

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/13/23: La Samanna's Fine Dining Restaurants Open to the Public; The Lowdown on the JetBlue/Spirit Merger and Why it Can Increase Industry Competition; SXM Airport's New Departure Facilities Open This Wednesday; A Look Ahead to the 2024 Hurricane Season; Where to See Wild Vervet Monkeys on SXM; Carbon Acquisition Group / Dwain Carbon / Carbon Grove Condos Under Investigation; Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside; Thanksgiving Dinners in SXM [#1414 - 47 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

Go [HERE](#) for our SXM Weekly News PDF Archives.



Vol. 4, #1414 ---- Monday, November 13, 2023  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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## **Member News**

St. Maarten & St. Martin

# "SXM" Weekly News

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

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

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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**Important Note:**

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

*Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by over 385,000 people around the world.*

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



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

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[http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

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

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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** 12/30/2023 1/6/2024 Week 52 **Belair Beach Hotel 2BR, 2BA** oceanfront resort on Dutch side Sint Maarten. Located on Little Bay Beach. Fully equipped kitchen, dining and living room w/sleeper sofa. King size bed in MB, double bed in 2nd BR. Sleeps 6. TVs in living room and MB. Washer/dryers onsite. Free wifi. Free beach chair & umbrella reserved for entire stay and free beach towels daily. Free daily maid service. Private balcony overlooking beach and Caribbean. Restaurant/bar and pool onsite. Poolside BBQ Mondays. Entertainment in bar or by pool. Small grocery and rental car onsite. Gated with security. Walking distance to Philipsburg. 1500 Susan 914-374-4262 [schoenfeld.susan@protonmail.com](mailto:schoenfeld.susan@protonmail.com)

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

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

**SALE** 4/15/2023 4/22/2023 WEEK 15 **Flamingo Beach Resort** two bedroom, 2 bath lockout unit sale price \$5,000. 2023 maintenance has already been paid Erik 1-570-470-2128 [erikxsm1@outlook.com](mailto:erikxsm1@outlook.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): Scroll down this page to see our recommended Real Estate companies, listed under "Sponsors."**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

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

**GETTING HERE:**

## 1. All-New Departure Experience at SXM Airport Soft Opening This Wednesday

Midweek this week, on November 15, SXM Airport debuts its much-ballyhooed new departure experience in what it is calling a "soft" opening. We'll tell you how it goes in a future issue of *SXM Weekly News* and we expect to publish pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

***The Departure facilities you'll be using will be the real thing -- the actual second floor facilities vastly reimaged and upgraded from pre-Irma days, including the jet bridges.***

The Airport's theme in redesigning its departure operations has been to build back better -- not only making the terminal far stronger to withstand future storms, but also leveraging the latest advancements in security technologies to make the passenger experience faster and easier. We expect to publish passenger experiences going forward in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

**What about Arrivals?** We covered that here during the last two weeks. Bottom line, temporary facilities in a separate building are in use until the all-new Arrivals part of the terminal finally reopens during Q2 2024. The temporary facility does aggravate the busy Saturday afternoon arrival experience. We suggested last week that passengers either arrive on a different day -- or take the early-morning flight on jetBlue from JFK, which arrives around 11am, if that works. N. B.: Not everyone criticizes the temporary facility...most fully understand that it is only in use for a few months and will be tolerable for that. **We want your opinion... tell us what you think in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).**

## 2. JetBlue/Spirit Merger Will Enhance Air Travel Industry Competition, JB CEO Says

JetBlue is not positioning its proposed merger with Spirit as gobbling up competition. The airlines compete in less than 10% of their respective markets, and Spirit has low fares but *a la carte* charges for practically everything except toilets. The CEOs of both JB and Spirit point out that the top four US airlines -- AA, UA, DL, & SW -- generate 80% of industry revenue -- and that merging is the only way JB can become large enough to be a low-fare disruptive force in the industry. Moreover, Spirit's CEO says that airline can't survive as it is -- it hasn't turned over a profit in years so changes are essential.

These articles -- from [Reuters](#) and from [Fortune](#) -- give you a very complete look at these compelling arguments. What's said here is why we've been "for" the merger all along.

The trial in Boston concerning this merger is still underway.

## 3. Do jetBlue & Spirit's Routes Overlap?

Some people have said the proposed JB / Spirit merger will reduce competition in a number of markets. That comment is false since the two route structures overlap in only about 8% of their routes. A merger gives the combined new airline (to be called jetBlue) compatible Airbus fleets and adds to their route system significantly. The combined carrier will be able to compete with the big guys (see prior story) and its fares should be about 10% lower than competition.

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**NOTE: *Subscribing is required to make you eligible to enter our ginormous 7-vacation giveaway!***

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## 4. MEDICAL EVACUATION COSTS SOAR; Got \$55,000++? You May Need It, In Cash in Advance, to Get a Medevac Jet Home in a Medical Emergency

\$55,000 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 \$50,000 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 508-747-8281 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.

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## 5. What To Do If Your Flight is Canceled or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed as happens fairly often now due to weather or staffing shortages?

This [article](#) gives you answers.

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***Etc./Weather***

## 6. A Look Forward to the 2024 and 2025 Hurricane Seasons

Please see the lead story in our main "Island News" section concerning this important topic.

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## 7. Check Out Our Satellite Images & Radar Loops Showing Current SXM/Tropical Weather

They update continually and you can access them 24/7 by clicking "Weather" in our main SXM site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), which is now closing in on 12 million visits (combined for all our SXM sites).

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## 8. Where to Find SXM / Tropical Weather Updates

If you're interested in knowing what the latest watches and warnings are from the National Hurricane Center and from authorities like Rob Lightbown, one of the foremost go-to experts in hurricane forecasting in the USA, see



[www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com) and subscribe to his inexpensive year-round forecasting service which tells you everything you need to know about tropical weather and your local severe weather forecasts year 'round..

**Check out the hurricane/weather center in our main SXM website, [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com).** The site contains a weather/hurricane center which publishes all the latest watches and warnings for all storms around the clock, even if there are multiple storms being watched simultaneously. We are finishing an upgrade of that site to include more satellite images, radar loops, and other useful tropical weather information. You can get to our Weather Center by going to [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com) and clicking the weather link in our horizontal navigation bar. 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).

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## **[Changing Your Email Address?](#)**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your SXM Weekly News subscription  
Quickly and Easily  
at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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### ***SECTION 2: Accommodations / Buying SXM Condos or Villas: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Private Condos, Villas Etc.***

## **9. Hundreds of Timeshare Condos For Rent / Sale Directly From Owners Available Now on Our Main Site**

Updated again late last week, our hundreds of listings of timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale come directly from SXM timeshare owners; you'll find them on our main SXM site, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), which was extensively updated several days ago. There are no middlemen or other third parties involved in the sale of these units, so you will talk directly with the owner who is personally responsible for setting the rental or sale fees. The link to our timeshare listings is just below the masthead in our main SXM site, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com).

## 10. Why Our Rental Ads are Different - And Superior

There are many places where you can find ads for timeshares for rent — however, we only know one exactly like ours. *What makes us different is what makes us remarkable — and desirable.* We accept ads only from members of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. Consequently, our member database contains info about these individuals — we know who they are. They routinely exchange their detailed contact information with buyers during the course of the rental process.

By contrast, many people place ads in various online locations anonymously (we don't allow that on our site). So if you buy from rental/sales sites other than ours, you are essentially buying from strangers.

Our information about timeshare owners is private — it is never sold or bartered to anyone. The only exception would be police exercising a warrant (for example, FBI seeking out cyber criminals among timeshare rental advertisers). We are happy to report we have never had any such request from any police organization since we first started publishing timeshare rental and sale ads in 2002. So, you can rent with confidence that you will get exactly what you are looking for.

You will find all our ads on [www.everythingSXM.com](http://www.everythingSXM.com), our main SXM website.

## 11. Looking for a Private Condo or Villa in SXM? Our Everything SXM Facebook Group Brings You SXM's Top Realtors

If you're looking to rent a privately owned condominium or villa on SXM, see our listings of the top SXM realtors in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). This week that list also appears in the next story.

## 12. 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** Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company. +590 690 22 18 22 [blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com](mailto:blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com)

[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**

A more comprehensive list appears in the Files area of our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), under Sponsors.

Updated 4/17/23

## 13. 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.

## 14. For SXM Condo Buyers, Here's 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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## **15. Buying a Condo in SXM: Important Procedural Help**

A while ago, working with Irun 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 508-747-8281 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®!**

## 16. 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 current, active members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program. This is effective immediately and includes weeks from 2023 and now 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. Processing takes several days. You can contact Membership Services at [jmbcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jmbcomms@gmail.com).

## 17. 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.

## 18. 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 508-747-8281; don't forget to tell us your time zone. Thanks.

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

## **19. 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 everythingxsm.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).

**USE THESE OFFERS NOW -- they may change early next year!**

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## **20. 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 38,000 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](#).

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## **21. Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters Discounts and SkyMed Medevac Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 7/31/23)**

**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 508-747-8281 and leave a message. (Updated 4/17/23.)**
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 508-747-8281.

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**

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

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**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 508-747-8281 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.**

### **23. 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 \$50,000 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 508-747-8281 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: \$18/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 \$18/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 \$12/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 \$18/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 508-747-8281 or email [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com). That's a direct line to Jeff Berger. *Updated 5/8/23.*

### **\*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 office line, 508-747-8281. Or email me at [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com) (SkyMed inquiries only please). When contacting us PLEASE include your phone number, time zone, and email address.

--Jeff Berger  
5/8/23

## **24. 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 508-747-8281. 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 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 508-747-8281 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.

Updated 5/8/23

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## 25. ===Heads Up Re: Vacation-Ruining Slips & Falls=====

**Slips and falls -- always unexpected-- often cause broken hips or broken legs on vacations, cruises, and business travel -- suddenly necessitating an emergency medical evacuation costing at least \$55,000, payable in cash in advance before anything happens.**

## **Got a spare \$55,000 ready for a sudden medical emergency?**

For \$1.64/day, SkyMed **TAKES YOU HOME®** when you become seriously or critically ill or injured while traveling. *Don't risk \$50K or more ripped from your life savings.* Call today for answers to questions, more details, or to sign up: Jeff Berger, SkyMed Ambassador, 508-591-3483.

[\$1.64/day is for SkyMed's guaranteed-renewable-for-life, price-guaranteed-forever annual memberships and its five-year Ultimate memberships; Ultimates provide services around the world. Call us today to learn more.]

## **26. LEAD STORY: 2024 HURRICANE SEASON COULD BE "VERY ACTIVE," EXPERT FORECASTER ROB LIGHTBOWN PREDICTS**

by Rob Lightbown, Chief Meteorologist, [Crown Weather](#) & Everything SXM

*Even though the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season hasn't officially ended yet and it looks like we may see another decent shot at tropical development late next week or next weekend in the western Caribbean, I wanted to go over what I'm seeing for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season.*

Before I begin, I wanted to let you know that I will have an update on the potential for tropical development in the western Caribbean for late next week or next weekend sometime on Friday.

**First & Foremost** - It looks like the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season could be very active. Early signals in the data seems to point towards the potential for El Nino conditions to weaken quickly and become neutral ENSO conditions by the start of summer, 2024. Should this come to pass, it could mean wind shear conditions would be very favorable for tropical systems and an atmosphere that's unstable and favorable for tropical development.

In addition, seasonal models seem to be pointing towards lower than average surface barometric pressures across much of the tropical Atlantic throughout the 2024 season.

If that wasn't enough, seasonal guidance for the summer of 2024 seems to be pointing towards a swath of above average rainfall that stretches from the coast of Africa westward through the Caribbean and into the southeastern United States. This is concerning as it could be highlighting where many of the tropical systems could go during the 2024 season.

**Editor's Note:** For much more -- including info on Crown Weather's very low priced year-round subscription weather program which we have recommended for many years -- see [www.crownweather.com](http://www.crownweather.com).

## **27. Enter Our Newly Expanded 7 SXM VACATION Giveaway; Where The Vacations Are & How to Enter**

Our **EXPANDED 7-SXM VACATION GIVEAWAY** - Complete prize list and how to enter! Revised 11/6/23!

For **SXM WEEKLY NEWS DIRECT (Not Pass-Along) SUBSCRIBERS EXCLUSIVELY, & JMB Website Supporters Members!**

*All prizes are subject to reasonable limitations for dollar value and availability from the businesses providing them. No purchase*

necessary to win.

**UPDATED 11/6/23**

**Our 7 SXM vacation giveaways are:**

Azure Hotel & Art Studio;  
Belair Beach Hotel;  
Cocovaa Beach Resort (formerly El Zafiro);  
Colony Manor Golden Daze beach villa;  
Mary's Boon Beach Resort;  
Orient Beach Hotel; and  
Simpson Bay Resort.

**Dinners for Two:**

Amore American Italian, Simpson Bay;  
Bamboo House, Cole Bay;  
Bistrot Caraibes, Grand Case;  
Bold Buddha Restaurant, Philipsburg (Boardwalk);  
Emilio's Restaurant, Philipsburg, at Rainforest Adventures;  
Freedom Fighters' Ital Shack, Philipsburg, Vegetarian/Rastafarian Cuisine;  
IZI Ristorante Italiano, Simpson Bay;  
Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine, Simpson Bay (\$120  
limit, drinks included);  
La Rosa Restaurant, Maho Plaza;  
Mario's Bistro, Cupecoy;  
NOLA Bayou Bistro, Simpson Bay;  
Roma Cucina Italiana, Oasis at Maho;  
The Chef's Table, Simpson Bay;  
Secret Seafood, Simpson Bay;  
Topper's Restaurant, Simpson Bay;  
Vesna Taverna, Simpson Bay

**Car Rental for our Grand Prize Winner:**

Leisure Car Rental

**Concierge Services (to expedite your trip through  
SXM Airport, arriving or departing)**

Xcellence Concierge Services

**Deep-Sea Fishing Charter (Half Day)**

Taylor-Made Charters, Simpson Bay (Capt. Dougie)

**French Bakery**

La Sucriere French Bakery, Simpson Bay (Gift Certificate)

**Gelateria – Ice Cream**

Topper's Gelateria – Two Big Full Hand-Packed QUARTS of  
their amazing homemade ice cream

**Jewelry Prizes:**

Caribbean Gems  
Majesty Jewelers  
Oro Diamante  
Shoppers Haven (\$250 Gift Certificate for fine jewelry)  
Zhaveri Jewelers

**MAPS - SXM MAPS**

Our two top prize-winners will each receive the SXM street map  
from Kasprosky Publishers AND their map of the entire Caribbean.  
See more at [www.midok.com](http://www.midok.com) .

**Massage Services**

Patty Healing Hands; Patty goes to your location

### Media Recognition:

The Grand Prize winner will be invited to appear with "Dr. Soc" on Island 92 radio during their visit. She or he (first name and last initial only) will also be the subject of a news release to local media from our parent company JMB Communications of Plymouth Massachusetts.

### Parfumerie – Tijon Parfumerie

Perfume-Making class for two!

### Rum Distillery Topper's Rhum Distillery,

Simpson Bay, Tour & Free Samples

### T-Shirts - Life is Good

\$100 Gift Certificate at the Front Street

*Life is Good* Store

If you are a direct subscriber to *SXM Weekly News* (NOT a passalong reader), you qualify to enter the giveaway. Subscriptions are free, as always; subscribe at [sxmweeklynews.com](http://sxmweeklynews.com). Grand prize and First prize winners will each get separate Dinner & Jewelry prizes.

Enter [here](#).

**NOTE: In March we plan to announce yet another giveaway -- it will be JEWELRY ONLY.....**

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## 28. More About Thanksgiving in SXM

Jimmy Buffett says in song, "Christmas in the Caribbean...got everything but snow."

**How about *Thanksgiving* in SXM?** It has everything but COLD!

**Full-scale Thanksgiving dinners** are widely offered especially on the Dutch side. The exclusive, amazing **L'Oursin** Restaurant at La Samanna, the Belmond Resort in the French Lowlands, is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC now and this year is offering an amazing Thanksgiving dinner. And **DINO JAGTIANI**, renowned multi-award-winning CIA Chef is in charge of all Culinary (multiple restaurants) at La Samanna. Many of you will remember Dino from Temptation and Rare in SXM at the old Atlantis Casino pre-Irma.

Another great place for T-Day Dinners is **Emilio's Restaurant** at the Emilio Wilson Estate near Philipsburg. Chef Sidney and owners Norman & Su Wathey do a great job here, and Su's holiday pies are legendary.

**Toppers, Mary's Boon, Amore, La Patrona** (Simpson Bay Resort), **Vesna Taverna**, and a number of others will be offering Thanksgiving Dinners as well. *Call your favorite and reserve now to avoid disappointment.* We made our reservations in August... Got questions? Ask them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 29. Front Street Philipsburg's On-Street Moguls and Sidewalk Issues: How Jewelers Are Responding

There are two pieces of good news today from Philipsburg. The first is that much of the sidewalk (utility?) construction there seems to have been completed. The second piece of good news from Philipsburg is that the construction there has many jewelers reminding their clients that they either offer free shuttles to their stores or may pay cab fare; some have done that for years. Call your favorite jeweler for details.

If you're new to SXM, check our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and pick your favorite jeweler from postings on our site, and call them to see if they offer a shuttle or free nearby parking. Most are happy to help their clients. **Great**

### **bargains now in time for holiday shopping, too.**

And for lunch, consider Coffee Lounge, Bold Buddha, or The French Touch which we featured as "Restaurant of the Week" here last week. It is on "Old Street" east of the center of town, a shop-lined area off Front Street (no cars).

## **30. Never Lock Any Valuables In Your Car Trunk for Safe-Keeping - (Anywhere)**

Occasionally we still see people putting cameras, purses, computers, and other valuables in their car trunk when parking across the island at beaches, near stores, and elsewhere. If we see it, so do people who may think that if it's worth hiding, they want it ... So use your Room Safe (changing the combination if possible), lock up electronics and cameras, and use recovery programs like [Prey Project](#) to monitor their location remotely.

## **31. SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE:**

**SIMPSON BAY RESTAURANT FOR SALE -- 100 seats (inside and covered terrace), award-winning, great reputation, everything in like-new condition, off-street parking, experienced staff. \$395K and \$5K monthly rent. Contact [sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com](mailto:sxmrestaurantforsale@hotmail.com) and INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, owner will return your call. NO REALTORS.**

## **32. Where to See SXM's Wild Vervet Monkeys**

### **Background:**

The approximately 2000 wild Vervet monkeys here on SXM aren't native to the island. They were brought here as pets years ago and were let loose by their owners when they became too big or obnoxious to keep. They've thrived in the wild but have become a nuisance to people with fruit trees (they feast in local gardens) and they go through trash looking for food. If people irritate them, they've been known to hurl objects at them. There is a controversial program to catch them in humane traps and euthanize them, but almost nobody expects it to work and many are vehemently opposed.

### **Answering the question:**

They go where they find a good food supply. They are often seen in the Rice Hill and Dawn Beach areas, and have been seen in groups (a couple of dozen) at Loterie Farm. Ask about where to see them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) and a number of people will post pictures of their sightings. [This is a video we shot in 2008](#) at the old Summit Resort Hotel, Cupecoy, "Wild Monkeys in St. Maarten".

Feeding them is NOT advised.

## **33. Long-Time Leeward Islands Carrier LIAT Cancels Flights Yet Again Due to "Unscheduled Maintenance"**

LIAT (Leeward Islands Air Transport) is widely regarded here as an airline that does not do well adhering to schedules. They have also had a number of schedule cancellations due to maintenance issues that suddenly become troublesome -- not an enviable quality in any airline.

Here is how LIAT put it to the press:

*LIAT wishes to advise that due to unscheduled maintenance issues, there will be a disruption to its regular flight schedule. The issues have caused LIAT to suspend its current schedule as it works to resolve the issues and put its aircraft back on schedule.*

*However, due to logistical and supply chain issues, the airline does not have a concrete deadline for the return to its*

regular schedule. Therefore, several flights in the coming weeks have been canceled.

LIAT acknowledges that this disruption will cause a major inconvenience to its customers at this time. However, the safety of our passengers, crew and ground staff are of the utmost importance.

LIAT is currently exploring all available options to assist passengers at this time. Our Reservations Call Centre is currently contacting affected passengers to assist with their travel needs. The airline is also working diligently to expedite the maintenance process so the airline can resume its regular schedule which is essential to connectivity in the region.

Passengers are asked to monitor their e-mails and LIAT's social media platforms for updates.

Due to the high volume of calls, we ask that passengers await their contact calls or contact the airline via email at [Reservations@liat.com](mailto:Reservations@liat.com).

LIAT sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this schedule disruption and looks forward to resuming service soon.

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## 34. Air France A330 Sits Overnight Wednesday in SXM

An Air France A330 aircraft apparently suffered maintenance issues of some type and was stuck at the gate at SXM Airport from midweek through Friday when we last checked at the airport. We don't know when it will be repaired and depart. Other Air France flights appear to be operating normally here. No word on how the passengers were accommodated / returned to Paris.

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## 35. L'Oursin Restaurant at La Samanna, Others Are All Now Open to the Public

La Samanna Resort, a Belmond Hotel here in the French Lowlands just over the border from Cupecoy Beach, has long been known as *the* destination resort for "rich and famous" guests from around the world.

Now, CIA graduate and renowned Chef **Dino Jagtiani**, whose Temptation restaurant was one of SXM's very best until Irma blew it away in 2017, is in charge of all culinary for this extraordinary resort -- and that's multiple fine restaurants. "I want the world to know we are open to the public, and we urge everyone to make reservations and visit us soon."

Restaurants at La Samanna are:

**L'Oursin**, open M-T-TH-FR&SAT 600-930pm.

**La Spiaggia at Laplaj**, open Wed thru Sat 600-930pm.

**La Plaj** (beach bar), Daily 9am - sunset.

For more information, go [here](#).

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## 36. Winair Increases Flights to Some Other Caribbean Islands

WINAIR is pleased to announce that it will be increasing its flights between St. Maarten, Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, effective November 15, 2023.

To celebrate this WINAIR will offer great promotional fares on these routes, with one-way fares starting from \$69.00

### INCREASED FLIGHT FREQUENCY

After a successful introduction of flights with its own ATR-500 between Sint Maarten and the three ABC islands in July 2023 and the arrival of the second ATR-500 which is scheduled to start service November 15, 2023, WINAIR will now offer:

- Daily flights between Sint Maarten and Curacao
- Four flights a week between Sint Maarten/Curacao and Aruba every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
- Three flights a week between Sint Maarten/Curacao and Bonaire every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday

This increased frequency of flights will provide customers with more convenient and flexible travel options between the Dutch Caribbean islands, including St. Eustatius and Saba via St. Maarten and connect seamlessly with the international network of our partners.

#### PROMOTIONAL FARES

To celebrate this event WINAIR is also offering great promotional fares on flights to and between St. Maarten, Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire:

##### Route & One-Way Fare

SXM – CUR US\$119.00

SXM – AUA US\$199.00

SXM – BON US\$199.00

CUR – BON US\$69.00

CUR – AUA US\$79.00

##### Route & Round-Trip Fare

SXM – CUR US\$229.00

SXM – AUA US\$299.00

SXM – BON US\$299.00

CUR – BON US\$129.00

CUR – AUA US\$139.00

These fares include taxes/ fees and will be available for booking now until December 31, 2023 and travel until March 30, 2024. Limited seats available. Book the special promotional fares on [winair.sx](http://winair.sx).

“We are excited to increase our flight frequency to and between Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, and to offer our customers great promotional fares on these routes,” said Hans van de Velde, CEO of WINAIR. “This increase in service and our promotional fares reflect our commitment to making travel between the six Dutch Caribbean islands more convenient, affordable, and enjoyable for everyone.”

Source: Winair

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## 37. Police Investigating Dwain Carbon & Carbon Acquisition Group for Money Laundering, Alleged Ponzi Scheme

This potentially impacts readers who bought condominiums from Carbon Acquisition Group and / or Dwain Carbon and possibly affiliated companies.

Go to [Google.com](http://Google.com) and search "Dwain Carbon" under the category "News" and you will find multiple stories concerning Mr. Carbon and his companies and many accusations against them for wrongdoing. Included in the list are vociferous complaints from condo buyers who did not receive property they bought and / or alleged other issues.

[This article will be particularly enlightening](#) about problems alleged by people who bought from Carbon. Another enlightening story is [here](#). The investigation into all this is actively underway here in SXM. Carbon is currently living in Florida.

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## 38. Jeweler of the Week: Caribbean Gems (#1 of a Series)

Since 1983, Caribbean Gems has been the #1 destination for shopping on Sint Maarten! With a wide selection of high-quality and unique jewelry pieces, an in-house workshop for customized designs, and two locations on Front Street - Caribbean Gems is an absolute 'must see' on your next trip to the island! They have been consistently voted as the #1 *Jewelry Store on Sint Maarten*, locally in the *Daily Herald*, and online with Google and TripAdvisor. Every year the business has thousands of repeat clients who come back to St. Maarten and shop with them. Is it time for your visit to Caribbean Gems?

Caribbean Gems came from humble origins. Founded by Manu Budhrani in 1983 as a souvenir and t-shirt store, they were one of the first dozen or so retailers on Front Street. In time, they started selling Italian gold jewelry at the daily gold market price to tourists visiting the island and from there they grew to the powerhouse they are today. Many will



tell you that they were true pioneers in the jewelry industry on Sint Maarten.

Through the years, Manu and his wife Neelam have traveled far and wide to find direct sources for the finest gemstones and manufacturers, thus cutting out the middlemen. Because of this, they are able to provide their clients a higher quality product at lower prices than the competition.

Whether you are looking for a **classic and elegant** necklace, a **fascinating and intriguing** ring, or a **playful and whimsical bracelet**, Caribbean Gems has something for everyone. With 2 stores on Front Street, they truly carry some of the most exquisite jewelry and watches available on the island, including but not limited to GIA certified loose Diamonds, top quality Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires and Tanzanites, certified pre-owned Rolex, as well as a vast selection of semi-precious and gold jewelry in 14kt and 18kt gold.

With friendly & attentive staff, legendary after sales service, your visit to Caribbean Gems will be a truly enjoyable shopping experience and you will go home with a piece that you will treasure for a lifetime. They're not just a jewelry store, but a **treasure trove** of beauty and creativity. They've been serving the island for 41 years, and now with their son Krish having joined the business, they strive to continue these practices for the next 40+ years to come - and beyond!

2 Locations – 22 & 40 Front Street, Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Tel: 1-721-542-2176 US Line: 1-212-537-6094

Email: [sales@caribbeangems.com](mailto:sales@caribbeangems.com)

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

## 39. Restaurant of the Week: L'Oursin, La Samanna

We returned to L'Oursin at La Samanna last week after hearing that Chef Dino Jagtiani, the renowned award-winning first-ever CIA Chef from St. Maarten, was in charge of all culinary there. He was previously the owner of both Rare and Temptation at the Starz Casino in Cupecoy until hurricane Irma blew it away in 2017.

For those new readers who aren't familiar with La Samanna, it's a Belmond hotel, among the finest anywhere. It has long been known here as the destination property for the rich and famous. In fact, renowned Caribbean plein air impressionist Roland Richardson has painted here for years -- the portrait he did of Ilene and me a number of years ago was painted at La Samanna.

The primary restaurant here is L'Oursin, blessed with a breathtaking view of Baie Longue and the beautiful turquoise Caribbean. We first visited their bar just feet away from L'Oursin and enjoyed a few cocktails with long-time friends Roland & Laura Richardson, then went on to L'Oursin for a pre-reopening dinner. This is Michelin-quality fine French dining. Roland and I both ordered similarly, with a Christophene appetizer (first time I've had Christophene in years), followed by their unique slant on Mahi. Mahi can easily dry out if overcooked but this dish was absolute perfection, moist, tender, and immensely flavorful.

Save room...chocoholics will audibly rejoice over the dessert selections. We give L'Oursin (pronounced Lohr-SAHN) our highest recommendation and we urge you to make reservations. They open for the season later this week. Call them:

[+590 590 87 64 00](tel:+590590876400)

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

### Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**L'Oursin Restaurant at La Samanna, a Belmond Hotel:** Truly extraordinary fine-dining dining under the watchful eye of master Chef Dino Jagtiani. Collaborating with top Caribbean Chefs, L'Oursin delivers a thoroughly memorable panoply of flavors, aromas, and textures -- and the presentation is truly artistic and photo-worthy. Orders of magnitude beyond ordinary deliciousness! Reservations are essential: [+590 590 87 64 00](tel:+590590876400). (featured 11/13/23)

**The French Touch on Old Street,** off Front Street in central Philipsburg (featured 11/6/23). Great breakfasts and lunches in a quiet, attractive setting. Very reasonable prices, substantial menu. Under the direction of Jean-Pierre, formerly head of Antoine. **We loved it...**

**IZI Ristorante Italiano,** [www.izisxm.com](http://www.izisxm.com) (featured 11/1/23). 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.**

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 10/23/23) 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.

**Freedom Fighters Ital Shack (featured 10/16/23)** is a unique vegan restaurant that delivers freshness beyond what you might expect. If you're looking for dining that is tantalizing, healthy, memorable, satisfying, and totally unique on SXM, this is your place. Highly recommended. More: [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant)

**The Chef Table (featured 7/31/23)**, is the new restaurant from award-winning chef Wendell Laurence. Located across the street in Simpson Bay from The Mailbox, it has just opened, and it offers a spectrum of culinary delights aimed at satisfying the most demanding set of taste buds. Chef Wendell has been serving delightful dishes across SXM for more than 15 years and this is his first time as an owner. See much for information and pictures in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). Highly recommended.

**Dany's Smooth Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road Northwest toward Shore Pointe and turn left before Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 6/19/2023) Parking, drinks, great lolo food, camaraderie, chairs and umbrellas, and an all-over tan on this traditionally clothing-optional beach. What could possibly be better?

**The Coffee Lounge, (featured 6/5/23) 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.

**Emilio's at the Emilio Wilson Estate**, Dutch Side, <https://emilios-sxm.com/>. [Featured 5/30/23] 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.

**Spiga, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com)** (featured 5/22/23) 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.

**Bamboo House (5/8/23)**, 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/>

**Mario's Bistro at the Cliff [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/)** (featured 4/17/23) 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.

**Jai's Contemporary Fusion Cuisine (featured 3/20/23), 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/jaissxmresto>

**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)

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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## 40. 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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## 41. Flying in Winter or Spring? Here's Something Else You Should Know

If you are traveling anywhere this Winter or next Spring, 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 or Summer or Fall, buy your new SkyMed annual or multiyear membership NOW, at least three months ahead of your planned travel -- then the 90-day exclusion period for preexisting conditions will end before you travel...**

**Why get annual or multiyear memberships?** SHORT-TERM family memberships (for a week or two) are now \$18/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 508-747-8281 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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## 42. 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 now have over 36,000 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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## 43. Important Updated Contact Information for Everything SXM / JMB Communications / JMB Website Supporters Membership Services and SkyMed Sales (UPDATED 4/17):

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 508-747-8281 and leave a message.**
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.

## 44. Who Our Sponsors Are, & Why You Should Patronize Them (Updated 11/13/23)

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).

The following are all new Sponsors (same family): Bistrot Caraiibes; Sunshine SXM Studios; Bistrot Immi Development; Studio Orient Bay; SCI Sea & Sun. Secret Seafood House & Joseph Fun Boat Charters are both now Sponsors (same owner, Keith Joseph; 40 weeks).

### **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;

Life Is Good®, Philipsburg.

### **BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES**

**Toppers Rhum & Vodka Distillery**

### **CAR RENTALS:**

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

**Exclusive Car Rental**

**Tropicana Car Rental**

**Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental**

**SixT Car Rental**

**Starlite Car Rental**

### **CHILD CARE & MORE FOR VISITORS**

**Alisha Brookes**

### **COFFEE / PASTRY & MORE:**

**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** (Cell Phones, TVs,, REPAIRS, Computers, Peripherals)

**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.) **CALL 508-747-8281 or email [jeff.berger@skymed.com](mailto:jeff.berger@skymed.com).**

## **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](#)

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

Jewels & Beyond (Maho)

[Shoppers Haven](#)

**Royal Jewelers**

**Kay's Fine Jewelry**

**Joe's Jewelry International**

**Ballerina Jewelers**

**Alpha Jewels**

**MAPS** (SXM MAPS and others in the Caribbean)

[Kasprowski Publisher](#)

## **MASSAGE**

**Patty Healing Hands WhatsApp number:+1(721)5230368 E mail: pattyhealinghands@gmail.com**

## **PARFUMERIE / PERFUME**

**Tijon Parfumerie**, Grand Case, [www.tijon.com](http://www.tijon.com)

**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*.

[GoBeach Vacations](#)

**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**, Ms. Candie Billant

Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company

+590 690 22 18 22

blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

**BrightFuture Realty**

**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**

**NOLA Bayou Bistro (James "Jimbo" Morris)**

**The Chef's Table (new 7/31), Chef Wendell Laurence**

**At Oasis:**

**--ROMA (Marco Ferrante)**



--Mr. Chow (Ivan)

--The Deli

Emilio's

Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar

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

La Sucriere

#### RESTAURANT ORDERING ONLINE

Orders.sx

#### SOUVENIRS

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

#### STAR WARS / YODA GUY MUSEUM

[Nick Malley, Front Street](#)

#### VIDEOGRAPHERS

Martin Like St. Maarten (Maarten Leon)

#### 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** Owner/Broker of Blue Paradise Real Estate company  
+590 690 22 18 22  
blueparadiserealestate@gmail.com

[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 11/13/23*

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## 45. 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 [everythingsexm.com](http://everythingsexm.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.

**CALL US at 508-747-8281.**

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## 46. 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 will soon be thoroughly updated (we're several months behind). Each week's newsletter is usually added within a few days after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday). We do have some catching up to do...

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## **Get The Lowest Price on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership**

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

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

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

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

**Tune In Island92 at 91.9 FM**

**or On Your Internet-Connected Device**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Want to rent or buy a week?

"2023 and 2024 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.)

11/13/23 #V4-1414 545 pm AST 11/11 | [Terms of use](#) |

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