

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 3/13/23: Anguilla Boating Accident Claims Two Lives; Why Water Problems Persist on the French Side; New Hotel at Cay Hill Construction Date Set; Cannabis May Become Legal on the Dutch Side; FEATURE ARTICLE: More on What's Happening With Dutch Side Vervet Monkeys -- And Why; Sargassum Seaweed Temporarily Visits SXM's West Side; Flights Briefly Diverted Thanks to Rare Westerly Winds; JetBlue's Near Miss in Boston; US Justice Dept. Sues to Stop JetBlue/Spirit Merger; JetBlue Starts Flights from JFK to CDG -- AMS is Next (& Why It Matters); Court Says FAA Can NOT Tell Airlines How Wide to Make Seats [Issue #1387 - 51 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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Vol. 4, #1387 ---- Monday, March 13, 2023  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Rental of The Week:***

**RENTAL** 7/1/2023 7/8/2023 Week 26 **Royal Islander Cub La Plage Beautiful 1 BR unit on 2nd Floor overlooking the beach, pool and immaculate gardens. There is a private bedroom with King bed and the sleeper sofa in the living room folds out so the unit sleeps 4 total. The resort is beautifully maintained and offers access to the Casino and Maho Market right across the street. Tortuga restaurant opens onto the pool for great lunches during the day and tasty dinners when you don't want to go very far. Maho has many other great restaurants within easy walking distance including JAX, Sublime, Roma and Moulin Fou or just sit by the pool with your drink and watch the planes land at Princess Juliana Airport! \$995 Joel 502-417-5034 [joel@stonemarkgranite.com](mailto:joel@stonemarkgranite.com) Posted 2/23.**

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

#### ***SXM Timeshare (or Condo) Sale of The Week:***

**SALE** 12/23/2023 12/30/2023 Week 51 and 52 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina Two weeks in the same unit during prime Christmas/New Year holidays. Located in the F building directly on the beach; two floor unit with two bedrooms, each with king bed, TV and closets with safe. Two bathrooms, one with a double vanity, living room with 2 single Murphy beds and TV, a full kitchen (granite counters, stainless steel appliances) dining area with table that seats 6. Sliding door in the upstairs bedroom and living room open onto large patios overlooking the beach with comfortable furniture. Parking in front of the unit. Beach resort with multiple pools, restaurants, piano bar, convenience store, casino, gym, tennis courts, spa and water sports. Maintenance fee paid for 2023. \$20,000 per week Lauren 610-248-9198 [lecocok123@gmail.com](mailto:lecocok123@gmail.com)**

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

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

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

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

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](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>

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

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

Not a member yet? See [http://everythingsxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](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...

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

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

**GETTING HERE:**

**1. Very Unusual Westerly Winds on SXM Affect Some Incoming Flights**

Although SXM usually experiences tradewinds out of the east or southeast, wind direction toward the middle of last week was from the west — highly unusual.

Since mountains are a short distance from the east end of the runway, only very small aircraft can approach over Simpson Bay lagoon toward the east end of the runway. Commercial jets land and take off into the wind, so for them the prospect of landing *with* the west wind into SXM was daunting. For the safety of all concerned, some passenger jets on Thursday diverted to alternate landings in Guadalupe and Martinique; most were able to return to SXM Airport later. Winds slowly started returning to normal later in the week.

See the related story #34 about the effect the unusual west winds had pushing Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea onto west-facing beaches.

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## 2. Near Miss in Boston Between Errant Private Jet and a Jet Blue Flight

Near-miss incidents at or near airports are a concern to all air travelers regardless of their location, since they can happen anywhere.

A JetBlue flight was about to land at Boston's Logan airport when the pilot noticed a private jet cross the runway on which he was about to land, possibly endangering everyone. The pilot of the private jet had been told to hold short of the active runway and was cleared to take off only after the JetBlue plane had landed. The pilot of the private jet acknowledged that order -- but then took off anyway. The pilot of the JetBlue aircraft had to take evasive action to avoid a collision; the JetBlue flight landed safely about 15 minutes later.

Unfortunately, incidents like this continue to happen. We were on a flight departing New York several years ago; the pilot began the flight roll but quickly jammed on the brakes, saying a few seconds later that another aircraft that crossed "our runway." And we were on a JetBlue flight only a few years ago approaching Long Beach California when the descent over Long Beach was suddenly halted and the pilot gunned the engines and climbed to avoid a small private plane that had wandered into its flight path.

Here is [more](#).

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## 3. As Expected, Justice Dept. Sues to Block JetBlue-Spirit Merger; JetBlue's Possible Strategy

As has been long expected, the US Justice Department is filing suit to block the proposed merger between JetBlue and Spirit airlines. They are saying that the merger would be anticompetitive and would raise airline prices; JetBlue argues that neither is true. The government is also fighting the JetBlue association with American Airlines in court.

Spirit is an ultra low cost carrier that has very low fares, cramped seats, little service, and charges for all kinds of extras. JetBlue is arguing that it will be better able to compete against the major carriers after the merger with Spirit has been accomplished.

This will probably take some time in court to be decided. JetBlue has already become something of a global carrier (see next story).

JetBlue's association with American Airlines was designed to enable JetBlue passengers to connect seamlessly with American flights to cities not served by JetBlue overseas. But the fact is that JetBlue is adding international flights of its own, and it intends to add more... and that may encourage it toward sacrificing its association with AA as an overture to achieve success with the FAA in its proposed merger with Spirit. We have no evidence suggesting that's what they are going to do, just a hunch that this may well be part of their strategy.

We will continue to keep you informed about this ongoing story.

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## 4. How New JetBlue Flights from JFK to CDG and AMS May Aid European Travel to SXM

JetBlue has been expanding its service to Europe ever since its initial flights from New York and Boston to London were

announced a couple of years ago. It has already announced that flights begin this summer to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris from JFK, and that it's looking to add service to Amsterdam. It is using Airbus A321LR (long-range) aircraft for these flights and has ordered extra long range A321XLR aircraft for delivery in a couple of years which would enable it to handle even longer-range flights; Milan has been suggested as a possibility since it is central to Eastern Europe.

**What does this have to do with SXM?** Currently, the major flights to SXM from Europe fly nonstop from Amsterdam and Paris. Many people in those two cities and in London — or people who connect through those cities to get to SXM — are very much attracted by what New York offers to tourists, as one of the most sought-after destinations for tourists from around the world. It strikes us that JetBlue offering its new flights to New York would enable people from throughout Europe to stop there for a few days and then fly nonstop from New York JFK to SXM — a very attractive option especially when JetBlue will be offering "extra low fares" on its new flights between the new JetBlue cities in Europe and New York and Boston.

Here is the complete [story](#) from the Points guy. Here's jetBlue's [announcement](#). And here is more on the [A321XLR](#).

We will continue to watch this. Please see the next story.

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## 5. Jet Blue Suddenly Cuts How Much Time Its Customers Have to Use Travel Bank Credits

JetBlue has quietly posted a very significant change to its policy regarding the use of travel bank credits it issues to its customers.

According to "The Points Guy": "As of March 8, all newly issued JetBlue credits will only be valid for one year from the date of your original booking. Previously, when making changes or cancellations to JetBlue flights, you'd receive a credit to your so-called Travel Bank that could be used within one year of the date you made the modification." (Emphasis added-Ed.)

That's a big change and it's also a gut punch to JetBlue customers who have suffered through a lot of service problems at that airline over the last couple of years which the airline has blamed on the pilot shortage. This policy change can't be blamed on any pilot shortage, however. We regard it as an anticonsumer, anti-passenger decision that will make many travel bank credits virtually worthless since many passengers book well ahead of their intended trips. The only people who will benefit from this are business travelers — but perhaps they are the ones that JetBlue now prefers.

The previous travel bank credits policy had been one of the things that differentiated JetBlue from most of its competitors. It is changing to a policy and is also in use now by many of its major competitors....

See [much more here](#).

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## 6. Winair Drastically Cuts Daytrip Fares to Saba

In recent weeks, the island of Saba, just 18 miles from SXM, has been promoting all its virtues to the readers of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), now numbering over 36,000.

The island has many outstanding features, including the famous Mount Scenery, diving opportunities, hiking, and touring. But getting there has been a challenge, since boat trips there from SXM (especially on the return trip) have long been nicknamed "the vomit comet" -- and plane trips have been expensive.

Now, that has all changed: Winair has drastically cut day trip fares to Saba to a very low \$140 round trip. Here are [the details](#).

This is a trip well worth taking to a beautiful nearby island.

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## 7. Winair Prepares for Imminent Deployment of its ATRs

As we have recently reported, Winair has purchased new-to-the-airline ATR turboprop aircraft which it will be using to expand services to other islands in the Caribbean. Those ATRs are being prepared for Winair in Columbia and will be delivered to Winair very soon for flights to be taken from SXM throughout the Caribbean.

Here is [more](#) on this story.



## 8. FAA Can't Mandate Reasonable Airplane Seat Sizes, Court Says

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) can't mandate reasonable airplane seat sizes, a US court has said. The ruling means that if airlines wish to make seats even less comfortable than they already are, the FAA can't stop them. Among the worst US airlines in terms of seat comfort is Spirit — but if the Spirit - JetBlue merger is allowed to proceed, Spirit aircraft retained by JetBlue will be converted to JetBlue's more generous seating and legroom configurations.

Here is [more](#) on this court decision.

## 9. Reminder: SXM Has No Covid Entry Requirements

SXM's Covid entry requirements were discontinued effective November 1 last year. There is no reason to expect any similar requirements to be reinstated.

**ASK ALL YOUR SXM FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO SXM WEEKLY NEWS -- SXM's ONLY PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOURISTS. Subscribe free at [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)**

## 10. 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 related to it.

Setting up medical evacuations sounds complicated because it is and having to do all this in a medical emergency is a daunting task for anyone who has never done it. *For about \$1.64/day for an annual or multiyear SkyMed membership, SkyMed will do all of this stuff once you make that single quick phone call.*

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

**GET SKYMED NOW FOR THEIR BEST OFFERS!** SEE more stories in our main news section.

## 11. 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***

### **12. 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](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops 24/7/365 and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page. *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](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once so you'll know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.
- 6) Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

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

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

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

### **13. New Hotel Construction Coming Soon to Indigo Bay**

A luxury resort named **Vie L'ven** is being developed at Indigo Bay with about 250 resort residences and with full service 5 star amenities. It is being developed by a Toronto based group, Altree. Construction is slated to be underway starting early in 2024.

We'll be publishing more details about this as soon as they're available.

### **14. New Condominium Project Underway at Indigo Bay**

**Indigo Infinity Villas** is coming to Indigo Bay.

Infrastructure work is in progress and villa construction starts next month for Phase 1. We're told these standalone luxury villas will be crowned above the new hotel development (story above), with four- and five-bedroom layouts and will feature state of the art technology with Mediterranean-modern design and all amenities.

In addition, the developer intends to be a part of **Marriott Homes & Villas** for short term rentals and is actively working on this to make it official. Limited pre-sale units are now available; see [www.indigoinfinitysxm.com](http://www.indigoinfinitysxm.com).

## 15. 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.

## 16. 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.

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## **17. 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*.**

**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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com); include your callback number & time zone please. Protect your family TODAY with SkyMed®!**

## 18. Best 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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency**

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

[Sunshine Properties](#)

**Villa Acropole:**

[www.acropole-stmartin.com](http://www.acropole-stmartin.com)

**Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)**

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

**Villa Kimon**

**Daffodil Villa**

*Updated 3/6/23*

## 19. Many More 2023 SXM Timeshare Condo Rentals Now Available; 2024 Rentals To Be Published Early in April

**Dozens of new listings of timeshare and other condominiums for rent and for sale for 2023 have been added to our timeshare sales / rental page in our main SXM site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).** If you're looking for a place to stay, that's where to find it. All of our listings are from members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program** so you deal directly with timeshare owners -- there are no middlemen or agents or anyone else charging commissions. *Usually, timeshare owners charge close to their actual annual maintenance fee costs.*

Dozens more new entries were posted again in recent days. Rentals for 2024 will start being accepted for publication early in April.

## 20. 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 2023 (and starting in March, 2024). Submit your ads through the members-only "Secret" website.

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

## 21. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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

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

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

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

You won't be disappointed.

**Not a SkyMed member?** Learn more about it at [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-591-3483 (NEW NUMBER) anytime; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 23. TWO \$100 Jewelry "Gift Cards" NOW LIVE: Where to Find Them (Reminder)

**They're now LIVE! Your 2023 Caribbean Gems \$100 Gift Certificate is now ready for downloading from the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site.** Log in using the orange login box below the masthead at [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com). Not only can you download that cherished Caribbean Gems Gift Card, but you will find on our home page a surprise from another business...valued at \$100. These coupons are now LIVE at the bottom of the home page of our Secret Site. Available exclusively to current members of our **JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program**; you must use them in person on SXM and your current, valid JMB membership card IS REQUIRED along with a government-issued photo ID. For more info on JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on our main site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

## 24. Got Favorite SXM Restaurants / Jewelry Stores? Want Discounts or Other Incentives to Go There? Here's How:

The major update of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program is nearly complete -- but we want even more new discounts & benefits for our members, especially at your favorite restaurants and jewelry stores. You can help make that happen.

**HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:** Log in to the Secret Website and check the Discounts Master Index and specific listings for the type of business you like. Then, see if we already offer discounts for your favorite businesses. If not, use Messenger and send us the name of the business and its Manager after you have contacted them asking if they'd be willing to post a discount offer for our members; there is no charge to offer discounts to JMB Website Supporters members. If they react positively and join us to offer a new discount, we will extend your active JMB membership by a full year for every business you give us that goes forward with a discount for JMB Website Supporters.

## 25. Adding Discounts/Benefits Continues; "Updates" Almost Complete

In the next week or two, we expect to finish adding a number of additional new discounts and benefits to our secret site, beyond several referred to in recent editions of *SXM Weekly News* and some that already have been posted in our secret website. We will let you know when the updates are complete and we will spell out some of the most significant ones. Note also that more new benefits are expected to continue to be added to our JMB Website Supporters island discount program in the coming months. As noted above... if you are familiar with businesses that you believe should be offering discounts or other benefits to our members, please tell them to contact us directly through WhatsApp at 721-588-4188.

## 26. Own a Business in SXM? Offer Our Members a Discount or Incentive to Visit You!

If you own a St. Maarten or St. Martin business that caters to tourists, we have a free program that we like you to join: it's called our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. By participating in the program, you will offer our over 30,000 JMB Website Supporters members some kind of discount or incentive for visiting your establishment. We are especially looking for restaurants, bars, beach bars, and related businesses. There is currently no charge for this program.

There are also separate opportunities for SXM businesses to promote what they offer to the over 35,000 members of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) (about 98% tourists); for information on that program, please PM any admin of the [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 27. 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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER** 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](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com); use it freely for JMB Website Supporters membership questions. Thank you.

## **SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

### **28. PREVENT MEDICAL BANKRUPTCY -- Get SKYMED Global "Ultimate" Medevac Protection for \$1.64/day (Cheaper Than a Cup of Coffee):**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Only \$1.64/day - \*LESS THAN A CUP OF COFFEE\* -- gets you global SKYMED MEDEVAC protection for virtually all your upcoming trips -- and it protects you AT HOME, too.**

**Buy it NOW, \*BEFORE\* you need it -- just like fire insurance.**

**For info see the links below, and for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-591-3483 (also takes texts) or email [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). NOTE: My prices for SkyMed's best ULTIMATE memberships ARE MUCH LOWER THAN YOU WOULD PAY ONLINE.**

**.....PLUS THIS:.....**

**"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.**

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

- 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 otherwise cost non-SkyMed members \$45,000 and up payable in cash, in advance. Why risk that? Of course, you must **get 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 in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean - plus an additional suite of 26 services to help you in most of the rest of the world. They are offered in monthly-pay (minimum payment period two years), three-year, and five-year versions -- the five-year delivers the lowest cost per day available for Ultimate memberships (about \$1.64).

#### **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 2023 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 (also takes texts) for answers to questions or to sign up. When you call us directly, we get credit for the sale. You can also email us directly through SkyMed at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).**

My SkyMed website: <http://www.skymed.com/jmb>. **But please CALL ME DIRECTLY with questions or to sign up - that way I get credit (number above).** Or [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto: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 (those 26 additional Ultimate global services mentioned above) is provided by GETS, Global Emergency Travel Services, a SkyMed company.

#### • **Key Differences Between SkyMed Short-Term & Annual or Ultimate 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 the most expensive product SkyMed sells on a per-day basis: \$15/day.** They're 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 and qualify again. **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 very brief trips. The cost is \$9/day per individual, or a maximum of \$15/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. This is KEY: SkyMed annual and multiyear memberships are guaranteed renewable, regardless of advancing age or declining health - and they are also price guaranteed forever -- your price will not go up as long as you renew your membership on time.** Details are in SkyMed's Member Service Agreement (MSA). 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 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, including AT HOME.** I can answer all your questions by phone in minutes, and can also take your application by phone (that way I get credit and you pay my unique low Association rates. not available online at SkyMed's website; there you pay retail). Phone anytime at 508-591-3483. That's a direct line to Jeff Berger that also accepts text messages. *Updated 2/11/23.*

### **\*Final Word About 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 -- *plus another suite of 26 services around the world.* **You'll find an overview of all SkyMed Services including those provided with Ultimate memberships [here](#).**

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

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

--Jeff Berger  
2/11/23

## **30. 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 months as many of you have decided to resume normal worldwide travel, you've asked us for examples of what SkyMed does.** Here you go:

***For answers to questions or to sign up, email me at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) or call me at 508-591-3483. Open to Americans & Canadians & xPats only. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the last 34+ 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 retail 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](http://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.

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## 31. Going to Europe, Africa, or Asia This Summer? ONE QUICK REASON to Buy Your SkyMed Ultimate NOW:

Literally millions of people from the US and Canada are planning to go to Europe this summer, as the surge in pleasure travel continues. Here is one quick reason to get SKYMED for your summer European trip now: **pre-existing conditions coverage for SkyMed Ultimate global memberships begins 90 days after the membership starts; coverage for all other illnesses or injuries begins on day 1. So, if you buy your membership more than 90 days ahead of your date of European travel, that 90 day period of coverage exclusion for pre-existing conditions will be OVER by the day your trip begins.**

Equally important, when you join SkyMed directly through us you pay our low Association rates — far lower than the retail rates on the SkyMed website. Call today for more information about SkyMed: 508-591-3483 or email us at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Either way, be sure to tell us your return phone number and your time zone. Available to Americans, Canadians, and xPats exclusively. - Updated 2/11/23

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## 32. NOW, FOR YOU: Five Years FREE of JMB Website Supporters

## SXM Island Discount Program Membership...

Want five full years of access to SXM's best island discount program for \$0?

We're 98% finished with the largest update to "JMB Website Supporters" since Irma, now adding a number of new discounts at restaurants, jewelers, and other tourist-oriented SXM businesses. ***In March our update will be finished (except for continuous new benefit additions) and to celebrate we will be giving away 1) no-cost new JMB Website Supporters 5-year memberships; 2) 5-year renewals of existing JMB Website Supporters memberships; and 3) 5-year reinstatements of former JMB Website Supporters memberships.***

**Here's How it Works:** March is when the vast majority of people finalize plans for Summer vacations. Our 5-year SkyMed Ultimate global medevac membership is the lowest cost-per-day, most feature-rich medevac product SkyMed sells – and it protects you almost everywhere you might travel, around the world – as well as at home. **Get a new 5-year JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program membership (or reinstatement or extension) FREE when you a) buy a new 5-year SkyMed Ultimate membership from us, or b) upgrade to a new 5-year Ultimate from an existing SkyMed annual membership bought from us, OR c) renew a 5-year Ultimate through us that was originally bought from us.** That's quite the deal!

**Program is now underway and runs through March 31 ONLY and will not be extended.**

**Why Now?** New\* SkyMed 5-year Ultimate memberships offer medical evacuation protection when you become seriously or critically ill. *If you're traveling this Summer, the 90-day exclusion period for coverage of pre-existing conditions on new memberships BOUGHT NOW will be over by the time you travel which is EXACTLY why we offer this now.* *Buying now means your Summer travel will not be impacted by that 90-day exclusion of coverage of preexisting conditions since you won't be traveling until the exclusion is OVER.*

**Want detailed SkyMed info?** Easy...three ways to get it: 1) It's posted on the home page of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), ; or 2) It's in every issue of SXM Weekly News; subscribe free at [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com) ; or 3) Call us at 508-591-3483 or email [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) and include your email (and phone number); we'll email you all the details. Either way, leave your phone number and time zone so we don't call at inopportune times. **All applications must be handled directly by us – we can answer all your questions and take your applications by phone in minutes.**

Again, this applies from Feb. 27 through March 31 only. Thanks for reading this!

## 33. More on What's Happening With Dutch Side Vervet Monkeys -- And Why

*There has been a great deal of controversy in recent weeks in SXM regarding the Dutch side plan to capture and euthanize many Vervet monkeys that are living in the wild on the island. They are cute, intelligent animals that were first brought here as pets but then released by their owners when they became too large to handle — and they have thrived in the wild to the point where it is believed there are at least 2000 of them on the island. (By contrast, St. Kitts has about 40,000.)*

The Dutch side plan is to trap the monkeys and euthanize them. Homeowners whose gardens have been ravaged by hungry monkeys or whose garbage pails have been scavenged by them want them gone. Monkeys are also known to throw things at people and in confrontations with people, some monkeys have been known to bite — which is quite painful. The SXM Nature Foundation is assisting the government in this project, as we reported recently here in *SXM Weekly News*.

**Tadzio Bervoets is a recognized authority on this issue and wrote the following article for us; it goes a long way to making clear exactly what the issues are that are involved here. His biography appears after the article:**

*The Nature Foundation's primary task is to protect native wildlife and native species; it isn't an animal protection or animal welfare organization although protecting native species falls well within their mandate.*

*The issue of AIS (Alien and Invasive Species) is a complex and significant problem for Sint Maarten and aside from domestic animals (dogs and especially cats but also goats are very harmful to the environment), monkeys and iguanas pose significant negative impacts to native ecosystems and wildlife.*

- ***It is also not true that studies weren't done on the impacts of monkeys on the natural ecosystem of the island. During my time on at the Nature Foundation we did quite a few studies on the impact the species***

**has on especially the local bird population. Monkeys are ovipredators; meaning the prey on birds eggs and through gut content analysis and bird surveys we were able to establish back in the day that the animals have a significant impact on the species of native birds on the island.**

- **Monkeys are also a vector for human transmissible diseases, especially Herpes B, and thus also pose a public health risk (I have been bitten by a monkey I had to remove from a timeshare villa in Dawn Beach after it bit a visitor- it was very unpleasant ).**
- **And finally they have a significant negative impact on the few farming initiatives that are trying to be launched here on the island; some orchards and plots are raided clean by monkeys in just a few hours and threatens the bio- and food security (what little there is) on the island; making it almost impossible for local agriculture or farm to table initiatives to be successful on the island.**

Places in the Caribbean that also struggle with invasive Vervet monkeys such as Barbados and St Kitts and Nevis have a long established tracking and culling program and **the project done here on Sint Maarten is done in collaboration with the experts from St. Kitts who have been doing this for a very long time.**

**On the other hand the issue of animal rights and animal welfare must also be taken into consideration; especially on an island with numerous animal welfare organizations (but it must be kept in mind that these organizations are focused on animal welfare and not on the protection of native habitat and species- which is the role of the nature foundation). It is also important to realize that these animal welfare organizations should not be ignored especially on an island focused on tourism. But again; the priority should be the conservation of nature and native habitat and native species. Animal rights advocates (and I am one of them) should realize that because an animal can seem cute and interesting to watch they cause myriad negative impacts to the environment and the communities that depend on them.**

What I think is at play here is a lapse in communication from especially the government but also from the nature foundation, although government should take full responsibility. For an issue as sensitive as controlling the population of a harmful species which is perceived as cute and cuddly by some in the population (believe me they are far from it) there should have been widespread and involved stakeholder consultations, public meetings and constant information on why monkeys are an issue and why the population must be controlled. And controlled is also the operational term here; there is no way under the sun that the population of monkeys will be eradicated. They are too well established for that to even be considered and I was very surprised when I read comments from the minister to this effect. But the population must be brought under control in the most ethical and efficient way possible and while birth control or sterilization may be more ethical than a cull, it is by no means efficient in terms of the available capacity or the financial resources needed to make that possible (nor has it been possible in St. Kitts or Nevis or in the Everglades for example where it's also a huge issue). We are unable to efficiently sterilize dogs and cats on the island, much less specialized species that from some estimates number in the thousands.

Additionally, this project also has the potential to draw a divide amongst the various communities of the island; most animal welfare groups are (perceived) as foreign and white and who are against controlling the monkey population while locals (perceived as black and from the Caribbean) who are trying to focus on agriculture want something to be done about the situation. This is just the perception but does have the potential to cause friction amongst various communities on the island.

So a very complex situation. And one which can only be solved if there is clear communication and coordination and buy-in from all of the stakeholders on the island. And through making it clear that these animals have an impact but there is no way they can be 'eradicated' but that their population cannot go unchecked.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

##### **Bio Tadzio Bervoets**

Tadzio Bervoets was born on St. Martin to a local St. Maarten mother and a Belgian father. He attended first the Sister Borgia School and then graduated from the St. Dominic High School. He earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and NGO Management from the University of South Florida and a Master's degree from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in environmental resource management with a speciality in coral reef ecosystems.

Tadzio began his professional career in Bermuda advising the Government on Coral Reef Conservation as a project lead on the Coral Reef Ecosystem Valuation Project of the British Government for Bermuda. He then moved to Tanzania where he developed incentives for local fishermen to become marine park rangers as well as conducted socio-ecological research on the management of the Chumbe Island Coral Reef Reserve. He returned to the Caribbean to serve as the Marine Park Manager in St. Eustatius. Soon after, he began his position as the Director for the St Maarten Nature Foundation where he was instrumental in establishing the Man of War Shoal Marine Protected Area, St. Maarten's first and only National Park. Tadzio is the former Director of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, a Network Organization that supports nature conservation on all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean.

Tadzio was also on the St. Maarten Millennium Development Goal Action Group and former Acting Chair of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance. He was previously focal point for Sint Maarten for the CITES treaty, SPAW protocols of the

Cartagena Convention and the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention. He is currently a consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) establishing Blue Carbon Sequestration Schemes for Mangrove and Seagrass ecosystems in the wider Caribbean Region; advisor to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member-states on Ecosystem-based adaptation strategies against the impacts of climate change; member of the United Nation's Caribbean Environment Program's Specially Protected Areas Technical Committee; sits on the Policy and Scientific Advisory Board of Beneath the Waves; is the co-founder of the Caribbean Shark Coalition; and is a consultant to UNESCO's International Oceanographic Commission's Marine Spatial Planning working group for Latin America and the Caribbean. Bervoets is the first Dutch Caribbean Member of the prestigious Explorers Club and an awardee of the McFarlane Award for Conservation Leadership in the Insular Caribbean. He is an avid birder, sailor and scuba diver.

We thank Tazio Bervoets for writing this story for *SXM Weekly News*.

## 34. Weird West Wind Whacks Western SXM w/ Stinky, Sticky, Smelly Sargassum Seaweed; the Good News: It's TEMPORARY

Ever since 2012, when Sargassum seaweed first started to bother much of the Caribbean, people on the leeward side of SXM, including popular beaches such as Maho, Mullet Bay, and Cupecoy, along with most of Simpson Bay beach, gloated about the fact that their beaches remained pretty much free of Sargassum seaweed. The annoying seaweed hit the Eastern (windward) side of the island, pushed by ocean currents and tradewinds, but it would have had to circle back to the western side of the island, an unlikely phenomenon since the winds here are almost always out of the east, southeast, or occasionally northeast.

Then last week happened. A weird West wind played havoc with some flights at SXM airport (see story 1) and pushed Sargassum seaweed from the Sargasso Sea back onto western coastal beaches, where business owners had to get involved quickly in removal efforts. At some places the stuff came up to the knees of some sunbathers.

As the weekend began, winds had finally started to return to normal, and Sargassum that had been in the Caribbean on the west side of the island was being blown away by more friendly tradewinds. However, the Sargassum left on the beaches still had to be removed or composted — a process well-known to businesses on the east side of the island.

The good news is that since winds out of the west are rare here, Sargassum piling up on western beaches is also a very rare event — and we would expect the western beaches to be fully cleaned up in the next few days, if they aren't already.

## 35. East Side Beaches Get Temporary Sargassum Respite

When unusual westerly winds were blowing Sargassum seaweed onto the West Coast of the island last week, they are also blowing seaweed along the East Coast of the island out to sea in the Atlantic. Suddenly, and unexpectedly, beaches on that side of the island got a respite from the deposit of Sargassum seaweed: the beaches were suddenly beautiful and pristine again, not the exact terms that had been applied to them recently when they were being invaded by Sargassum.

Unfortunately, the respite was short-lived; easterly to southeasterly winds have started to return and are expected to continue to bring some Sargassum seaweed with them, and business owners on that side of the island will continue their work to gather and compost the stuff.

At the Pinel island ferry terminal, work has been underway recently to rid the island of tons of seaweed that had gathered near shore over many months. The seaweed has been loaded onto dump trucks is believed to have been brought to the French side dump in Cul-de-Sac.

## 36. SXM Looking Seriously at Cannabis Legalization

Back in September, one of the ministers in the Dutch side government, Omar Ottley, made an RFP in which interested parties could submit proposals for the potential legalization of the cannabis industry in SXM. At that time, this story was published in the *Daily Herald*, the local newspaper.

A news story again appeared in the *Daily Herald* this past week noting that this project is still active and ongoing, and emphasizing Minister Ottley's positive comments about the economics of marijuana legalization as it has been experienced in other locations.

Our sense is that taken together, these pieces of news indicate that for the first time the Dutch side government actually is taking a serious look at the possibility of legalizing marijuana here in SXM. Nothing is accomplished quickly here, so don't expect you'll smell pot on beaches here this summer. Nevertheless, many people will no doubt be happy that marijuana legalization appears to be moving slowly closer to a reality on the Dutch side of this island. It is now a huge industry in many countries.

More is [here](#).

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## 37. Grand Case Beachfront Restaurants Warned by Prefet to Obey Rules

French side beaches are for everyone to enjoy. Businesses — particularly waterfront restaurants — cannot encroach on them, limiting the space available to residents and visitors.

The French side Préfet, the French state authority who oversees that side of the island, says he is going to enforce the rules about this which he says are not being obeyed by all French side businesses -- particularly along Grand Case beach.

Here is that [full story](#).

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## 38. Counterfeit Goods "Controlled" on Dutch Side

For a number of years, so-called small bargain stores, mostly on Back St. in Philipsburg, have sold knockoffs of famous brand shoes, purses, designer sunglasses, and other goods in their stores. There have been periodic "controls" (raids) that confiscated this merchandise and warned those that were selling it to stop. But within short order, the goods have always reappeared.

Controls happened again here within the last week. If you see an offer for name-brand goods particularly on Back Street and the offer seems too good to be true, assume you're not buying authentic merchandise. This heads up DOES NOT apply to jewelry and watches sold on Front Street by all the highly reputable jewelers there.

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## 39. "Beauty & The Billionaire" Movie Now on Prime Video - SXM Scenes

It's always interesting to see motion pictures filmed in part here in SXM. You will often see film crews on island beaches (particularly Maho), Front Street, restaurants, villas, jewelry stores, casinos, and elsewhere.

The latest of these to be released is **Beauty and the Billionaire**, now showing on Prime Video. It has many scenes shot right here in SXM. See the trailer [here](#).

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**What's 11,111,111 mean to you?  
If you're the 11,111,111th visitor to everythingsexm.com,  
our main site, it could mean you win a  
St. Maarten Vacation. Watch for  
details of our "Crazy Elevens"  
SXM Vacation Giveaway  
coming here SOON!**

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## 40. Calypso Charters (Anguilla) Involved in Double-Fatal Boating



## Accident

This notice was posted to social media by Calypso Charters of Anguilla on Saturday:

Dear Calypso Family,

On behalf of the Management of Calypso Charters, we are confirming that this morning the Captain and Crew of our Calypso 2 vessel were involved in a fatal accident.

We are sadly confirming that we have lost our beloved mate, Shan. Brad is currently in the hospital and is responsive.

We are also confirming that 3 of our on board guests are alive. However, one family member has passed away.

No words can capture our pain at this time. It is an extremely tough and sensitive situation hitting home.

We will continue to do our best as Management to update you with grief resources and open lines of communication. Our prayers are for the families involved and each other. We love all of you and truly appreciate every individual member of the team.

Together we will get through this tough time.

Sincerely,

Management

***The following was issued by the government of Anguilla:***

THE VALLEY, ANGUILLA - At approximately 10am this morning Emergency Services responded to an incident in West End involving a boat.

Following the incident it has now been confirmed that 6 persons were involved. Two (2) persons are deceased. Four (4) persons received treatment at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and have now been discharged.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected. We take this opportunity to express our sincere condolences to the friends and family of the deceased.

An investigation has commenced into the incident.

[Department of Disaster Management](#)

## 41. French Side Water Problems Persist: Insufficient Water to Meet Demand

See the [French side official video here](#).

## 42. Restaurant of the Week: Avantika

**Avantika Thai** is flat-out superb. For years it has been an attractive, upbeat, reasonably priced Mecca for everyone who likes Thai food (most of us). The food is consistently fresh and delicious, portions are generous and nicely presented, and the seasoned staff knows exactly what it's doing. From appetizer to dessert, expect excellence. Avantika is located in the Puerta del Sol building where the smash hit new Amore American-Italian restaurant is located along with the Amore Lounge and Hookah bar. Go and tell them we sent you.

**Next week:** Another fine SXM restaurant.

### Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 3/13/23) 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.

**Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate**, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/> . [Featured 3/6/23] 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.

**Amore American/Italian Restaurant and Amore Lounge**, Simpson Bay on the first floor of the Avantika building, Puerta del Sol. Highly recommended. Opened late February, 2023. Their [website](#) is now up. **Go!**

**La Rosa Restaurant**, Maho Plaza, (featured 2/20/23): Loved the relaxing vibe, attentive service, GREAT food, reasonable prices, and BIG portions. [www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html](http://www.larosarestaurant.com/index.html)

**Bamboo House (2/13/23)**, 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.

**More:** <https://www.bamboohouse-sxm.com/>

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izisxm.com](http://www.izisxm.com) (featured 2/6/23). Open for dinner starting at 5pm except Mon., when they're closed. Fantastic food from one of SXM's absolute best restaurants -- in fact it has been voted **BEST RESTAURANT OF ANY KIND on SXM by readers of TripAdvisor**. Fun atmosphere, too. **Go and tell them we recommended it.**

**Bold Buddha Bar/Restaurant**, 49 Front Street at Horizon View Hotel, Philipsburg (featured 1/16/23) 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.

**Mama Pizza**, Porto Cupecoy & Oyster Pond, (featured 1/9/23) 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>

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnasxm.com](http://www.vesnasxm.com) (featured 12/19/22). Now open every day but Monday for B/L; dinner is offered Tuesday through Saturday. Outstanding dining, reasonable pricing.

**Mandarin Pan Asian** at Port de Plaisance Resort off the Union Road, Cole Bay, (featured 12/12/22). Excellent selection of palate-pleasing offerings from Japan, Thailand, and China. Delicious food and excellent service. Highly recommended.

**Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 12/5/22)**, **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>

**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/>

**Mario's Bistro at the Cliff**, formerly Mario's Bistro [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://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.

**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.

**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](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 2/7/22) Chef-co-owner Ciro Russo & Lara Russo haven't missed a beat here as Spiga continues to be simply the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case, where it has a lot of competition. Incredibly irresistible food, great staff, service, and beautiful ambiance. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Absolutely not to be missed.

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

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

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

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

**Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant**, [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

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

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

You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#). Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site..

## 43. POPULAR DUTCH SIDE RESTAURANT FOR SALE (Reduced Price)

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

Price reduced to \$295,000 **OR --- MAKE A REASONABLE OFFER; owner wants to retire.** For further information please contact [SXMrestaurantforsale@Gmail.com](mailto:SXMrestaurantforsale@Gmail.com) **AND INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER: The owner will call you directly to answer all your questions.**

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## 44. 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.

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## 45. Flying in Summer? Here's Something Else You Should Know

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

For the first three months of any new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership, SkyMed excludes coverage of pre-existing conditions; after three months, those conditions are covered in full. **So...to AVOID ANY IMPACT on your travel plans this Spring or Summer, 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](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) for answers to questions or to sign up by phone.

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

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

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

Because of volume, email is not the best way to reach us. Here's what's best: First, a Suggestion: **Get the free WhatsApp app.** It lets you make free phone calls (including video calls) worldwide and send free texts, all for zero cost. It is very widely used around the world.

1. **SkyMed Answers to Questions or to Sign Up by Phone:** If you're interested in learning more about SkyMed, contact Jeff Berger at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). Leave your phone number and time zone and he'll return your call. SkyMed is sold only to Americans, Canadians, and xPats. **If you prefer, phone Jeff at 508-591-3483 and leave a message; that is a NEW NUMBER.**
2. **JMB Membership Questions/Issues -- JMB Website Supporters:** Use WhatsApp to send questions to

Membership Services; use Jeff Berger's WhatsApp phone number, 721-588-4188, **but call or TEXT (texting is preferred) from within the WhatsApp application ONLY**. Membership Services at our headquarters in Massachusetts handles all these calls. INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL, since all responses are made by email.

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

## 48. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 3/6/23)

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

### **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](http://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

**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>

**ELECTRONICS**

**Smart Electronics, Simpson Bay (new 3/23)**

**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

**Rudy's Deep-Sea Fishing**

**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](http://www.tijon.com)

## **PHARMACIES**

**Simpson Bay 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 **Blue Paradise Real Estate**

**BrightFuture Realty**

[My Net Immo](#) (Muriel Lemoine)

**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**

**Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)**

**Melange (Port de Plaisance)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Topper's Restaurant, Gelateria, & Rhum Distillery**

**LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)**

**MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)**

**BOVIN STEAKHOUSE**

**Emilio's**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar**

**Nowhere Special**

**ROXXY Bar / Restaurant**

**LAZY LIZARD**

**RANCHO del SOL**

**SUNSET CAFE (Grand Case)**

**AVANTIKA**

**ASTRA**

**AMORE**

**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**

**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**)

## La Rosa, Maho Plaza

### **RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE**

Orders.sx

### **SOUVENIRS**

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

### **SPAS**

**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 **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency**

**[GoBeach Vacations](#)**

**[Sunshine Properties](#)**

**Villa Acropole:**

**[www.acropole-stmartin.com](http://www.acropole-stmartin.com)**

**Villa Steel Magnolias (new 1/22)**

**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 3/6/23**

## 49. First Responders Now Get Platinum-Status JMB Discounts

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

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

## 50. 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](http://skymed.com/jmb) or email Jeff at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

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

**Got a Radio While You're in SXM?**

**Want to Listen to SXM While You're Home?**

**Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM**

**or On Your Internet-Connected Device**

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

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

**between about 9:45am and 10am island time**

## on "Fresh Air in the Morning" with Dr. Soc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Want to rent or buy a week?

"2022 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](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](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

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

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

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

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website:

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

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

**CONTACT US** by WhatsApp Texts only at 721-588-4188 (WhatsApp is 100% free and is highly encrypted for privacy.)

3/13/23 #V4-1387 930 pm AST 3/12 | [Terms of use](#) |

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