines to cut pilot expenses when the airlines were expecting the Pandemic to last for several years. The agreement signed by pilots was lucrative for them but it also stipulated that the pilots could not come back to work at the pay level they had been receiving — they could only return at the lowest level of pay for new pilots flying the aircraft type they were hired to fly.

So getting newly retired pilots to return to work was a nonstarter when air travel skyrocketed after an early "end" to the Pandemic. The shortage of qualified pilots has been widely blamed for the reduction in the number of flights and the current supply/demand situation in which the remaining flights have been priced very high by the airlines.

Here, the Allied Pilots Association (APA), which represents AA, argues that there are "plenty of pilots," just not the ability to get them "certificated" (properly certified) so they can fly the specific aircraft types they were hired to fly.

The fact is that there would be "plenty of pilots" if they were all properly certificated to fly today — but they are not -- hence the shortage.

From this argument, it looks like APA wants the process accelerated. The problem is that the process is what it is, which is meticulous and capable of accommodating limited numbers of new pilots. And it doesn't look like it could be ramped up as easily as APA might want us to believe — then again, perhaps it can and this situation could be accelerated.

See what you think; here is the [article](#).

5. JetBlue Pilots Now Also Demanding New Contract

Pilots in US airlines all seem to be in the same boat: airlines are scheduling as many flights as they think they can possibly execute, though such scheduling puts pilots and other crew members close to federal limits on the amount of time they can spend in the air. That, in turn, increases the likelihood of cancellations and/or further delays caused by weather and other issues, both of which create scheduling aggravations which screw up flight plans every day.

In the case of JetBlue, their contract is at the state where it says consideration can now be given to modifying the existing contract; it's open to discussion. JetBlue pilots in fact are as frustrated as their cohorts at American, United, and Delta; see the full story [here](#).

6. Watch for Flight Schedule Changes That Make Connecting Times Inadequate

For years, we have recommended that passengers keep an eye on their reservations so they are aware when their scheduled departure and arrival times have been changed; missing flights *due to schedule changes of which you haven't been made aware* can be quite annoying.

Now, we are seeing schedule changes that reduce connecting times to less than the point of reasonableness. There are established minimum connecting times for flights by the same airline or by different airlines, though today most people stick with one airline when making connection plans.

Keep an eye on your reservations and if the connecting time looks unreasonable to you or if you question it, ask others in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) about their experiences with the same connections in the same city: with close to 35,000 members now, chances are our group can deliver excellent, experienced guidance.

If your connecting times are in fact unreasonable, you should call your airline and they should remedy the situation without charge. If the first agent you speak with isn't cooperative, ask for a supervisor.

7. "Greenliner" Testing More Eco-Friendly Ways to Fly

Until the time when electric airliners rule the skies, airliners will continue to spew carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, to a small degree aggravating climate change. (Perhaps at some point each of us will have in our homes "dematerialization" or "re-materialization" chambers [the stuff of science fiction for years] which enable us immediately to teletransport ourselves to another state or to another country in seconds, without airplanes at all; but until then we will still need them.)

[This story](#) describes something airlines are doing today to start to ameliorate this situation.

8. Six Cruise Ships, 15,000 Passengers Visited SXM Last Wednesday; Front Street Opened for Pedestrians Only

In a sign of things to come during high season, six cruise ships carrying a total of about 15,000 passengers visited SXM last Wednesday, and Front Street in Philipsburg was open for pedestrian traffic only, for the safety of all visitors.

More on this is [here](#).

Stayover tourists often want to be sure few ships are in town when they want to venture to Front Street to see their favorite jewelers or other businesses. You can find that information [here](#). Note that the dates are in European Style, with the day, month, year order as opposed to the US style of month, day, year.

9. P&O Cruises Eyeing Antigua, St. Maarten for Home Porting

An announcement by an SXM politician seems to imply that a cruise line that's part of Carnival is considering home porting in SXM. But announcements aren't always perfectly accurate, and in this case it appears that there is something of a tug-of-war underway between SXM and Antigua, which says it already has landed home porting there.

Perhaps there's enough for both islands.

In any case, here's [the story](#). See next article.

10. Without Major Infrastructure Changes, "Home Porting" Could Create Traffic Nightmares

It's always admirable to see people trying to increase business for SXM; the country needs it after being practically obliterated by hurricane Irma in 2017 (the most powerful hurricane in Atlantic basin history) and having its economy severely whacked by Covid during 2020 and 2021.

However practicality and reality need to be considered here.

The main road from SXM Airport (where passengers for departing home-ported ships would arrive) to Philipsburg, where the ship(s) would be home-ported, is two lanes for almost the entire trip, and it tends to get clogged in high season especially during the afternoons — when most planes arrive. Saturday is also the busiest day of the week for flights, which means that some passengers may want to arrive early and spend a few days on the island before reaching their ship.

If they do that it's all well and good because it won't put an enormous amount of additional pressure on the island's road infrastructure. But in many cases, the flights people want are only flown on Saturdays, so most passengers wind up coming in on Saturday which means home porting could quite conceivably aggravate current heavy traffic experiences.

Perhaps there is some way for the island to seriously consider modernizing infrastructure to handle the additional traffic that the island wants and needs if its economy is to grow. More hotels and condominiums are being built and home porting is being proposed by more than one cruise company — but the infrastructure needs to be there before passengers are here potentially clogging small island roads and aggravating traffic congestion.

Here's [more](#) on one thing that might help though it could also aggravate traffic severely were it to get involved in an accident.

11. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$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. 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.

SKYMED's EXTRA-WEEKS BONUSES WITH PURCHASES END 12/31, SO GET SKYMED NOW FOR THEIR BEST OFFERS! SEE NEXT STORY:

12. FINAL MONTH == ***ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31: 22 Additional Weeks FREE From SkyMed with Ultimate Global 5-year Medevac Memberships****** (Act Quickly If You're Planning a Trip Next Year Across the Pond or to Asia, Africa, Australia, or South America)

The 22-week **FREE MEMBERSHIP BONUS** for buying SKYMED's best GLOBAL membership, the SkyMed 5-yr. Ultimate, **ENDS 12/31**. *If you travel beyond the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean, this is the BEST and LEAST EXPENSIVE product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis: it will pay you to get these bonus 22 free weeks while they are still offered. Email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com with your phone number and time zone or call us USING WHATSAPP (free) 721-588-4188 or text or phone us at 508-591-3483.*

Available only to Americans, Canadians, or both living as xPats in the countries noted above. DO IT NOW WHILE IT'S FRESH IN YOUR MIND....SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® when you become seriously ill or injured while traveling for pleasure or on business!

13. 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 weather or staffing shortages?

This [article](#) gives you answers.

Etc./Weather

14. Hurricane Season Ends This Wednesday, November 30...

Our chief meteorologist, hurricane expert Rob Lightbown of CrownWeather.com, is saying that conditions are expected to stay as they are, quiet, through the end of this month — and those conditions are not conducive to tropical cyclone development.

The National Hurricane Center is also saying the same thing. However Mother Nature clearly doesn't frequently read forecasts, and she sometimes does the unexpected. So, though nothing is expected, we will continue to keep a weather eye out for anything unexpected through the end of December.

15. Winter Weather May be Warmer in Many Areas, NOAA Predicts

We have all come to expect that during the winter, in areas where winter is normally cold and snowy, that every winter will be cold and snowy — some are just worse than others.

However, this winter, NOAA is predicting that winter may be warmer in many areas — meaning less cold. Other Meteorologists scoff at full-season forecasts saying that anything beyond 30 days is, well, horsefeathers. Besides which, others say these forecasts are quickly forgotten.

See for yourself, [here](#).

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you

must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-591-3483 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family NOW with SkyMed®!

16. Where to Find The Latest SXM Weather Information

Although hurricane season officially begins June 1, nonetheless it's best to be prepared before then. In recent years, tropical activity has begun around mid-May. Stay in touch with any or all of these sources of tropical weather information...

Here are SIX sources of current SXM 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 -- 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. *That page also includes real-time or near-real-time satellite images and radar loops.*
- 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. 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.*

In addition, when storms form or pass near SXM, we expect to run the latest forecasts, watches, warnings, and observations in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), and we will post all of that material directly in the weather center of our everything SXM website, www.everythingsxm.com.

[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**

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

17. Establish Residency FIRST if You're Buying a Condo or Villa in SXM

Despite the somewhat curious global economy, sales of condominiums here in SXM continue to roll ahead.

If you plan to buy an SXM condo and spend several months a year here, it is to your advantage to establish residency early. With 10 years of experience, BrightPath Caribbean has the knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure to help you do that with the minimum inconvenience and minimum time spent shepherding the process.

In other words, they know their stuff, they know the latest wrinkles in the law, and they can simplify and expedite the process for you. Mention that you heard about them from Jeff Berger's **SXM Weekly News** and call them toll-free from the USA and Canada at 1-855-203-0050 or in SXM call 1-721-554-8900 to get started.

17a. For SXM Condo Buyers, Some Critically Important Advice

Moving to the Caribbean requires a multi-step procedure that involves different citizenship programs. While territories in the Caribbean region have made relocation to the Caribbean easier for people, it's still a meticulous process. It's best to go through the application with seasoned immigration consultants.

Our partner [BrightPath Caribbean](#) is an expert immigration agency that has helped countless people move to their slice of paradise in the tropics. Investors, retirees, and skilled workers who were assisted by the BrightPath team now enjoy life in the land of sun, sea, and sand.

By working with BrightPath's immigration consultants, you don't have to deal with the nitty-gritty of the complicated immigration process. Plus, you avoid delays and increase your chances of approval.

Moving, retiring, and opening a business in Sint Maarten (country abbreviation SXM) all involve complicated, multi-step processes. So leave the nitty-gritty to professionals who are well-versed in immigration and the business climate in this Caribbean country.

BrightPath Caribbean makes your move to Sint Maarten smooth-sailing and fuss-free. You no longer have to deal with complicated paperwork or complex immigration, incorporation, or retirement procedures. Our consultants in Sint Maarten will oversee everything so that you can focus on the important thing -- your new life in paradise.

Moving to St. Maarten

BrightPath Caribbean provides various services to prepare for your relocation, retirement, or venture in Sint Maarten.

Immigration Services

Our team handles immigration matters for individuals who want to relocate to St. Maarten. Moving to this country is no easy task, but the effort is more than worth it. Its beautiful beaches and scenery make it seem like you're on vacation all year round.

BrightPath immigration consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Walk you through the various immigration avenues in Sint Maarten, including investment, employment, family reunification, cohabitation agreements, and more
- Collect required documents based on the avenue for immigration and review them for completeness and accuracy
- Oversee the entire application process and guide you every step of the way

Business Incorporation Services

Our business incorporation consultants see to it that you start your company on the right legal footing. You'll get expert-level guidance in:

- Business License. Our experts deliver reliable advice about the right business license for your company if you haven't applied for one yet. We also guide you in applying for the license in St. Maarten.
- Name Search. BrightPath consultants check if your chosen business name is available. If not, we can work with you to form a cleared name.
- Preparing the Articles of Incorporation. Our team prepares and makes sure the paperwork is complete and error-free. We'll also be the ones to file the articles of incorporation.

Business Banking Services

Our team opens bank accounts for existing or planned businesses in SXM to make sure your company starts on the right financial footing. You'll be assisted as you:

- Choose Your Bank. Our consultants review your business banking needs, as well as your in-person and online banking preferences, to help you choose the right bank. Our goal is to find a bank that provides scalable solutions and day-to-day banking convenience.
- Gather Requirements. Our team helps you collect the required documents and review them for accuracy and completeness. We'll also be the ones to submit them and set an appointment with your chosen bank in Sint

Maarten.

- Sign Forms. You simply attend the appointment and sign the forms.

Retirement Planning Services

You'll develop a personal retirement planning strategy that takes into account your personal financial goals, the financial risks you face, and the kind of life you want to lead during your golden years in the Caribbean. Our retirement service consultants in Sint Maarten:

- Help you set clearly defined goals for your retirement in St. Maarten
- Improve tax efficiency and help you maximize your benefits
- Plan your legacy in case you want to leave something to your grandchildren or a charitable institution

Sint Maarten Awaits:

There's more to Sint Maarten than beautiful beaches and breathtaking landscapes. The culinary scene is rich and diverse, representing over 100 nationalities, including French cheeses and Mediterranean wines. The shopping experience is divine, and the festivals are spectacular.

If you're eyeing St. Maarten for your retirement or new venture, then you've made the right choice.

18. 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](#). (Link is being updated).

Please check this link to [BrightPath Caribbean 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. Tell them you heard about BrightPath through Jeff Berger's *SXM Weekly News*.

19. Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

The following list of our sponsor realtors tells you how to contact SXM's best sources of condos and villas across the island:

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **#Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

<https://www.facebook.com/VillaVijoux>

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

20. Some '22, Many '23 SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Still Available

Dozens of new listings of timeshare and 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. 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 couple of weeks.

21. Reminder: JMB 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. All the details you need are there.

22. 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.

23. SkyMed TRAVEL Guarantees Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

SkyMed Travel offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 15% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330; doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. *If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.*

You won't be disappointed.

Not a SkyMed member? Learn more about it at www.skymed.com/jmb, then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) any weekday. Thanks.

SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

24. Discounts/Benefits Updates Continuing

The major update that we been telling you about to our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** is continuing. The stage we expect to complete in the next week or so involves updates to eliminate the last group of partners whose businesses have not survived either Irma or Covid; there have been a number of those. There are also a number of other updates.

For us the most fun part of this is adding new discounts and benefits, a process which will run through December. We will continue to add more new discounts going forward into 2023, as planned, though all those that are already nailed down will be posted during December.

We're making many other changes here behind the scenes including upgrading to a new main server and a new main mail server, all of which are targeted for completion during April (after SXM's high season ends), to prevent any disruption during high season.

The effects of Irma and Covid on SXM's tourism economy have been quite substantial and some major businesses were impacted. In some cases we were hoping they would be able to come back but, sadly, that has NOT always happened.

Fortunately, there are a number of new businesses on the island and they are doing quite well and we're doing our best to reflect that in this major upgrade.

We will post more about this as it continues to move toward completion.

25. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters and SkyMed Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 10/17/22)

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. 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** on which you can also leave text messages

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. You may also phone Membership Services directly at 508-591-3483, which also takes texts.
3. **Our new email is jmbcomms@gmail.com; use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.** Thank you.

SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features

26. ABSOLUTELY ENDS 12/31: Get Up to 22 Bonus Weeks FREE When You Buy SkyMed---

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

THIS UP-TO-22-FREE-WEEKS OFFER

MUST END 12/31!

MAKE YOUR MOVE TO SKYMED NOW AND GET 22 WEEKS FREE WITH YOUR NEW PURCHASE OF OUR BEST -- A FIVE-YEAR SKYMED ULTIMATE, OUR LOWEST-COST-PER-DAY, MOST FEATURE-RICH MEMBERSHIP!

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

SkyMed Routinely Never Does Bonuses -- Except Right Now (ENDS 12/31):

Only \$1.64/day - *LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE* -- gets

you annual or multiyear SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all 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) or email jeff.berger@skymed.com. NOTE: My prices for multiyear memberships ARE MUCH LESS THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.

.....SKYMED's BEST BONUSES EVER MUST END 12/31/22.....

BONUSES

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*

ALL THESE BONUSES GO AWAY 12/31/22!

=== PLUS ===

"Thank YOU for Your Service"
Bonuses 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!*****

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

- **WHAT IS SKYMED? WHERE DOES SKYMED WORK?**

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 \$45,000 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](#).

- **WHAT ARE "ULTIMATES"?**

SkyMed Ultimates are SkyMed's best memberships and also its LEAST EXPENSIVE on a cost-per-day basis (about \$1.64/day for family protection). They offer a suite of 18 services and protect you worldwide -- almost everywhere. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions.

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 DIRECTLY (contact info below) for details on all of our major-league savings on SkyMed Ultimate multi-year membership prices.

- **LIFETIME PRICE GUARANTEE / GUARANTEED RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS:**

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. SkyMed annual and longer memberships are also Guaranteed Renewable when annual or multiyear fees are paid on time -- guaranteed renewable regardless of advancing age or declining health.

- **HOW TO CONTACT US: Phone us ANYTIME at 508-591-3483 (new number, where you can also text us) for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at jeff.berger@skymed.com.**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. But please CALL ME DIRECTLY with questions or to sign up - that way I get credit (number above). Or jeff.berger@skymed.com

- **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 Travel 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 a specific trip; it's temporary protection. There is no waiting period for benefits. When you want protection for another future trip, you must make a separate application for it. **Although at \$15/day per couple SkyMed short-term protection is the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a cost-per-day basis,** short-term protection is economical if you seldom travel and take brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per individual, 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 also 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 that also accepts text messages. *Updated 6/20/22.*

***What is the SkyMed Ultimate?**

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

- [SkyMed Frequently Asked Questions / FAQ](#)

Feel free to contact me via Facebook Messenger as well or now WhatsApp, 721-588-4188 (through WhatsApp ONLY), or use our new office line, 508-591-3483. Or email me at jeff.berger@skymed.com (SkyMed inquiries only please). You can also send texts to that 508 line and leave voice messages. Please include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger
10/17/22

28. Answering Your Questions: What Exactly Does SkyMed Do? --- from Jeff Berger

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

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

Here are specific examples of how SkyMed works for its members:

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 when serious or critical injuries occur in the "SkyMed universe" , 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 about \$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 take your application 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. 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.

29. BLACK FRIDAY SALE EXTENDED 'TIL 12/7: **Get Hundreds of SXM Discounts & Other Benefits**

Psst:
Our BLACK FRIDAY sale on new and renewal/reinstatement memberships in our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program has been extended until 12/7, when it MUST END. Your memberships support everything we do for you INCLUDING THIS DISCOUNT PROGRAM & THIS NEWSLETTER!

Go to the site via the link below, buy any new, renewal, or reinstated membership of only THREE YEARS or more (including Military memberships) and from now through 11/7 we will give you ONE ADDITIONAL FULL YEAR FREE. It's automatic but it MUST END 11/7.

Here is the link for [new memberships](#) and here is the link for [renewals and reinstatements](#): THANK YOU, as always, for your support.

30. Woman's Car Goes Haywire in Carrefour Parking Lot; Demolition Derby Results

The problem began after an elderly woman finished shopping at the Carrefour market near Philipsburg. She got into her Toyota RAV4, started it, and chaos ensued, as the vehicle lurched forward and backwards slamming into several other vehicles, wreaking havoc, and scaring the wits out of everyone outside and inside the store.

Miraculously, no one was seriously hurt. The woman claimed that the accelerator pedal stuck. What surprised a number of other people was that she apparently never attempted to engage the parking brake, turn the car off, or throw the transmission into neutral, all of which would presumably have stopped the demolition derby. Police are continuing to investigate, and no doubt forensic investigators will want to take a close look at the car to get to the actual cause of this near calamity.

More is [here](#).

31. Two Accidents Cause Big Traffic Jams on SXM: Were These Delays Unavoidable?

Two accidents about a week ago caused gridlock across much of the island.

In the first, an 18 wheeler flatbed loaded with cinderblocks apparently blew one or two tires in the St. Louis area north of Marigot. While crews tried to figure out how to fix the problem, traffic east and westbound was forced to go in one direction at a time, over a small sidewalk, to get by the mess. Traffic was backed up eastbound out of Marigot all the way back to the Super U market. Traffic westbound from Hope Estate toward Marigot was backed up almost to the other Super U in Hope Estate.

As if that weren't bad enough, for roughly at least the second time in the last year, there was a serious accident on the Hill near the usually flagless flagpole in the Cay Bay area through Cole Bay, Simpson Bay, and Airport Road all the way to Maho.

Near HOV lanes in the US, American cities place tow trucks in strategic areas to get wrecks and disabled vehicles out of the way and hopefully enable traffic to keep on moving at least semi-normally. We do know that SXM continues to be strained for resources, but it also seems to us that there should be a tow truck stationed in the scenic overlook at Cay Hill especially during afternoon rush hours so it can respond quickly to problems and hopefully contain them so they don't paralyze the entire Dutch side.

32. Jollification, Good Cheer Coming as Philipsburg Gets "Maagical" Dec. 17-18

If you're into good cheer and will be on the island in mid December, make it a point to join in on the "Jollification" going on in Philipsburg December 17 and 18; those involved in planning the festivities say they will be "Maagical".

Here is that [complete story](#).

33. Pineapple Pete to Discontinue Serving Sushi Effective December 2

"Wasabi Charlie" is about to go away from Pineapple Pete in Simpson Bay, effective December 2, this coming Friday. December 1 will be the last day for sushi there.

In a colorful post in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) this week, owner Pierre "Pete" Ferland said that due to staffing issues the venerable Wasabi Charlie brand and its sushi would be discontinued effective December 2; Dec. 1 is the last day for sushi..

The "sushification" of the SXM culinary scene started a number of years ago when Jim Goldman introduced his first Bamboo Restaurant in the Maho area. Another came into being later in Simpson Bay at Puerto del Sol and as we have reported, his breathtaking new Bamboo House on a hill in Cole Bay, on the site of a former plantation, is now getting rave reviews including one from us here, last week.

There are other sources of sushi on the Dutch side, including Mandarin Pan Asian in addition to the genre-leading Bamboo House, which frequently has name entertainment like Bankie Banx, who appeared this past weekend.

If you are on the island early this week, it's your final chance to stop by Pineapple Pete for some of their sushi.

34. You're Invited to Our SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon in SXM January 20

SKYMED MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON in SXM has been scheduled for Friday January 20 – we want you to join us even if you're not a member (yet) so you can meet SkyMed's top management and learn more.

SkyMed top executives Eleanore and Will Klein will be there to meet current SkyMed members and others interested in learning more. If you will be in SXM on Friday January 20 and want to learn more about SkyMed, email us now at jeff.berger@skymed.com with your names, email addresses, SkyMed member numbers (if you're members), **and the names & emails of others who you would like to invite to this SkyMed event (they're welcomed, but please MAKE SURE THEY ARE INTERESTED AND WILL BE ON THE ISLAND ON THAT DATE BEFORE INVITING THEM).**

Advance registration REQUIRED. We will contact everyone once formal invitations go -- shortly.

35. VP-BAP, 55-Year-Old Private 727, at SXM Airport

It looks sparkling new, but the private 727 currently at SXM Airport was actually part of the fleet of Pan American World Airways back in 1967. We looked up its number, VP – BAP, to determine that. We do know the plane is owned by Malibu Consulting Group and that it has often been here in the past.

36. Plane Watchers: Avoid Walking on Beacon Hill Road

The name of the road that snakes around the Caribbean end of SXM Airport is Beacon Hill Rd., the main road through the normally quiet residential area of Beacon Hill. When storminess temporarily washed away much of Maho beach more than two weeks ago, people who wanted to watch planes arrive and depart there were left to simply sit on the curbstone/low wall that separates the beach from the road. If they wanted to move, they had to use the road to do it.

Now, with some sand having returned, it becomes possible for some of these people to walk on the beach to move from one vantage point to another, though the condition of the beach still tends to change day by day and walking on it isn't always practical.

If you watch arriving and departing planes from Beacon Hill Rd. — which is where all those widely circulated SXM airplane pictures are taken — we urge you to stay out of the road as much as possible. It's active with many cars, tour buses, taxis, and construction vehicles for projects underway in Beacon Hill. Try to avoid it for your own safety.

37. At Orient Beach, Beware of Rocks in the Water

Several people visiting Orient beach in the last couple of weeks have reported that normal current movements in the area have uncovered some large fairly sharp rocks in the water near the shore, so exercise caution if you're on the beach there. We don't know if any particular part of the beach is more affected by this than others.

38. Holiday Music Started in Early November & Won't Stop Until January

When you visit SXM toward the end of the year, one thing you notice is that some stations start broadcasting Christmas music just after the beginning of November and they don't stop until early January. We don't know whether this is Caribbean tradition or whatever, but that's what they do.

Not all of it is traditional, however; see next story.

39. The Uniquely Caribbean Side of Christmas Music

Not all of the holiday music you hear here is what anyone would call traditional Christmas songs. Based upon the lyrics, here are the names of a number of songs we been hearing here over the last month:

1. How will Santa get here (there are no reindeer in my country).
2. I want a piece of pork for my Christmas.
3. Don't be like Santa and come just once a year (sung by a strident-sounding woman).
4. All I get is a card.
5. We are here because we are here because we are here because we are here. (Tune of Auld Lang Syne).
6. I have no Christmas (because) I have no pig.

We kid you not...

40. **LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - Vacation Giveaway Drawing Set Next Monday, Dec. 5; Entries MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY**

DRAWING IS LIVE ON THE AIR ON MONDAY DECEMBER 5 ON ISLAND 92 RADIO; YOU *MUST* ANSWER YOUR PHONE TO WIN. WE WILL CALL FROM A MIAMI AREA TELEPHONE NUMBER. Drawing starts after 930am on FRESH AIR IN THE MORNING with Dr. Soc, www.island92.com.

ALL ENTRIES TO OUR PRIOR GIVEAWAY A FEW MONTHS AGO ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR THIS GIVEAWAY.

HOW TO ENTER:

That vacation will be at beautiful [Villa Kimon](#) on your right just off the road high on a hill just to the west of downtown Philipsburg. As you follow the shore road westward out of Philipsburg and by the site of the former Sonesta Great Bay, you have passed **Villa Kimon** on your right. You'll get to spend seven days and 6 nights there.

We will also give away a couple of dinners for two to our winner; those will be announced on the air. One will be at **IZI Ristorante Italiano** in Simpson Bay.

Everyone who entered our previous six vacation giveaway is already eligible to have their entry drawn in this giveaway. However, if you have not yet entered, you can do so now -- just follow these directions:

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN BUT MUST END THIS WEDNESDAY NOV 30. AND IF YOU RECEIVE YOUR OWN *FREE* COPY OF SXM WEEKLY NEWS DIRECTLY FROM US, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN BUT YOU STILL MUST ENTER. ENTER HERE. If you do NOT subscribe, you must go to sxmweeklynews.com now to subscribe **FREE** before entering this giveaway. **ENTRIES FROM NONSUBSCRIBERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN. PREVIOUS WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.**

41. **POPULAR DUTCH SIDE RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

Prime location in Simpson Bay... 100 seats... Interior and terrace... Fully equipped... In excellent condition... Good lease... Correct rent. Off-street parking.

Price including current N. V. concept, name and good will, fit-out and inventory, \$595,000. Price for the lease, fit out, and inventory only, \$395,000. For further information please contact SXMrrestaurantforsale@gmail.com

Get your SKYMED MEMBERSHIP *BEFORE* you need it. Air ambulances are now more costly than ever: when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling, SKYMED TAKES YOU HOME® to doctors and hospitals you know & trust. Otherwise you must pay tens of thousands of dollars in cash in advance to get a medevac jet -- if you can even do it (NOT easy or fast if you don't know how). SkyMed annual or multiyear memberships are only about \$1.64/day, and they're guaranteed renewable regardless of age or medical condition at renewal and they are PRICE GUARANTEED FOR LIFE. Why wait? CALL today 508-591-3483 or email us at jeff.berger@skymed.com; include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY!

42. **Restaurant of the Week: ASTRA**

What/Where: ASTRA Steaks, Seafood, and Vegetarian entrees, Simpson Bay near the entrance to Snoopy Island

Particulars: This gorgeous restaurant has undergone a bit of a metamorphosis since last season; it was excellent before but now, it's even better. It's set next to the entrance of Snoopy Island, where the biggest megayachts moor in the lagoon. Its open deck enables diners to gaze out at their lighted in-lagoon lobster pool, the largest in the Caribbean. You're also up front and personal with lots of megayachts and you can watch the moon rise over the mountains. But what matters here is their extensive menu, with creative, delicious dinners for people who love seafood, steak aficionados, and vegetarians who now have several fine selections dedicated directly to them. The setting is beautiful; the service is top-notch attentive; the portions are more than ample, and the food is beyond delicious. ASTRA has our highest recommendation.

Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

Astra Steak & Seafood (featured 7/25/22) is the newest creation of the organization that also operates Avantika and Movida in the same area of Simpson Bay. It's new, gorgeous, constantly evolving, and has highest-quality written all over it. We go often and love it. See <https://www.astrasxm.com/>

Bamboo House (11/21/22), located high on a hill in Cole bay has spectacular island views and equally spectacular dining and service. Exquisite sushi, steaks, and lots more. Vegetarians welcome; people with special dietary needs are well cared-for here too. Jeff rates Bamboo with one huge WOW -- go; you will absolutely be visiting more than once.

Mario's Bistro at the Cliff, formerly Mario's Bistro www.mariobistrot.com/en/ **11/14/22** 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.

IZI Ristorante Italiano, www.izisxm.com (featured 11/7/22). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

Avantika Thai www.avantikasxm.com (featured 10/31/22) Avantika is flat-out wonderful; SXM's best Thai; Delicious food artfully presented and reasonably priced, backed by seasoned service. Consistently excellent. Go...you'll become a regular.

Mama Pizza, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 10/24/22) Big, outstanding pizza, and sizable portions plus reasonable prices on numerous other delicious Italian specialties. They also have 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>

Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 10/17/22), **Simpson Bay** Leave your preconceptions behind! A 15-second walk to the opposite side of the building from Top Carrot. Outstanding dinners (and 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 an ever-growing spectrum of flavors, aromas, textures, and tastes. You gotta try Jai's! Highest recommendation. See <https://www.facebook.com/jaisxmresto>

Pineapple Pete, www.pineapplepete.com (featured 9/12/22) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids & their parents.

Isola next to Hollywood Casino at Simpson Bay Resort, (featured 8/29/22). Italian food, many choices (pizza too though that may go away), 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

Bold Buddha Bar/Restaurant, 49 Front Street at Horizon View Hotel, Philipsburg (featured 7/5/22) Cool new place with seasoned service, very good tapas / Caribbean / Asian and other food, a superb location, and a perfect concept. Highly recommended; something new and different. Ideal place to cool off with a delicious drink and make your taste buds happy.

Vesna Taverna, www.vesnasxm.com (featured 6/13/22). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, reasonable pricing.

La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza, (featured 5/23/2022): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html

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.

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.

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).

Spiga, www.spiga-sxm.com (featured 2/7/22) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly

irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

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

Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured January 2022] Truly fine dining in one of SXM's most well known and respected restaurants. The property is rich in history, the owners and Chef Sidney are culinary perfectionists, and you will kick yourself if you don't go here early in your trip so you have time to come back. Sunday Brunch is a must but requires reservations as does dinner. Not to be missed.

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.

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.

Blue Bitch Bar www.bluebitchbar.com, formerly Taloula Mango's Blue Bitch Bar, is THE bar/restaurant to visit on the Boardwalk in Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

Pure Ocean Restaurant at **Divi Little Bay Resort, Dutch side (featured 3/1/21)** Fine new beachside restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and fine dining dinners. Excellent choices for everyone, innovative menu, beautiful presentation, and downright delicious. Great #Caribbean ambiance on their open-air beachside deck. Attentive service and responsive staff.

Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant, www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant 4/15/19. Just go....

Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran, www.sailstmaarten.com (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

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..

43. Enormous Library of SXM Information is On The Web (Updated)

Regardless of what kind of SXM information you need, our sites deliver it.

Here are three examples:

a) Our [SXM Weekly News PDF archives](#) include every edition of SXM Weekly News since 2014 -- 9 years of editions and hundreds of thousands of words of SXM information. Our PDF archives are searchable by keywords to make it easy for you to find whatever information you seek quickly and easily on your computer.

b) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) is a repository for an enormous amount of SXM information posted during its more than 10 years of existence. You can search all posts ever allowed, for any SXM topic -- and you will find hundreds of posts on virtually any specific topic. If you don't find what you're looking for, you can always post a question on that site that will tap the brains of nearly 35,000 members, not counting their friends and spouses. The vast majority of our members are tourists who have spent years visiting SXM and have a wealth of information available.

c) We have a **Files** area in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) with another enormous reservoir/library of island information. Our files are also searchable directly from our Everything SXM Facebook Group. They are also frequently updated by our admins and moderators, particularly Contessa Aiello who has written most of them.

Take advantage of these resources -- and don't forget to thank those who have made them possible.

44. Flying Next Winter? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this winter, 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 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 cup of coffee. Call me at 508-591-3483 or jeff.berger@skymed.com for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

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

45. 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 33,000 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.

46. 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. 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; use it for JMB Website Supporters membership questions.**
Thank you.

47. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/21/22)

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 Sponsors' help makes our JMB Website Supporters members-only Island Parties possible (resuming next year) as well as all the work 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).

ARTISTS

Roland Richardson
Patty Meotti
Laura Fisher Saxon

AUTHORS/NOVELISTS

Russell Clark

Jacky Rom

BAKERIES / DINE-IN & TO GO

Le Sucriere, Dutch side near Fedex (new 11/22)

BARS

Juggie's "The Smallest Bar In The World," Philipsburg

BOAT TOURS / BOAT CHARTERS

[Celine Charters](#) (Enigma)

Luxury Private Catamaran Charters:
www.sxmstmartincatamarancharters.net

Rumbelly Boat Charters Pleasure boats, motorized and catamaran

BOUTIQUES

En Vogue, Billy Folly Road opposite Atrium Resort

BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery

Caribbean Brewing

CAR RENTALS:

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

Exclusive Car Rental

Tropicana Car Rental

Dollar/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

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.

FISHING CHARTERS

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

Immigration (SXM Residency) / Relocation / Business Formation / "Papers" Consulting Companies

BrightPath/Caribbean is posting in our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

JEWELERS:

[Zhaveri Jewelers](#) in Philipsburg.

[Caribbean Gems](#)

Oro Diamante

[Majesty Jewelers](#)

[Ray's Jewelers](#)

[Alpha Jewels](#)

[JN Jewelers \(Maho under Jax, open late\)](#)

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

Royal Jewelers

Kay's Fine Jewelry

Joe's Jewelry International

Ballerina Jewelers

LIVE MUSIC

Hole in the Wall, Maho Plaza, Dutch side

MAPS (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

MASSAGE see Spas

PARFUMERIE / PERFUME

Tijon Parfumerie, Grand Case, www.tijon.com

PHARMACIES

Simpson Bay Pharmacy

Orange Grove Pharmacy

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES: (See also VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES, below)

[Island Real Estate Team](#) is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A long-time JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Jennifer's Vacation Villas

Century 21 St. Maarten

Sunshine Properties

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

BrightFuture Realty

[My Net Immo](#) (French Side, **Muriel Lemoine**)

40Weeks SXM Vacation rentals

RESORTS:

Baker's Suites

Belair Beach Hotel

Simpson Bay Resort

Azure Hotel & Art Studio

Mary's Boon Beach Hotel

RESTAURANTS, BARS, & BEACH BARS (see also BAKERIES)

[IZI](#) (See their new website)

[SPIGA](#)

[VESNA TAVERNA](#)

ISOLA

Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)

Melange (Port de Plaisance)

Pelican Bistro

Soggy Dollar Bar

Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery

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 del SOL

SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)

AVANTIKA

MOVIDA

ASTRA

JAI'S CONTEMPORARY FUSION CUISINE

COFFEE LOUNGE & More, Head of town in Philipsburg & Simpson bay near Domino's (**new**)

BOLD BUDDHA Restaurant, Great bay beach Promenade at Horizon View Hotel (new)

BUCCANEER BEACH BAR

NAVY BEACH

BAMBOO HOUSE (new 5/16/22)

LE PERLE BLEU Restaurant Simpson Bay & **Le Perle Bleu Beach Bar** (Welfare Road) (new 11/22)

FLEUR DE SEL Hope Estate / **French Side** (new 11/22)

RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

SOUVENIRS

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

SPAS

Sunset Spa, Simpson Bay Resort (11/21)

Patty's Healing Hands Massage (7/22)

STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

Nick Malley, Front Street

VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

Candie Billant does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **#Caribbean Estate Agency N. V.**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

[Monte Verde / Belle Vue](#)

Villa Acropole:

www.acropole-stmartin.com

Villa Vijoux:

<https://www.facebook.com/VillaVijoux>

Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)

40Weeks SXM Vacation Rentals (new)

Villa En'sea 5 bedroom Villa, overlooking Philipsburg bay (new)

Villa Kimon

Daffodil Villa

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 11/21/22

48. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

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

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

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

**[Get The Current Low Price
on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership](#)**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-591-3483. More info? See skymed.com/jmb or email Jeff at jeff.berger@skymed.com. SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

[See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits](#)

Got a Radio While You're in SXM?

Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?

Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM

or On Your Internet-Connected Device

at island92.com ...

and hear Jeff Berger LIVE on the air most Mondays

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

50. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic

SXM Weekly News, our everythingxsm.com website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our **JMB SXM Web Media Sponsorships** enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email susank@jmbcommunications.com with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". Or PM us on FB for an even faster response. We'll get complete information to you quickly. (Or again, just PM Jeff Berger on Facebook Messenger or phone us / text us on WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.)

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2022 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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

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

See www.everythingsxm.com.

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

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

To change your email address, visit www.sxmweeklynews.com; unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your

new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

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

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

LEGAL:

Entire contents copyright (c), JMB Communications, 2022. World rights reserved. Excerpting, quotation, and republication, in any form, print, electronic, or archival, is expressly prohibited without written advance permission. You can forward this newsletter in its entirety only to your friends. For reprint permission, email us. JMB vigorously defends its copyrights. *Everything St. Maarten*, *Everything SXM*, and *Everything St. Martin* are service marks of JMB Communications. *JMB Communications* is a trademark of JMB Communications, P. O. Box 1812, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02362-1812 USA. Join our free St. Maarten / St. Martin newsletter mailing list at <http://www.sxmweeklynews.com> . You cannot join by emailing us.

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

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website:

www.everythingsxm.com .

Privacy Policy http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml (Updated 5/25/18)

11/26/22 #V4-1373 == 600 pm AST | [Terms of use](#) |

Copyright, ©, JMB Communications, 2022. World rights reserved.

###