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American Senior Communities teams up with travel agency to create dementia-friendly cruise

[American Senior Communities](#) has teamed up with [Elite Cruises and Vacations](#) of Chicago, a certified special needs travel agency, to sponsor the agency's February cruise vacation for people with diagnoses of dementia and other cognitive issues.

ASC is sharing the opportunity of the cruise, slated for Feb. 19 to 26, with its memory care assisted living residents in 13 of its 94 properties, as well as their family members.

"We are so pleased to partner with Elite Cruises and Vacations to make our memory care family members aware of this potential to vacation once again with their loved ones living with dementia diagnoses," said Melanie Perry, director of ASC's memory care support services. "We are hoping that many will be able to avail themselves of this service and to able to experience a time of joy and adventure together "

The cruise will leave Fort Lauderdale, FL, for a trip to the Eastern Caribbean Islands. Kathy Shoaf, RN, owner of the travel agency, will be on board, as will a mobility specialist, pharmacist, dentist and a specialized geriatric activity coordinator. Hollard American employs a licensed physician on each cruise.

Elite also tailors cruises for people with heart conditions, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Parkinson's and other diseases. The events include educational and supportive presentations, respite sessions for caregivers, social activities, and senior Zumba.