## Date Idea: Bet On It





By Hope Ankney and Kristin Mattern

Take a gamble on love this weekend and hit the strip with your man! Head out to a local casino and set the stakes high as you roll your way into your sweetie's heart. You'll be up all night with this weekend <u>date idea</u>.

## Check out this date idea if you want a fun and competitive date that lasts all night!

Get glammed up for your cutie, jump in the car (or get extra fancy and rent a limo) and drive over to the nearest gambling spot. As you walk arm and arm onto the casino floor together, share the surge of excitement and anticipation for the night ahead. Sit at the same table and play against one another to encourage some friendly competition, or root your honey on as he plays a card game alone. See if lady luck is with you as you sit side-by-side and have a go at the slots.

Make this date a romantic weekend getaway and catch a flight to Vegas. You never know, you might just make it into some high roller suites! After some boozy kisses and some wins at blackjack, head out onto the strip to take in the sights. Catch one of the many shows, like Cirque du Soleil or David Copperfield, and then hit up the clubs. Dance the night away as you celebrate your winnings. Check out Vegas.com to discover places to stay, shows to see, where to eat and more – everything you need to make this casino getaway truly unforgettable.

Related Link: Date Idea: Enjoy a Secret Sunset

If you're on the East Coast, make Atlantic City your destination. Play roulette and poker, then head out for a stroll along the iconic boardwalk. Snuggle up on the beach with your babe if you want to wind down, or hit up one of the many nightclubs to keep the electric feel going. Not in a dancing mood? Atlantic City has tons of shopping – the perfect way to spend your winnings. Check out AtlanticCityNJ.com for more information.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Finders Keepers

If you're not looking to spend big bucks, set up a casino date at home! Have a fun and flirty night in as the two of you play rummy for pennies, blackjack for that last piece of pizza and maybe even a game of strip poker. Get creative and wager what you'd both like to bet for: kisses, hugs or the next movie you watch. Make sure to have some munchies on hand to nosh on while you play. Drink your favorite microbrew with your dearest, or share some sparkling wine. When you're done gambling, throw on a casino-themed movie like Ocean's Eleven and just relax.

No one loses on this date - you can bet on it!

Ever take your loved one out to a casino for date night? Tell us all about it in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Play Romantic Dating Games





By <u>Hope Ankney</u> and Gabriela Robles

This weekend, spend the night indoors with your love by

showing off your competitive side by organizing a few romantic dating games. This is a great <u>date idea</u> to share your best couple of friends too. So hurry over to an arcade and have a fun game night with your sweetheart!

### Check out this date idea if you're up for a fun and competitive night with your partner!

Find a luxury bowling alley that's specifically set up for romantic dating games. Usually, these types of bowling alleys are done up in a glow-in-the-dark fashion and have a partylike environment that's extremely exciting. Most likely, there will be fun music, cocktails and tons of entertainment. Some luxury bowling alleys even have restaurants or grills attached to them as well as lounges, game rooms, cigar bars, and dance areas. This atmosphere will insure an amusing night that both you and your date will enjoy.

Related Link: Date Idea: Light Up Each Other's World

If an arcade is more your style, you can still enjoy a romantic dating game spot such as Dave and Busters. This popular spot has a restaurant that serves delicious appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts – plenty of options. After you've eaten, you can head over to the games and get busy with your man. Show off your gaming skills behind the wheel by playing Daytona USA or impress your date with Super Shot. If you're in the mood to compete, play some QuadAir Hockey or try Dance Dance Revolution. The best part is that they have great deals. In fact, their Eat, Play, Win Combo is a surefire way to have a great evening that your wallet will love! Dave and Busters even have new games, so if you're addicted to Temple Run or Cut The Rope on your phone, try the arcade versions! Related Link: <u>Weekend Date Idea: Get Crafty</u>

Romantic dating games are about doing something fun and new with your significant other, so go in with an open mind and excited attitude. Who knows? You two might have such a good time that you'll head out to your local bowling alley or arcade each month. It's a great way to beat the chill and heat up your relationship.

What're some things that you do for your game nights? Share with us in the comments below.

## Date Idea: Rent a Cabin in the Snow





By <u>Hope Ankney</u> and Gabriela Robles

Rent a cabin in the mountains with your partner and settle in for a comfy, romantic weekend together. Whether you're actually snowed in or just pretending to be, this <u>date idea</u> is a surefire way to light the flame together.

## Check out this date idea if you're looking for something fun and romantic!

If you're on the East Coast, check out the Poconos Mountains for some snowboarding, skiing, horseback riding and snow tubing. Or try the Woodloch Resort for an all-inclusive package deal. If you're on the West Coast, take a trip to Breckenridge Ski Resort, where you can enjoy tons of activities such as rafting, sleigh rides, balloon tours, and many delicious restaurants.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Your Relationship Off the Ground

Before you go, think about what you may need. Besides the cozy sweaters and warm slippers, remember to bring something fun for entertainment. A board game will bring out the playful side in you, so pack Cranium, Monopoly or Scrabble. As you and your honey get into the games, talk about which one is your favorite. Reminisce over old games you used to play or still do. Once you're done with your board games, uncork a bottle of wine and grab a deck of cards. Maybe your partner wants to learn how to play gin rummy, or perhaps you're both skilled poker players. If all goes well, you may have a new weekly tradition on your hands: game night!

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight

Outdoor activities are also a great way to romanticize a trip. Before jumping in the car, research the town you're staying in and find exciting things to do during your time there. Exploring a new place together will make for great memories that you'll think about for years to come. Go hiking, wine tasting and — if the snow allows — sledding to bring you two closer. When you've had enough of the cold air, head inside, cuddle up together and talk about your experiences that day. Talk about what activities you want to conquer on your next mountain trip.

This weekend is about sharing new experiences together. Whether it's your first time in this quaint mountain town or just the first time you've gone snowshoeing, focus on stepping out of your comfort zone and testing your capabilities. After a delightful few days, you and your sweetheart will be glad you had a weekend away.

Have any suggestions for places to vacation? Share with us in the comments below.

## Date Idea: Bring the Beach to You





By Sarah Ribeiro and Bonnie Griffin

Escape the cold winter months and bring the beach to you. Have your own island getaway with this <u>date idea</u> by planning a romantic and private stay-cation. Create your own blissful <u>date night</u> with your private beach island.

## Date Idea: Create your own beach for date night and build your own island getaway!

The first step for this amazing date weekend is to crank up

the heat in your house. Forget about how chilly it is outside by keeping your thermostat set to summer temperatures. You and your sweetheart can pretend you're on the beach while lounging around in each other's arms, blasting Bob Marley and dreaming of the sunshine. To really relax, dim the lights and lead each other in a soothing yoga and meditation session.

Related Link: Dating Advice: How To Spice Things Up In Winter

For dinner, enjoy grilled pork and pineapple kebabs and picture yourself in paradise. To really set the mood, keep a beach-themed film on in the background; 'Forgetting Sarah Marshall' is a great romantic comedy set in Hawaii. After you're finished eating, head back to the kitchen and have a friendly dessert-making competition with your partner: prepare the most tropical dessert you can think of, like key lime pie, fried ice cream or chocolate-dipped coconut macaroons. For something a bit easier, keep a bowl of fruit handy and feed each other. Passion fruit is tropical and in season in January, and it tastes great cubed and frozen.

For some added fun, turn your bathtub into a Jacuzzi. You and your honey can soak in the tub, drinking piná coladas and margaritas. Perhaps you'll even be inspired to plan a real vacation together. Grab some travel brochures or pull up a travel website, pick out your favorite tropical locations and consider what activities you can do there: horseback riding in Hawaii, nightclubbing in Ibiza, hang gliding in Brazil. Figure out ways that you and your sweetheart can start saving up for your romantic getaway.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Pick Your Own Presents

After a nice long soak, break out the coconut oil and give your love a tropical spa treatment: spread some beach towels on the bed and take turns giving each other massages. Find your favorite massage bar at lushusa.com – their Heavanilli bar is made specifically for the bedroom. If you want a challenge, create your own home spa treatments, like a simple seaweed wrap, or try a home-made facial with fresh fruit, olive oil or yogurt. No matter what, keep each other pampered in true vacation style.

Have any ideas for a faux beach getaway? Let us know in the comments.

## Date Idea: Christmas Movie Marathon





By Samantha Mucha and Bonnie Griffin

Getting cozy with your partner by the fire while watching ABC

Family's '25 Days of Christmas' should be number one on your to-do <u>date night</u> list this holiday season. Leave the freezing winter weather outside with this <u>date idea</u>, and kick back for an indoor weekend with your sweetheart.

## Date Idea: Cozy up to your love with a Christmas movie marathon!

Watching Christmas movies will not only put you and your lover in the holiday spirit, but the price is right — free. Throughout the month of December, there are a variety of holiday-themed broadcasts on all of the national networks. The choice is yours, really. Of course, if you're lucky enough to own a DVR, you won't have to choose. You can load up "Miracle on 34th Street," "8 Crazy Nights," and "A Christmas Story" and watch them whenever you please.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Go To a Turkey Shoot

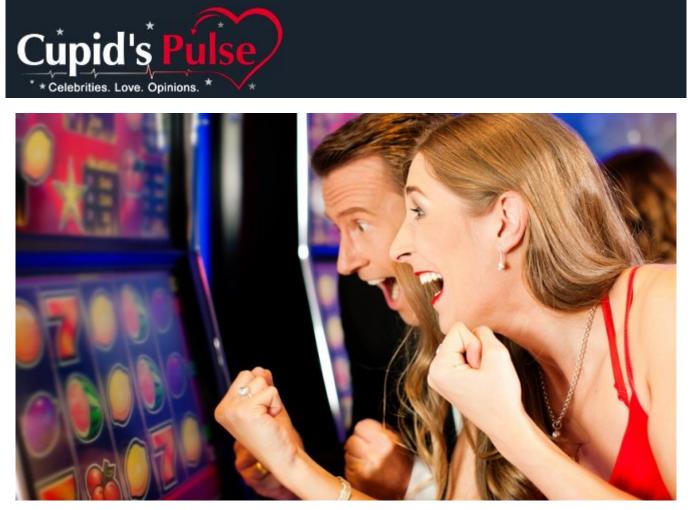
To make this into a romantic evening, pour some wine or brew up some hot cocoa. You can even go above and beyond by renting your partner's favorite childhood Christmas films. If you are in the mood to get nostalgic, ask your partner's parents to share old home movies of your boyfriend on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Watching videos of him as a child can help spark good feelings and could be a Christmas tradition that you decide to continue in your relationship.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: A Day at Sea2019

It's only getting colder. So, get the popcorn popping and throw on your best flannel pajamas. Cozy up with your holiday honey for the most relaxing moments you'll have for the entire holiday season.

What's your favorite Christmas movie? Share your top pick with our readers by commenting below.

## Date Idea: Wrap Gifts Together



By Samantha Mucha and Bonnie Griffin

The holiday season can be a stressful time with your partner, even though it should be full of joy and holiday cheer. To lessen your to-do list this December, and still have time for a <u>date night</u>, try this <u>date idea</u> for something different with your sweetheart. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons, and tape. It's time to channel your inner Christmas Elf.

# Date Idea: Turn wrapping gifts into a magical date night!

There's no doubt that wrapping gifts is a difficult task. It's an endeavor that should be left for the most skilled and nimble-fingered family members. Yet, nothing says "I support you, babe!" quite like helping out. Have your lover join you.

Related Link: Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum

It may sound like you are just recruiting your man to do your chores while you sit back and relax, but that is not the case at all. It becomes less of a task and more of a constructive activity when you two do it together. Have your significant other bring over their unwrapped gifts (but not yours, you don't want to ruin a good surprise) and the two of you can work together.

To make your Friday night even more entertaining turn giftwrapping into a game. Maybe your relationship could use a little competitive edge. Try timing yourselves to see who can make the best-looking package in the quickest amount of time. The winner has to bake cookies for the not-so-perfect wrapper.

Related Link: Date Idea: Warm Up By Exercising This Winter

Putting on some holiday music while sitting by a warm fire is a romantic conclusion to this date. After your gifts are piled neatly under the tree, sit back and relax with your beau. As the night of gift-wrapping fun comes to a close, catch a Christmas movie on TV and drift off to sleep cuddled up in each other's arms.

What unique date ideas do you have during the holidays? Share your ideas below.

## Date Idea: Get Off the Grid





By Sarah Ribeiro and Bonnie Griffin

Stay away from a boring <u>date night</u> this weekend and go on a spontaneous road trip with your partner by hopping in the car and driving with no plans in place. With this <u>date idea</u> you'll start off in your town, exploring neighborhoods you've never seen and finding restaurants, cafes or other niche spots for future dates together. Then, take it one step further: skip the highway and take a back road to somewhere random on the map, maybe a nearby town or a tourist attraction that you've been meaning to see. Don't forget to bring a camera so the two of you will always remember the places that you visited.

## Date Idea: Hit the road with your partner and zero plans!

For added adventure, go out of the state. Take the highway as far as you dare and stop at the cutest bed and breakfast that fits within your budget. Find a famous landmark in a neighboring state or follow the signs to the most intriguing spot advertised on the highway. Some great – and somewhat strange – tourist spots include Ruby Falls in Tennessee, the Oz Museum in Kansas, Lizzie Borden's Bed and Breakfast in Massachusetts or the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. Look for more unique tourist attractions at Roadside America and pick out your favorites.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Bookworms

Cash in on your significant other's interests and find somewhere that fits with his hobbies. Is he a gamer? Look for a retro arcade in a small town. Is he a wine or beer connoisseur? Visit a vineyard or brewery for some local flavor and be sure to take home some free samples.

You can check things off your bucket list during the trip too. Drive down to your local airfield and take your journey on a thrill-seeking twist by going skydiving or taking flying lessons. Enjoy a hot-air balloon ride or even get completely off the grid by going off-roading.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Thrifty

In the car, do your best to keep your man entertained. Play some old-fashioned car games, like Twenty Questions – a great way to get to know your sweetheart better – or the traditional License Plate Game, where you compete against each other to find license plates from each state (bonus points for international plates). Be sure to bring some healthy snacks with you too, like granola, trail mix or fresh fruit. The most important thing to remember on this date is to not to plan a thing. Let the road carry you and your partner to a memorable weekend.

What are some of your best off-the-grid locations? Share them in the comments below.

## Date Idea: Play Dress Up





By Sarah Ribeiro and Bonnie Griffin

Tired of being cooped up all winter? For this <u>date idea</u>, refresh everything you learned in college acting class by pretending to be someone you're not. Dress up with your honey and have the time of your life on <u>date night</u> revitalizing your imagination.

# Date Idea: Take date night to the sky with your imagination and a costume!

Search for nightclubs having costume parties and spend the night dancing in your babe's arms dressed as the king and queen of the ball. Many city nightclubs have themed nights, such as sci-fi, masquerade, 80's attire, 'Alice in Wonderland' or even 'Twilight.' Club Oberon in Boston has a weekly "Donkey Show": while their dance party rages on, a subtle re-enactment of Shakespeare's classic <u>romantic</u> comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is performed around the club. Additionally, Marquee in Manhattan throws a European party every Friday, celebrating the party cultures of different European nations.

#### Related Link: Dating Advice: How To Spice Things Up In Winter

Go to a cosplaying (costume playing) convention and tap into your inner nerd, dressing as your favorite comic book character and reaping the benefits of watching early film footage and trailers. Ohayohcon and Setsucon are two huge conventions that are traditionally held the last weekend in January in Columbus, Ohio, and at Penn State College respectively. Be sure to stick around once the convention ends: the after parties are usually at local nightclubs where you can party all night with your <u>sweetheart</u>.

Related Link: Date Idea: Rain, Rain, Come Out and Play

If you enjoy more ancient stories, visit a renaissance fair or even try out LARPing (live-action role-playing). You and your honey can dress as medieval royalty and play pretend in another century. Live out a fairy tale adventure together as your knight in shining armor saves you, a damsel in distress, from the hands of an evil dragon. You can act like your favorite 'Lord of the Rings' character or get into a more recent groove and dress up as someone from HBO's 'Game of Thrones.'

Related Link: Date Idea: Romance at a Resort

If you don't have the money to be hitting up the city (or don't live near one), stay in for the night. During the day, head to your closest Goodwill store and get 20 dollars worth of old, strange clothing and accessories. Once you get back home, come up with the most ridiculous outfits that you and your <u>partner</u> can create. If you want, you can even put outfits together for each other. Make up scorecards and judge each other on creativity and hilarity.

At the end of the <u>date</u>, the two of you can take a photo in your get-ups and frame it as a memento of the silly and imaginative time you had together.

What are your favorite dress-up dates? Tell us below.

# Date Idea: Volunteer Together this Holiday Season





By Bonnie Griffin

The holiday season is filled with celebration, family time, and giving to others. There's no better way to give than by volunteering to help the less fortunate. For this <u>date idea</u>, find a cause that both you and your significant other think is important, and spend <u>date night</u> together while enriching the lives of others.

# Date Idea: Volunteer to a worthy cause you and your partner are passionate about.

Rather than going out for a meal, serve meals together instead. Volunteering at a soup kitchen is a selfless act that you'll later appreciate and if you do it with your partner, it'll definitely bring you closer together. Check out volunteer opportunities at soup kitchens near you.

Related Link: Date Idea: Build a Fort

Another way to volunteer is by visiting residents in retirement or old age homes. Family time is practically synonymous with holiday cheer and often families can't make it to visit their loved ones. Take time to bring joy to others by playing cards, baking, reading or simply telling them stories.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Thrifty

If none of the above ideas work for you this holiday, try giving back to your community by making gift baskets with your mate. Gather non-perishable food items and donate them to the underprivileged. The two of you can also bond over cooking meals and delivering them to homeless shelters.

Acting selflessly as a couple during a season of indulgences will help you work on your own relationship and appreciate the fact that you have one another at this time.

Let us know how you are giving back as a couple this holiday season and what your favorite volunteering activity is.

## Date Idea: Thanksgiving for Two





By Bonnie Griffin

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate with family, watch football and indulge in turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie. As fun as the day may be, it can cause strain on your personal relationship if things aren't planned out properly. The day will be extra special if you set aside time to work together as a team with this <u>date idea</u>.

## Date Idea: Make Thanksgiving romantic. Turn it into dinner for two.

If you're preparing to host Thanksgiving with your partner, begin the process by sharing responsibilities and scheduling time together in advance. Pick a day where you will choose the turkey and get all of the accompaniments together. This will make things much easier and it will show your partner how committed you are to have a nice <u>date night</u> experience with them.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Finders Keepers

As for decorations, unleash your inner child and make them yourself. After all, who didn't enjoy creating outlined handprint turkeys from construction paper as a child?

An early start and an organized plan are essential for Thanksgiving Day success. For the romantics at heart, leave time for a break with your sweetheart in between all the preparing. Or, spend a few moments making a list of all the reasons you're thankful for each other and then read it aloud. This will also remind you why your relationship is so special and once family and friends arrive, you'll be ready to serve up the meal and mingle.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Enjoy a Secret Sunset

For those looking to spend some time alone, one idea is to cook and eat dinner together and join your families for dessert. Just don't forget to clean up as a couple-it'll go twice as fast and will end the holiday on a positive note.

No matter what you decide to do together this holiday, remember to give thanks to your partner and tell them how much you appreciate them.

On Thanksgiving, what are some activities you and your honey work on together? Let us know in a comment below.

# Date Idea: Inspire Your Date with Art





By Bonnie Griffin

If you're tired of heading to the same date place each week for <u>date night</u>, getting in touch with your creative side may be just the thing you need to rekindle (or jump start) your romance. Here are some <u>date ideas</u> that might stir your inner artist. An art exhibition or museum combines culture with artistic flair and can be very romantic.

## Date Idea: Take your date night to a creative level and inspire your date with beautiful art.

If you're interested in getting hands-on experience, an art class may be the thing you need instead. Additionally, many pottery studios are open to the public and have ready-made pieces that you can purchase and paint. Enjoying this with a significant other can make for a fun, hands-on date that will expose the creative side in both of you.

Related Link: Date Idea: A Day at Sea

If you're struggling to find something similar in your area, look at the community section of your paper for local artists showcasing their work. It's important to remember that art is subjective and what your partner may like, you may not. Sharing your perspective is what can deepen your relationship further.

Did you ever get artsy with your honey? Let us know about it by commenting below!

## Product Review: Take Romance & Relaxation to the Next Level With Soothe





By Jessica DeRubbo

Life can get stressful from day to day, and it's important to take the time to relax and unwind with your partner. If you're on the lookout for a <u>date idea</u> that's sure to "soothe" those worries away and keep the romance alive, it's time to check out Soothe's spa-quality massages.

Explore a relaxing and convenient date idea sure to please your partner in this <u>product review</u>. Here are some reasons to look into a Soothe massage.

#### They Come to You

What's great about Soothe is that you don't need to find time to drive to a brick and mortar location and wait in the waiting room to be called in for your appointment. All you and your date need to do is relax at home, because Soothe's expert licensed massage therapists come to you! Your vetted background-checked massage therapist will arrive at your home, hotel or place of work fully equipped with a massage table, sheets, lotions, oils and music. Each professional is responsible for cleaning his or her own equipment, and often times does laundry in between appointments if necessary. Talk about a blissful experience with your honey!

#### It Can Be a Last-Minute Decision

Let's say you and your S.O. decide to ditch dinner and a movie for relaxation at home last minute. No problem! You could have a massage therapist ringing your doorbell for a couples massage within 60 minutes. All you have to do is book your massage on Soothe's website or app between 8am and midnight any day of the week, where available.

#### The Therapists Know What They're Doing

All Soothe massage therapists are vetted by industry veterans, are licensed, and are background-checked. They arrive at your home ready with a compassionate and healing touch.

#### The Pricing is Competitive

Soothe has three pricing options ready to suit your needs, whether you're interested in 60, 90 or 120 minute massages. If you're just looking for a one-time massage, no problem! If you know you're going to be a repeat customer, signing up for the Soothe Plus membership is definitely the way to go for some major discounts. Here are the options:

- 1. Soothe Plus Monthly: Save 20% on each massage, billed monthly. Cancel anytime, risk-free.
- Soothe Plus Yearly: Save 25% on each massage, billed yearly. Cancel anytime, risk-free.
- 3. One-Time Payment: One-time billing. No commitment. \$115+.

#### There's a Massage Type for Everyone

Whether you're looking for a relaxed spa experience or you have knots in your shoulders that you've have spent years dealing with, Soothe has the right massage type for you. Here are your options:

- Swedish: Long, gliding strokes, kneading and circular movements.
- Deep Tissue: Focused kneading to soothe chronically tense areas.
- 3. **Sports:** Focused stretching improves flexibility and muscle recovery.
- 4. **Prenatal:** Gentle, nurturing movements to promote wellness during pregnancy.
- 5. **Couples Massage:** Share the relaxation with someone you care about. Back-to-back sessions available.
- Soothe at Work: Decrease stress & improve productivity with in-office massages.

#### It's a Convenient Quality Choice

So, whether you're looking for a one-time massage to get the kinks out, a date night full of relaxation and romance, or an office perk for you and your co-workers, Soothe is a great option to consider.

You can book your first massage on Soothe's <u>website</u> or on their app via the <u>Apple Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u>.

## Dating Advice: 5 Fun Summer

## Date Ideas





By Krystle Kotara

Love is in the air this summer and you have enough days left to embrace the glorious sunshine with a thoughtful and romantic day out. Whether you're getting intimate on a summer's evening or exploring the local theme park, there are plenty of activities to get your heart racing. Here's a guide to five fun summer <u>date ideas</u> for you and your partner:

## In this dating advice, <u>relationship</u> <u>expert</u> Krystle Kotara has some great summer date ideas.

1. Open-Air Movie Screening: Attending an open-air screening

is a perfect way to make the most of the sunny weather. There are plenty of movie screenings that take place in the summertime, ranging from modern classics to new releases. This date is all about the atmosphere, so you don't have to be a movie fanatic to enjoy the day. Grab some popcorn, pop open some champagne, and lose yourself for a couple of hours. Pick an evening show and cozy up to your partner under the stars.

Related Link: Love Advice: Old-Fashioned Summer Fun

2. Watch the Sunset: This summer <u>date night</u> idea involves putting on some comfortable shoes and taking a hike in the afternoon. As it gets later in the afternoon, head to a secluded spot and watch the sunset. You can make it a special date by bringing a picnic and blanket to settle in for the evening. There's nothing more romantic than indulging in delicious food and wine while waiting for the sun to go down with your partner by your side. Take selfies with your phone to make the memories last forever.

3. Rent Bikes: If you don't own one already, rent a bike and take a ride around the local area to explore parts of your hometown that you've never seen before. Some of the greatest summer date ideas are best left unplanned, so go wherever the moment takes you. When you see things that look interesting, take a break to marvel at your discoveries.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Finders Keepers

4. Go to a Theme Park: Theme parks are best enjoyed in the summer, so hop in the car to a nearby fairground and allow nostalgia to set in. To make it more of an adventure, take a trip to a theme park further afield that you haven't visited. Once you've worn yourselves out on the rides, you can finish off this summer date idea by satisfying your sweet tooth with delicious cotton candy while browsing the stalls.

**5. Visit a Botanical Garden:** Ignite your senses with gorgeous colors and delicate scents and get lost in stunning botanical

gardens this summer. You're in no rush, so take a long stroll around the beautiful flowers and plants, enjoying the scenery. Grab a bite to eat and cup of coffee in the café for a relaxing end to your day.

#### About Krystle Kotara

Krystle Kotara is the owner & creative director of Anya Lust, (www.anyalust.com ), a luxury lingerie brand centered around the beauty of romance and love. Krystle is also the author of "The Lust Diaries", a book that includes a collection of poetry and prose centered around life, love, and eroticism. Krystle encourages women to love their bodies and explore their sensuality, while providing insight on relationships and the secret to living a passionate, fulfilled life.

## Date Idea: Indulge Your Senses at the Coffee Shop





By Bonnie Griffin

Coffee is usually used to make one feel energized, and for some people it's an addiction. The place that people go to get their "fix" can turn into a dating ritual for some couples. It isn't a necessity for every date to be fancy. Sometimes, the simplest choice can actually be the best <u>date idea</u>.

# Check out this great date idea if you are a coffee lover!

Enjoy a night of comfort drinks, like a Mocha or Frappuccino, soothing music and an intimate table (or couch) for two with your hubby by checking out some of the best coffee houses in your city.

Related Link: Date Idea: Explore Love on a Road Trip

Rather have that coffee in private? Then recreate the scene right in your own home by purchasing your favorite coffee beans or coffee of your choice and making a "favorites" playlist that best suits you and your partner's mood.

Related Link: Date Idea: Bookworms

While creating your playlist, search for easy how-to recipes that would perfectly compliment your coffee. Dim the lights, wear something as snug as your oversized pajamas and set up a table for two. Spray the air with a sweet and soothing scent and indulge yourselves in the moment. Who knows what this romantic and homey setting could lead to?

Spread love in between each sip while swaying to the beat of the music, and maybe even the beat of his heart.

Have your own ideas about coffee shops and dates? Share them with Cupid! And if you want other themed date ideas, drop Cupid a comment below!

## Date Idea: Relive Your Teenage Years





By Mara Miller

What if you could go back in time and be "17 Again?" Although you may not be Zac Efron in the movie, it's very easy to relive your childhood memories by going back in time and dressing the part, watching a film or reading a book from that era. You can even relive your teenage years while you're on a date, which can be extremely nostalgic.

## Relive your teenage years with this date idea!

Stir up memories of mullets and 90210 fashion by renting a movie from the past like *Rambo* or *Legally Blond* with this dating advice. It could make a fun conversation starter, especially if you come dressed for the part.

After the movie, don't forget to jam out to music that was totally 'in' during your teenage years. Even if you and your partner weren't teens at the same time, you can still share what kind of music you liked when you were growing up. Knowing that your partner was a heavy metal rocker while you were all about hip hop can make for a very interesting experience.

Related Link: Date Idea: Finders Keepers

For adventurous types, dress the way you did during high school and stroll the streets with your partner while eating Twizzlers and sipping soda out of a crazy straw. You might get a lot of stares, but who cares? You'll never see these people again, and you and your partner will have memories for a lifetime.

If you're looking for a laugh, flip through each other's high school yearbooks. There are sure to be a few fashions do's and don'ts that'll make each of you cringe and say, "What in the world was I thinking?"

Related Link: Date Idea: Mid-Year Resolutions

Of course, curiosity will probably get the best of you by the end of the day, and you'll be left wondering what your old high school friends are doing. If you're feeling a bit nosy, surf through Facebook or Classmates and let your date know you have nothing to hide.

Have you and your partner relived your teenage years on a date? Let us know how it went by commenting below.

## Date Idea: Get Your Relationship Off the Ground





By Mara Miller

Are you getting bored with your typical date nights? There's only so many times you can do dinner and a movie before it becomes tedious. If you're looking for a way to spice up your relationship, then you should consider trying something unique and different to get your relationship off the ground with this dating advice and dating tips.

# Check out this date idea for unique date night plans!

Since it's still summer (just barely!), amusement parks are "just the ticket" for some a high thrill good time. From rides to live entertainment to great fried food, they have everything to make your date a memorable and adventurous one. Scream your lungs out on a wild roller coaster ride, feed each other some cotton candy, stand hand-in-hand and exchange kisses in line or have fun laughing at each other trying to win that elusive prize!

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Finders Keepers

Check out the 10 Best Amusement Parks in America if you aren't sure which park to visit. If you live in Pennsylvania, Dorney Park is a great choice. It has fairly short lines, which means you'll have a better chance of getting on most of the rides. If you're a chocolate addict, you may want to visit Hershey Park, where there are both rides and delicious chocolate.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Mid-Year Resolutions

After spending an entire day at a theme park with your partner, give your body a chance to relax from the major adrenaline rush by going on a boat ride the next day. Feel the cool breeze on your face and enjoy the tranquility of the ocean, while taking in the gorgeous views and sharing some bonding conversations – possibly about your date the day before.

Getting your relationship off the ground may not be as difficult as you anticipated, but more fun than you ever imagined.

Have any other ideas to lift your relationship off the ground? Share them with Cupid! And if you want other themed date ideas, drop a comment below!

## Date Idea: Back-to-School Cookout





By Emma L. Wells and Mara Miller

What's the best way to prepare for the new school year? With a party, of course! Enjoy the last few days of summer by hosting a back-to-school cookout with your beau for all your friends. Use this <u>relationship advice</u> to bring you and your significant other even closer. You don't have to be in school for this <u>date idea</u> either! Backyard barbecues are fun no matter what age you are. It's time to fire up the grill and make some ice cold drinks for everyone to enjoy.

## Plan a cookout for a fun and relaxing date idea this weekend!

This weekend date idea should be casual. Set-up a buffet with a variety of picnic treats. Try branching out beyond burgers, hot dogs, and potato salad. You can make a nice grilled chicken or rack of ribs and some seasonal veggie kabobs. Don't forget the sides too! Skip the greasy potato chips and make some yummy cornbread instead. Fruit salad is a good standby, but maybe try something more adventurous like a watermelon Caprese salad. It'll have your guests coming back for seconds and thirds! For dessert, put out a sundae bar to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

### Related Link: Date Idea: Play All Day

If you're not into doing too much work for a party, you can always plan a potluck party instead. Just ask your guests to bring a main dish, a side, a starter, or a dessert, and be surprised by the spread that comes together!

If you live in an apartment, condominium, or townhouse, don't write off this relationship advice just because you don't have a backyard. Plenty of parks have cookout areas with grills and benches that you can use. To keep things really simple, grab a few picnic blankets, a cooler, and a frisbee, and head to your local park for some nice outdoor time.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Bookworms

Enjoy your last few days of freedom before the school year starts by organizing some fun games for your guests. If you have enough room, you can play touch football, kickball, or badminton. Or take some tips from your inner child and play some old school recess games like Duck Duck Goose or Red Rover. The most important thing to remember to make this date idea a success is to kick back and relax! Follow this love advice, and you and your significant other will have a blast playing host. You'll see how well you guys mesh when working on a project. Plus, this weekend date idea is a great excuse to bring your groups of friends together. If things go well, there may be more joint parties in your future.

What are some ways you and your honey host a successful cookout? Tell us below!

## Date Idea: Light Up Each Other's World





By Emma L. Wells and Mara Miller

The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah occurs in early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. Even if you aren't Jewish, there are many <u>date idea</u> activities that you and your partner can do with this special holiday in mind.

## Here's how you can celebrate Rosh Hashanah with this date idea!

Since many of your Jewish friends will be attending religious services during Rosh Hashanah, you can put together a thoughtful New Years gift basket for them. Your friends will appreciate this gift that says "Shana Tova" or "Happy New Year." There are many Rosh Hashanah symbols and traditions you can include in your basket. On Rosh Hashanah, Jews dip apples into honey to signify a sweet new year, so make sure you include some yummy apples and delicious locally sourced honey in your basket. Other food items you can include are pomegranates, nuts, chocolates, and dried fruits. You can make chocolate-covered strawberries too!

Related Link: Dating Advice: Plan a City Scavenger Hunt

Be sure your basket includes candles as well. On this date idea, you can even get crafty with your beau by making them together! Check to see if any specialty candle shops in your neighborhood offer candle making classes. You can also purchase candle making kits from a nearby craft store, or go the DIY route by looking up a tutorial online and buying the supplies yourself.

Candles are pretty simple to make. Once you two get the hang of it, try making different colors, patterns, and sizes with the wax. Make a bunch — some for your own home and others to give as gifts. Your friends will be excited and touched that you made the candles yourself. Plus, you can use these homemade candles for a candlelit dinner and make your next date night even more romantic.

Related Links: Date Idea: Get in the Game

Don't worry if you've just met someone: This weekend date idea is perfect for the start of a new relationship and love! Doing something creative with your significant other will allow you to glimpse a side of them you might not have seen before. Follow this love advice to get to know each other better.

How will you celebrate Rosh Hashanah this weekend? Tell us in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Hometown Tourism





By Emma L. Wells and Mara Miller

Who says you have to get out of town to be a tourist? This <u>date idea</u> is perfect for couples who can't take a vacation, but who want to spend some quality time improving their relationship.

# With this date idea, let your city surprise you this weekend!

There are many ways to make this date idea a success. First, experience the sights, tastes, and sounds that your city is known for. Make a list of the biggest tourist attractions in your hometown and complete as many on the list as you and your beau can do in one day. If you live in a big city, pick a new neighborhood to explore. Does this area have a walking tour, a museum, or any historical or famous spots to visit? Afterward, head to a popular spot for lunch. If you're lucky, maybe a local band will be playing. You'll be surprised by how much goes on right under your nose!

### Related Link: Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum

If you want to venture beyond just one neighborhood, make this date idea a themed day. Decide to walk around to all the best museums, historical sights, or specialty eats in your city. At the end of the day, rank them from your favorite to least favorite. That way, you can revisit your top picks!

You can also consider doing activities you may have done before but not in a long time, like going to the zoo or aquarium. It will be special to experience them again with your significant other. Plus, this <u>dating advice</u> will allow you to see old things in a new light.

### Related Link: Date Idea: Garage Sale

Don't forget your tennis shoes! This date idea requires a lot of walking, so make sure you wear comfortable clothing and sensible footwear. You can still be stylish and sexy. For instance, wear skinny jeans, a black silky top, and red sneakers. After all, you don't want aching feet to interrupt the fun!

Follow this <u>dating advice</u> and add some sweet shots and selfies to your photo album. Take a snap together at every stop you make. Consider filming parts of the day and make a montage of your date. You'll create memories that you and your partner can cherish for years to come.

Have you ever been a tourist in your own city? Tell us below!

## Weekend Date Idea: Get Crafty





By Emma L. Wells and Mara Miller

As kids, we spend much of our free time drawing or creating some unique works of art (even if no one knows what they are), but as adults, we often let our creativity take a backseat to our many responsibilities. With that thought in mind, it's time to get crafty with this <u>date idea</u>! On your next night out, take your honey to the local pottery store where you two lovebirds can create your own clay pieces or paint ones already made.

# Let love be your muse this weekend with this date idea!

Channel your inner <u>Demi Moore</u> and Patrick Swayze and create your own clay pieces with this <u>relationship advice</u>. Many pottery stores, artists' studios, and community colleges offer workshops in pottery-making where you can create anything from vases to bowls and plates. Maybe your beau has a secret artsy side just waiting to shine! If you two enjoy yourselves, you might consider joining a weekly or monthly pottery class together to really focus on improving your creative abilities. You'll probably meet other couples too and have the opportunity to expand your social circle.

### Related Link: Date Idea: Build a Fort

If you can't find a place to craft your own or just don't feel up to the challenge — or the mess! — try to find a craft store like Michael's, Hobby Lobby, or Joann's where you can purchase all sorts of fun pottery pieces and decorate them yourselves. Find that perfect vase to house your next bouquet of wildflowers and see how in sync you are by working on a single project together. In a quiet pottery studio, there will be plenty of time to talk while you work. If you're a new couple, this is a great opportunity to get to know one another, and if you've been together for a while, it'll give you a chance to reconnect. Painting is also a great activity if you are looking for group weekend date ideas to enjoy with your favorite couple friends.

### Related Link: <u>Redecorate</u>

If you are in need of some inspiration, let your partner be your muse. Use their favorite color or shape to guide you. To make things more fun, decide to make something for each other and then swap your handmade gifts at the end of the date. That way, you'll both have something to help you remember the day.

Have you ever gone on a crafty date? Share your story below!

## Date Idea: Homemade Smoothies





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

It's hot outside, and you and your beau have exhausted every effort to bare the record-breaking heat. One thing you may not have tried, though, is a day inside blending together your favorite ingredients to concoct the perfect smoothies. All you need for this <u>date idea</u> is a blender and your favorite fruits. A day well-spent indoors this summer is just what the two of you need to wind down and cool off!

## Check out Cupid's best relationship advice for beating the summer heat

### with this date idea!

Smoothies are fantastic because they're an easy and delicious homemade treat. Whether you have a sweet tooth or you're a health nut, there are dozens of smoothie recipes out there for you. The Food Network has listed fifty of their own, and you're bound to find more as you search. You can stick to traditional strawberry banana, or you can try your hand at more unique recipes. SimplyArtisanal.com has some very fun ideas that are sure to "wow" your lover like vanilla fig and Don't peach fuzzv navel. be shv about blending different recipes; the whole point is to stay in and try something new!

Related Link: Mexican Cooking Classes: Spice Up Date Night

Half the fun of this weekend date idea is in the preparation. Pick out your favorite recipes; make a list of everything you'll need; and hit the grocery store. It doesn't matter if you're on a budget or willing to splurge — you can find something that fits your desires. If the two of you want to challenge each other, split up at the grocery store and pick out your favorite ingredients. Follow this relationship advice and surprise your partner's taste buds with your creation!

Related Link: Frugal Foodies: How to Save on Dining Out

You and your partner can even have a contest to see who can come up with the best recipe. For added fun, create categories like "most original", "best tasting", or "most disgusting." Then, the date will be more about the time you're spending together and less about the actual smoothies (not that we're against that). If you're turning the smoothie-making into a day-long event, you'll want to remember to make small portions each time so that you can both try them all!

What is the best smoothie recipe you've ever made? Tell us in

## Date Idea: A Day at Sea





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

Embrace the other elements with your cutie and spend a day exploring the ocean. This weekend date idea can include so many different activities at sea, including jet skiing, scuba diving or snorkeling, and sailing. Being out in the vast water and so far away from dry land will allow you two to really indulge in some alone time. Consider this relationship and love advice and make a day out of conquering the great, blue sea!

# Get ready for this ocean-inspired date idea!

Jet skiing is a fantastic option because it's highly accessible. There are tons of companies on every beach. Once you've found one that matches your budget, make an appointment. After you arrive, the instructors will have you sign a waiver and take a short safety course. Then, you can strap on your life jacket and head to the shore, where they'll help you enter the water. If you want to compete with your lover, you can rent two jet skis or if you want to get cozy, rent one to share. Either way, you'll be able to venture further out into the ocean than you have ever before.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Beach and Beyond

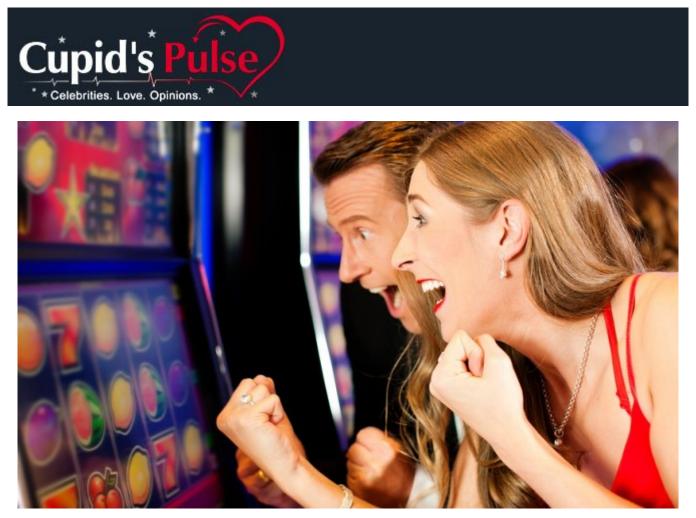
In order to partake in deep-sea scuba diving, you have to take lessons and be licensed. This is always an exciting date idea, but if you're just going out for a day at the beach, you may want to opt for some snorkeling instead. You can purchase snorkeling equipment at many sporting goods or department stores, and from there, all you'll need is your ability to swim! Underneath the pier is a great place to snorkel, as a lot of sea critters gather there. You can also bring your snorkel right offshore where you'd normally swim and take a gander at what's lurking around your feet.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Bring the Beach to You

If you or a friend owns a sailboat, then use this weekend date idea to spend the day lounging on the deck with your sweetie. You can even make it a couples date and invite your best friends. Boating is not only exciting, but it provides an escape from everything back on solid land. Pack some food and drinks, and you'll be able to stay out there all day!

What's your favorite way to explore the ocean? Tell us about it in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Enjoy a Secret Sunset



By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

When we think of iconic images of romance, we often visualize the sunset. The soft glow of the sun going down and blanketing us in darkness makes us want to cuddle up close to the one we love. If you want to plan an unforgettable summer date night and show how much you love your partner without having to spend a dime, just follow this <u>dating advice</u> and find a peaceful spot to enjoy the sunset together.

# Enjoy a beautiful sunset on this summer date night!

For this weekend date idea, finding a place to watch the sunset gives you the option of staying close to home or traveling to a more unfamiliar place. After all, who doesn't love a good road trip to the beach? Wherever you decide to go, you may enjoy the melody of crickets, the twinkle of fireflies, or the sound of the waves washing away all your worries. At the end of the day (literally), you're there to enjoy the mystifying view of your side of the world turning away from the sun. We can already envision the silhouette of that perfect kiss with your love!

### Related Link: Date Idea: Dance the Night Away

Since darkness will impede on your ability to see during your date night, bring along some things that will ignite your other senses. Pack a picnic and enjoy a delicious dinner for two with no interruptions. This also gives you the opportunity to create some homemade masterpieces together before you head to your special spot. Bring speakers to play your favorite music while you dance the night away. To make the occasion even more special, create a playlist of songs that you've dedicated to your one true love. If you're able to, light a bonfire and cuddle up in its warmth. If a little ambiance is all your looking for, bring along some tea light candles to set the mood.

#### Related Link: <u>10 Great Date Ideas Under \$50</u>

The good thing about the sunset is that it happens every day, so if spontaneity is your way of life, you can grab your babe and go catch the view any day you please. This date idea requires no planning or research – all you need is the desire to have a magical night. You could even make it into a tradition: It can be your way of commemorating the start of summer or a weekly date until it gets too chilly. Maybe you'll even fall asleep and wake up for the sunrise! Whatever you decide, Mother Nature's wheels will always be turning.

Where is your favorite spot to enjoy the sunset? Tell us in the comments below!

## Date Idea: See Sparks Fly





By <u>Sarah Batcheller</u> and <u>Mara Miller</u>

"See sparks fly" isn't just an old idiom or part of a Taylor Swift song — we're talking about the Fourth of July! What else turns up the heat more than celebrating our country's independence? If you think you see fireworks every time you kiss your loved one or look into their eyes, then how about turning that dreamlike state into reality and finding the best fireworks in town for tomorrow's special holiday? Watching fireworks bursting is invigorating, so use this weekend <u>date</u> <u>idea</u> to share it with the person who makes you feel most alive!

# Indulge in this Fourth of July date idea!

The Travel Channel determined the best fireworks displays in the country, so if your city landed a spot on this list, grab a blanket and head out to see the show. Many flock to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., to celebrate our country's big day, and if you wanted to get especially festive on this date idea, you could book a Potomac River cruise. Even if your city isn't on this list, we all love to cuddle up with our boo, so wherever you go, you're bound to feel the magic. If your heart so desires a road trip to make the day even more monumental, just be sure to plan everything in advance.

Related Link: Celebrity Couples Who Love Fourth of July

You'll want to arrive at the fireworks location ahead of time to claim a good spot. After all, there aren't many people who stay home on this glorious day! That being said, choose a quiet area where there will be less hustle and bustle – it's not like you won't be able to see the fireworks! Just make sure a monument or skyscraper isn't blocking your view, and you'll be good to go. Because you're arriving early, remember this dating advice and pack properly as well. Bring insect repellent, water, snacks, and games to keep you entertained.

### Related Link: <u>5 Creative Fourth of July Proposals</u>

If you're the after-party type, there's sure to be plenty to do when the fireworks are over. If you want to get really

festive, dress up in your best red, white, and blue outfits and find a bar that really speaks to your wilder side. Rooftop spots are especially popular since everyone's eyes are looking toward the sky already. This is a day for everyone to celebrate, so let loose with the one who makes every day as romantic as it can be!

What is your favorite thing to do with your partner on the Fourth of July? Share your best dating advice in the comments below!