

**From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/27/23: AA Flight Attendants Seek Permission to Strike; Airport Arrival & Departure Facilities Update; Weather (Three Stories); JetBlue / Spirit Court Case; Make Your Own Perfume (Women, Men, and Kids) at Tijon Parfumerie; BLACK FRIDAY SALE EXTENDED TO MONDAY DEC. 4; Christmas in the Caribbean (Trees Arriving); Enter Our 7-Vacation Giveaway -- Details Inside; --- Our Largest Issue Ever --- [#1416 - 54 Top SXM News Stories for Tourists]**

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



\*\*\*\*\*OUR BIGGEST ISSUE EVER\*\*\*\*\*

Vol. 4, #1416 ---- Monday, November 27, 2023  
News From Sint Maarten / Saint Martin / SXM

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

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

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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.***

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

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

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

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

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**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** 2/4/2024 2/11/2024 Week 5 **Simpson Bay Resort & Marina** The resort offers a private beach, five pools, activity programs, spa, water sports, tennis courts, casino, dining and entertainment. Overlooking Simpson Bay, the unit is one bedroom, full kitchen, large balcony, sleeps 4, and is on the top floor of the Beaumontia building offering beautiful views. Kim Sha Beach and downtown Simpson Bay's restaurants, shops and nightlife is just a short walk away. 1,500 Debbie [deborahbigger@gmail.com](mailto:deborahbigger@gmail.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** 3/11/2023 4/8/2023 Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13 **The Villas at Simpson Bay** Simpson Bay resort Sleep 6 unit on the 4th floor closest to the marina building. Master suite can be used as sleep 4 , junior suite sleeps 2 as lock off unit. Stay in one unit and rent out the other! Beautiful view of Simpson Bay with restaurants, jewelry store, casino, pools, and grocery available on the resort and other restaurants available within walking distance. Balconies have full afternoon shade, perfect way to end your day on the beach. Unit was completely refurbished in 2020. Will offer discount if purchasing multiple weeks. \$12,000 per week Deborah 412-952-7577 [d\\_henle@msn.com](mailto:d_henle@msn.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](https://mewe.com/join/jeffbergerseverythingsxmmeewegroup)" MeWe Group**

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

#### **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. LEAD STORY: AA Flight Attendants Request Permission to Strike

"Requesting Permission to Strike" does not mean that a strike by AA flight attendants is either imminent or probable. It is the first step in a process by which the flight attendants union intends to figuratively whack AA upside the head, get their attention, and get them to make a better contract offer than what is already on the table. Nobody wants a strike, but this may bring the parties closer to an agreement than might have happened without this step.

Much more information is [here](#).

## 2. SXM Airport ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES Update; All "Jet Bridges" Due 12/15

Late last week and last weekend (a week ago) were a mess at SXM Airport, with new departure technology not working properly and disorganization marking the temporary new arrivals area.

Reports from travelers during *this past week* were indicating that things were gradually improving, especially on the departure side of airport operations. Arrivals were, to be kind, improving less expeditiously. One arriving passenger photographed other arriving passengers huddled outdoors under a big A330 airplane (Air France/KLM) to stay out of the rain last week.

For reports about what happened at the airport on Saturday, November 25, see our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). That will be covered in detail there.

## 3. US Weather Starts to Impact Flights

With winter still about a month away, bad weather in the US played havoc with some flights last Wednesday, as millions of travelers struggled to get to their Thanksgiving Day destinations. A rare Wednesday JetBlue nonstop from Boston to SXM took off about two hours late, and the return flight from SXM back to Boston arrived almost exactly three hours late, likely causing many to miss ongoing connecting flights. As winter weather arrives before Christmas and stays through most of March, weather obstacles to smooth flying will mount, as usual.

More on coping with cancellations is below in this section of *SXM Weekly News*.

## 4. Icelandic Volcano's Still-Potential Eruption Could Spew Ash into Trans-Atlantic Air Travel Lanes

Although it appears that a volcano eruption in Iceland is less imminent than was believed a few days ago, nonetheless it is still possible. If it happens, volcanic ash will be spread over a wide area through which many hundreds of passenger airplanes usually pass from across Europe and beyond to North and South America. Where the ash goes depends on winds at the time of, and after, the eruption -- if it happens.

Here is [the latest on that possibility](#), from Iceland. This could impact Air France, KLM, and some private jet flights from Europe to SXM. Though the threat seemed less imminent late last week, it is absolutely not over.

## 5. JetBlue / Spirit Court Case Completes First Month; When Will We Know the Verdict?

The Federal Government's case against the merger of JetBlue and Spirit concluded last Tuesday. The Defense starts in the next day or two and is expected to conclude this week, after which the Judge will render his verdict. This is a bench case, not a jury trial. It is not known at this writing how long the judge will take to render his verdict.

Bloomberg noted, "JetBlue and Spirit will start their final defense of the deal Monday. But they've already made their main point that they need to combine to create a company that can viably compete with the big-four airlines — American Airlines Group Inc., Delta Air Lines Inc., United Airlines Holdings Inc. and Southwest Airlines Co., which account for about 80% of ticket revenue in the US."

The full Bloomberg report on the status of this case is [here](#). Since this is likely to affect service to SXM, which both JetBlue and Spirit serve, we will continue to provide updates on this trial.

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NEWSLETTER FOR TOURISTS.**

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

## 6. 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.**

## 7. WINTER WEATHER IS COMING: What To Do If Your Flight is



## Canceled or Delayed...

What should you do if your flight is canceled or delayed? This [article](#) gives you answers.

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### *Etc./Weather*

## 8. '23 Hurricane Season "Ends" Thursday; 2024 Hurricane Names

Although the '23 Atlantic hurricane season ends officially 11/30, we will continue to watch the tropics for any straggler systems that may appear in the next few weeks.

**Hurricane names for 2024:** Alberto Beryl Chris Debby Ernesto Francine Gordon Helene Isaac Joyce Kirk Leslie Milton Nadine Oscar Patty Rafael Sara Tony Valerie William.

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## 9. Coming Attractions: December Winds, Christmas Worms

December is the month during which the rainy season starts transitioning toward the sunny and continued hot but less wet weather of tropical winter. It's windy -- sometime a bit too windy for some, particularly on beaches to the island's Northeast (like Orient Beach).

The other "attraction" is Christmas worms. You may see none or very few, or you may see battalions of them inching their way across a floor somewhere or outside. Why are they called "Christmas worms"? Because they are a bright red, far different from other, more familiar worms.

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## 10. A Look Forward to the 2024 and 2025 Hurricane Seasons (Repeat)

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

*Even though the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season hasn't officially ended, I wanted to go over what I'm seeing for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season.*

**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).

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## 11. 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).

## 12. 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).

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

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

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

## 13. NEW: The Ultimate Guide to Relocation in SXM

## Moving to Sint Maarten: The Ultimate Guide

**Discover everything you need to know about relocating to the stunning island of Sint Maarten with this comprehensive new guide. From how to obtain residency to the best neighborhoods, lifestyle, and culture, we've got you covered.**

[Use this link](#) to access the Ultimate Guide

## 14. Where to Rent a Beach Villa for Your Family

Some people decide to look at AirBnB or other villa rental outfits online. We have two very different suggestions.

First, a timeshare condo may be all you need. See the next article. We have hundreds of timeshares for rent and for sale on our main site, [everythingxsm.com](http://everythingxsm.com). You rent directly from timeshare owners who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program -- not strangers.

Second, if you still want a villa, we strongly suggest you contact the people who know the island best -- the Realtors listed below in this section. They actually know the properties they're renting and their owners. That's an enormous difference.

See the stories below for all the info you need.

## 15. 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).

## 16. 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.

## 17. 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.

## 18. Best Realtors to See for SXM Condos & Villas

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

### VILLA RENTALS / RENTAL COMPANIES:

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

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

**Candie Billant** does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at **#Blue Paradise Real Estate Agency** 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

**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®!**

## 19. 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).

## 20. 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.

## 21. 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.

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

## 22. 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 my change early next year!**

## 23. 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](#).

## 24. Newly Updated Contact Information for JMB Website Supporters Discounts and SkyMed Medevac Sales Inquiries (UPDATED 11/18/23)

**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**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

**For info see the links below, and for answers to questions or to sign up by phone call 508-747-8281 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.**

## **26. 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

## 27. 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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## **28. ===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.]

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## **29. 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  
11/23/23!**

**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 11/23/23**

### **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

Ray's Jewelry

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 **Kasprowski Publisher** AND their map of the entire Caribbean. See more at [www.midok.com](http://www.midok.com) . Also available on Amazon.

**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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## 30. Our Legendary BLACK FRIDAY SALE Extended to Monday Dec. 4

This is Special: when you buy any JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program NEW or RENEWAL membership *for more than two years*, you get **TWO EXTRA YEARS FREE!** We've never done this before and this sale ENDS MONDAY DEC. 4, so act now to get this deal. **Don't miss this one-time-only offer!**

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## 31. When Is a Good Time to Visit SXM? Try NOW...

You might not know it or think it, but NOW is a particularly good time to visit SXM -- between post-Thanksgiving and the

December 15 official start of high season. There's a post-Thanksgiving lull here that disappears before Christmas, when SXM gets truly busy and pretty much stays that way through March. That pre-12/15 lull has generally great weather, not a lot of tourists, and everything is open and in full swing -- including the jewelers who are making holiday deals (see the story about one below), good prices for accommodations, delicious weather... come on down....

## 32. We Really Do Have "Everything But Snow" for Christmas in the Caribbean

As Jimmy Buffet sings [Christmas in the Caribbean](#), he insists it features "everything but snow." Years ago, when we first started spending the holidays here, we discovered after Thanksgiving that refrigerated containers were appearing outside many markets and inside them were freshly cut live Christmas trees -- a big surprise bearing a fragrance everyone loves. Stores bring in thousands of Christmas items and the island gets lit up after Thanksgiving like so many places in North America.

If you haven't been here around Christmas, read the previous article and get down here. **Christmas in the Caribbean** is very special -- and you'll have no shoveling and no ice to scrape off your car's windows.

## 33. 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. Location: Welfare Road, Simpson Bay.***

## 34. After a Slow Low Season, SXM Tourist-Related Businesses Looking Forward to a Busy Winter

This just-ending low season here in SXM was one of the most difficult in recent memory. The island played dodge-and-weave as hurricanes swirled nearby but it was spared from any significant impacts. Nonetheless, world news wasn't great, the US economy achieved record employment but prices stayed high and airfares, moderating now, had stayed at absurdly high levels for a number of months.

Tourist-centric SXM businesses, the heart of the island economy, are looking forward to what they believe will be a busy year. Long-range forecasts call for a cold, snowy winter over much of North America -- many thousands of people (you included) are looking forward to escaping such freezer weather right here in SXM.

Get all your SXM questions answered: please post them in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

## 35. Unique SXM Experiences: Tijon Parfumerie Lets You Make Your Own Fragrance (Men, Women, and Kids 6+)

Ever make your own perfume? It is a transcendental experience, where the experts at Tijon Parfumerie in Grand Case (opposite Spiga) seat you in their fragrance lab and give you a hands-on course in how perfumes are developed and blended. Before you, you'll see hundreds of vials of specific fragrances. You pick your favorites and blend them yourself at your fragrance workstation into something uniquely you, as both Ilene and I have done multiple times, on our own and with island friends. You record what you're adding so your formula can be preserved. We love what we blended and have reordered our fragrances from Tijon on multiple occasions.

**Just do it, but make reservations well in advance to avoid disappointment; they book up quickly especially in high season.** Learn more and book your reservation [here](#).

This is the first in a new series of stories here in *SXM Weekly News*. Read every issue for more **Unique SXM Experiences**.

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## 36. Some "Fixed" Pothole Repairs Falling Apart Already

Right after a speed bump on the northbound part of Airport Road parallel with the airport runway, many motorists for weeks had suffered a jaw-jarring pothole near the entrance to Hertz. Good news: workers filled it a few days ago with some black gravel-like substance. Bad news: it didn't work and the pothole it was supposed to fill appears to be roaring back. We'll refrain from the real temptation for in-depth comments here except to say *Government of St. Maarten*, for the sake of all your citizens and visitors, please **Do It Right, Not Over** and fix these annoying potholes permanently. Whoever did these repairs did NOT do an effective job.

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## 37. In Mullet Bay, Many Streetlights Are Still Out

If you drive to Cupecoy Beach as a resident / visitor or go there because of the many restaurants there (including superb Mario's Bistro at The Cliff), you'd expect that by now the relighting project that was supposed to shed new light on Rhine Road through Mullet Bay would have long since been finished.

After several weeks of no lights *a year ago*, I said to an xPat friend / radio personality "Why aren't the lights working?" to which he quickly replied, "their schedules aren't like ours. They'll get to it when they get to it."

Again that was a year ago, and half the streetlights on Rhine Road through Mullet Bay still aren't working. Politicians seeking reelection are putting up pictures of themselves on "the hill" and elsewhere, but it would be nice if they'd actually fix Dutch side infrastructure before asking for votes. Isn't that why people elected them?

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## 38. Road to Towers at Mullet Bay Blocked

The Towers at Mullet Bay Timeshare Resort has been mostly unusable since Irma, apparently related to severe financial issues related to an insurance company and the Government. Until recently, timeshare owners could still drive down the short road between Rhine Road and Towers at Mullet Bay (not to be confused with the much newer Fourteen condo towers) to see how their investments looked.

Not now. Big cement blocks have been dumped in the road making vehicle passage impossible. Towers at Mullet Bay timeshare owners, where families invested tens of thousands of hard-earned dollars here, have been left in the lurch -- and the government hasn't updated them on what's happening and why *for years*.

This is another example of why SXM needs effective US-style **Timeshare Owner Consumer Protection**...something politicians here point fingers at each other about but never get around to enacting...and *they also to our knowledge have never bothered to seek counsel from actual timeshare owners about what is needed and how it would work -- a glaring deficiency*. That's another enormous roadblock for timeshare owners....

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## 39. In Downtown Philipsburg, Some Sidewalks Still Torn Up to Bury Utilities...

We have no idea why sidewalks next to a good chunk of the western and central part of Front Street were torn up over the last few weeks, and especially last week, one of the busiest tourism weeks of the entire year. Perhaps deliveries of materials had been delayed by recent hurricane near misses...perhaps the scheduler was oblivious about how busy Philipsburg would be during Thanksgiving week. Perhaps construction had been delayed by heavy rains in recent weeks.

Regardless, sidewalks remained torn up last week -- an unwelcome hindrance to shopping...unwelcome by business owners who endured a very slow low season and equally unwelcome by tourists who had to walk through this to do the shopping they had planned.

See next story.

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## 40. ...Philipsburg's Obstacle Course for Disabled or Wheelchair-Bound Pedestrians

It is bad enough that arrogant people park on Front Street Philipsburg sidewalks - especially west of the center of town. It is worse that officials ballyhoo a few hours a month (or every couple of months) when they tow some of these cars in very brief efforts that are actually nothing but "photo opps."

Most of the time cars on sidewalks are totally ignored by authorities. We drive down Front Street every day to see what's happening for ourselves -- and there the cars are parked on the sidewalks, unbothered by anyone.

**This creates an enormous obstacle course for everyone, but disabled people and those in wheelchairs suffer the brunt of this overarching inattention. We've complained about it before. Is anybody listening?**

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## 41. ATTENTION VEGETARIANS: Where to Go for Dinner

One of the places that caters very effectively to vegetarians (as well as everyone else) is David Foini's IZI Ristorante Italiano, in Simpson Bay, one of the most revered restaurants on the entire island. They have a spectrum of veggies & related items that are cooked and spiced to perfection; make reservations and go. Plenty of dining options for vegetarians and everyone else. Tell David you heard about IZI here and he will take great care of you...

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## 42. Heads Up: Avoid High Heels in Philipsburg

Cobblestone street paving and misaligned brick sidewalks are two key reasons to avoid wearing high heels in Philipsburg. Sneakers or flats are much safer...or even sandals. You will absolutely thank us...

See the articles above re: sidewalk utility installation in Philipsburg.

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## 43. Where do You Get Cold Water in SXM?

Don't waste your time (and water) by running water from a faucet waiting for it to get cold. Doesn't work. This is the Caribbean where the only cold water comes from a jug in your refrigerator.

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## 44. Restaurant Variety: Take Another Look at Our "Restaurant of the Week" Selections

See "Restaurant of the Week" below. It always picks fine restaurants, but the "fine restaurants" dining does NOT mean they're all a single shade of restaurant types. There are all kinds...all genres. Check recent selections and you'll see what we mean...a world of choices.

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## 45. JEWELER OF THE WEEK: Zhaveri Jewelers (Third in a Series)

Zhaveri Jewelers was the third jewelry store started by individual members of the Budhrani family here in SXM. Deepu, the youngest of the three Budhrani brothers, is the owner here. A third-generation jeweler, Deepu's training in the jewelry business started at age 12 by his dad Mike and his older brothers, who he says "have always been there" when advice was needed. (The older brothers were featured in the first two stories in this series; see them listed below).



Mike always preached ethics and morals in business, stressing the basics of any successful business: underpromise and overdeliver. "A person walking in as a client should leave feeling like family," Deepu explains. Mike taught Deepu to always give back to the community, which is why today Zhaveri prides itself in being a major contributor towards many different youth activities in St. Maarten.

Deepu's strong jewelry roots, along with his Boston-based college education, have enabled Zhaveri to bring a fresh approach to Caribbean retail by focusing on customer experience within a unique and innovative state-of-the-art establishment in the heart of Front Street, Zhaveri Luxury.

Zhaveri works to provide high quality merchandise at very reasonable prices, leveraging a team with years of experience, merchandise with brands people trust, and two-store buying power, including Deepu's sister store at the cruise ship harbor in Ketchikan, Alaska. At both stores, customers peruse their immense selections of finely crafted jewelry and find ideal items for themselves and their loved ones. Zhaveri offers an enormous selection of **18K, 14K and 10K gold jewelry** plus one of the largest in-stock selections of GIA certified Diamonds, Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires, Tanzanites, Alexandrites, and almost any precious or semi precious gemstone on the market.

Beyond their legendary expertise in Diamonds, Zhaveri's knowledgeable, helpful staff takes the time to guide you through the process of picking the right gemstone and the right mounting for the *when* and *how* you wear your jewelry; there's a difference in what makes the most sense depending on whether you wear rings constantly or just for special occasions. They can help you put together the piece of your dreams in a matter of hours.

Unlike some stores, Zhaveri gives men's jewelry the same priority as jewelry for women. Men's jewelry was an ignored product for many years, but one look at Zhaveri's selection will show you new and unique designs that would please practically any man. They carry a vast selection of Swiss watches, cuff-links, tie-pins, and more.

Add to all of this the fact that Zhaveri services one of the most loyal clienteles, with some customers having been purchasing from them for close to 40 years (since 1986). That tells you why you might just want to stop in to their store in SXM or Ketchikan, Alaska. (see below).

Whether you're looking to pamper yourself or treat someone special to an exceptional gift, Zhaveri has always been highly recommended as a must visit for residents & visitors to St. Maarten, Anguilla, and St. Barths. If diamonds, exotic gems, and beautiful gold jewelry excite you, Zhaveri Luxury has many treasures to show you.

Zhaveri always strives to show the newest, most innovative jewelry on their all-new website. Check it out and visit them on your next SXM trip.

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

Web: [www.zhaveri.com](http://www.zhaveri.com)

Tel: 1.721.543.1075 or 1.917.438.9291 (Metro New York)

*In Alaska, we are "Caribbean Gems Alaska".*

**Previously featured in this series:**

- 1) **Caribbean Gems** (Manu, Neelam, & Krish Budhrani)
- 2) **Oro Diamante** (Raju Budhrani)
- 3) **Zhaveri Luxury** (Deepu Budhrani)

Next week: Stay tuned.

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## 46. Restaurant of the Week: LaPlaj

As we've mentioned recently, the restaurants at the upscale La Samanna Hotel (a Belmond hotel) are now open to the public, with reservations. Executive Chef: Dino Jagtiani, SXM's first graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and the owner of the former Rare and Temptation restaurants at Starz Casino. Temptation and Starz were both obliterated by uncaring hurricane Irma 6 years ago.

Though he has done a number of other impressive things over the last few years, La Samanna may be Dino's most amazing transformation. The menus at the restaurants here are transformative -- very healthy and wonderfully creative and luscious offerings.

We recently visited LaPlaj and I was simply craving a great burger. I ordered the portobello burger. I got it but found no beef...did not understand that until I was practically finished. I loved this unpretentiously vegetarian selection and would

absolutely order it again. It was truly delicious and not something I would previously have ordered on purpose. The setting is the beach bar at the resort, which has breathtaking views, extraordinary service, and as you now know...amazing food. Just go. Dino and the entire staff are doing amazing work and the world needs to know it.

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

## Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

### **LaPlaj Beach Bar at La Samanna Resort, a Belmond Hotel (featured 11/27/23)**

<https://www.belmond.com/hotels/north-america/caribbean/st-martin/belmond-la-samanna/dining>: Extraordinary service, an innovative and creatively superior menu, and a gorgeous setting on the Caribbean are the reasons for going. This is an unparalleled experience, with a fine dining version of a beach bar. Great place. Call for reservations. **Mario's Bistro at the Cliff** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) (featured 11/20/23) 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.

**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. (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/>

**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 Philipsburg. (featured 8/9/21) Great open-air atmosphere, outdoor dining/drinking, entertainment. Their menu is extensive with excellent food, fun atmosphere, and beautiful ocean views. Located on the beach, at the Boardwalk....

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

**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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### 47. 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.

### 48. 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.

## 49. 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).

## 50. 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.

## 51. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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## 52. 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 [everything.sxm.com](http://everything.sxm.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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## 53. 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 ...

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.

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

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

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

"2023 and 2024 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale" are posted at [http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingSXM.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated weekly. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from our JMB Website Supporters members only.

### SECTION 5: For Members Only

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **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.)

11/27/23 #V4-1416 430 pm AST 11/27 | [Terms of use](#) |

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