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: Finders Keepers





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

The beach is exciting and romantic no matter what, but if you've ever wanted to add an additional air of adventure to your trip, follow this <u>date idea</u> and try using a metal detector! You and your lover may find some hidden treasures while out and about...or, at the very least, find some less valuable trinkets to laugh about. Metal detecting is something we usually only see on movies and television shows, but in actuality, it's a beloved pastime for a lot of people, many of whom have found it to be very lucrative.

Dating Advice for Your Next Trip to the Beach

If you are a frequent beach-goer, it's likely you have a routine down every time you visit the shore: Spread out the towel, lather on the sunscreen, hit the water, and then return to sunbathe. Why not add a bit of exploring to your next day at the beach? The level of anticipation will allow you and your honey to grow closer as the excitement grows too.

Related Link: Date Idea: All's Fair in Love

For this weekend date idea, you'll want to make sure you know how to use your equipment before you go searching in the sand. Talk to someone at the sporting goods or department store before going wild with your metal detector — you'll need to know all its features in order to achieve optimal results. Researching metal detecting tips beforehand will not only be fun for you and your sweetie, but it'll allow you to enjoy your day even more.

It's important that you pick a proper location when considering this dating advice. Head to a beach that is known to be crowded at times, but go during off-hours. That way, there will be more opportunity for precious metals to be lost, but you won't have to weave in and out of the crowd to find them. Whichever beach you choose, consider speaking with the locals before digging in; they'll have more knowledge on where people have found impressive items in the past.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get in the Game

To make this date idea even more exciting, have a competition with your loved one to see who can find the most valuable or more ridiculous items. You can even compete to see who can bring back the best gifts for each other. If you really want to make a day out of it, invite other couples to join you in your treasure hunt.

Ever use a metal detector at the beach? Tell us what you found!

Dating Advice: Celebrate Your Mothers



By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

With Mother's Day around the corner, show your love not only for your mom but for your partner's mom too! With this <u>dating</u>

<u>advice</u>, you can spend time getting ready for this special holiday with one of the people you love most. It can help you and your partner bond over your mothers as you talk about childhood memories, pick out the perfect gift, and cook a yummy meal.

A Mother's Day Date Idea

If you and your significant other want to be sentimental, you can make a day out of crafting for your moms. For projects to do on this weekend date idea, Pinterest has tons of boards filled with homemade cards, DIY picture frames, and more. You could put together a scrapbook of your favorite photos and write about why each memory is so important to you. Remember that your man may need a little help in the arts and crafts department. Be patient with him as he puts his artistic skills to the test!

Related Link: <u>Relationship Advice: 5 Romantic Wedding Ideas</u> <u>That Won't Break the Bank</u>

Once you figure out what you both want to create, take a trip to Michaels or a similar store and gather the materials that you need. Head home and get busy! For even more inspiration, consider this dating advice: Pop in a movie about mothers something like *Because I Said So* or *Steel Magnolias*. Make sure you have some snacks on hand too! You won't realize how quickly time passes when you're having fun with your cutie.

When you're finished crafting, it's time to write a handwritten note for your mom. Tell her what it means to you to have a mother like her and how she's helped shape you into who you are. You can find quotes or poems to use on sites like *QuoteGarden.com*. One quote that is commonly used on Mother's Day cards is: "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while but their hearts forever."

If you're feeling particularly excited about the holiday, write a card for your partner's mom too. Talk about how well they did raising your sweetheart and what it means to have someone like them in your life. You can even slip in a spa gift card as a sweet surprise!

Related Link: Mother's Day Gift Ideas for First-Time Moms

For the big day, make reservations for brunch or lunch at a nearby restaurant for you, your beau, and both of your moms. That way, you can spend the day together celebrating the women who mean so much to you! Or, if you're gifted in the kitchen, cook something special for the four of you. Find out the favorite dish of each mom and incorporate it into a delicious spread. You can also include a favorite item from your childhoods.

Happy Mother's Day!

How do you plan to celebrate Mother's Day this year? Comment below!

Date Idea: Play All Day





By Ann Luther and Mara Miller

This weekend, get outside and romp around! Embrace the simple pleasures of childhood with your partner by spending this date idea outside, playing all the games you used to enjoy when you were a kid. Enjoy the weather and your relationship and love with this easy, fun, and cheap date al fresco.

Embrace Your Inner Kid to Improve Your Relationship and Love with this Date Idea

There are a ton of childhood games that can be just as entertaining for adults when we play them with our significant others. Grab a basketball, head to a local court, and play a game of Horse. Try to create and match wild shots; shoot it from around the back, through your legs, or maybe from halfcourt with your eyes closed. The loser can buy Slurpees later.

Don't leave the blacktop before you draw out an insane pattern for Hopscotch in chalk. Throw a pebble and see how balanced and agile your partner really is. You'll both be sure to get a laugh out of each game. The silly fun on this weekend date idea may be exactly what you need after a long week at work.

On your walk to get your Slurpee reward, speed it up with some Tag. You can run through yards, weave through buildings, and dash across parking lots. When you're out of breath, you'll have the consolation prize of being caught up in your favorite person's arms. You will, however, be It. Thanks to this expert <u>relationship advice</u> and all of that mad running around, you might discover places in your town you never knew existed, places you can go back to for your next date.

Related Link: Date Idea: Be a "Cheap" Date

When evening hits and you're back at home, you can pull out some speakers and dance in the cool, spring air. Move and shake as the sun sets, and then slow it down for a romantic song or two. When it's finally dark, it's time for some oldfashioned Marco Polo. You don't need a pool to play this game. Under the cover of night, with your eyes closed, call out and feel around for your beau.

You don't always need to behave like an adult to be in an adult relationship and love. Mixing it up with some kiddish antics can be just the kind of fun you're looking for, if only for this weekend.

Have you played around on an outdoor date? Share your stories below.

Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

Searching for an exciting date idea this weekend? Plan a trip to a local museum! You can spend the entire day with your significant other and get an educational and entertaining experience at the same time.

Head to a Museum for a Culturally-Influenced Date Idea

When choosing which museum to visit, think about your interests. If you want to learn more about a specific event in

history, such as the Holocaust, find a museum that has a section for that. Do you live in Washington, D.C.? The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is one of the best Holocaust museums in America. If your man is a space or aviation fanatic, follow this <u>love advice</u> and take him to the National Air and Space Museum, also in D.C., on your next weekend date idea.

Related Link: <u>Tour a Chocolate Factory</u>

If you're more fascinated with contemporary art, the New Museum in New York is the best place to go. It even has a Sky Room that provides a stunning view of Manhattan's skyline. If you live in Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art is also on the list of top ten museums in America.

Planetariums and aquariums make for great date ideas too. The American Museum of Natural History in New York exhibits a variety of shows in their planetarium, ranging from outer space to the function of the brain. The New York Aquarium is also popular. From sea lions to sharks, you'll certainly stay busy!

Museums are great because of all the opportunity for conversation, especially if you're going on a first date. Still, whether it's your first or fifty-first outing together, there's always something fun to enjoy. Strolling down various corridors and stumbling upon new exhibits will give you and your partner time to bond over your mutual fascination for the museum's focus. The quietness of a museum makes for good romance too, and it'll cause you to feel closer to your partner. While immersed in a century-old Greek oil painting, the two of you will feel like you're the only ones in the room, like you're in an entirely different world.

Related Link: How to Date Outside the Box in NYC

Once you're tired of hushed voices and "Do Not Touch" signs, you can head over to the cafe or bakery that many museums typically offer their guests. There, you'll be able to discuss all the wonders you've seen and continue your conversation. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop on your way out and pick up a memento of your day!

Do you have any great museums, planetariums or aquariums in mind? Share your date idea with us!

Date Idea: Wine and Dine





By Sarah Ribeiro & Melissa Lee

Summer is just starting, and you and your sweetheart need to get ready for the new season. This weekend, go on a winetasting adventure to embrace the fresh warm weather. You and your love can find a new favorite wine while exploring a beautiful vineyard nearby.

If you're looking for a romantic way to have some fun, this weekend date idea is ideal for you and your love.

First, you and your sweetheart need to decide which wines you will be trying this weekend. Narrow down your wine preferences to a specific kind of wine you want to taste. Do you only like reds? Limit the weekend to cabernets, merlots and pinot noirs. Or spend the weekend comparing whites and reds. A "pinot-only" date will allow you to taste different pinot noirs and pinot gris that are made in your area.

Related Link: <u>Weekend Date Idea: A Day at Sea</u>

Next, search online for wineries or vineyards in the area that offer the wines you've picked and plan to travel to a couple of them throughout the day. You and your partner can even arrange a town car or limo to drive you around, so you don't have to worry about limiting how much you drink. Plus, it'll give you a sense of luxury and a chance to cuddle up on the ride.

Related Link: Enjoy a Secret Sunset on Your Next Date Night

At the vineyard, it's important to keep sharing opinions with your significant other. You can pick a wine that the two of you are crazy about and buy two bottles to take home with you. The first bottle can be shared that night, and you can reserve the second for a future anniversary or romantic date.

Related Link: <u>Weekend Date Idea: Play All Day</u>

After the wine-tasting fun is done, head back to your place and enjoy a romantic meal together. Skip out on the cooking for the night and indulge in a take-out meal from a nearby Italian restaurant. Make sure your wine suits your meal by using a wine pairing chart. The rule of thumb here is that darker meats belong with darker wines and lighter meats stick with lighter wines. You can even try a wine-based dessert, like a strawberry and wine sorbet, that will cleanse your palate and provide the perfect ending to a perfect day.

Have any great wine-based date ideas? Share them in the comments below.

Date Idea: Make Your Love a Masterpiece





By Sarah Ribeiro & Melissa Lee

Get creative with your love this weekend: paint, sculpt, or throw some pottery and feel like an artist for the day. Make something with your sweetheart that the two of you will proud to show off to your family and friends. Try this unique date to tap into your inner creative genius and create a work of art that you and your love can keep as a memento of your time together.

If you're looking to get in touch with your creative side, this weekend date idea is perfect for you and your partner!

First, pack up a picnic basket loaded with your favorite foods. Include finger foods that you can feed to each other, like berries, veggies or pretzels, as well as your honey's favorite meal. Bring a bottle of wine and two glasses as well, then head up to the most scenic spot in your area. Scope out a high hill, a look-out point or a state or national park. Enjoy the sounds of nature around you or bring your iPod with you to play a soothing painting playlist. Examples of great relaxing music to spark creativity include Yanni, Pearl Jam, Pink Floyd, Adele, Animal Collective or classical and instrumental music.

Related Link: <u>Weekend Date Idea: Get Crafty</u>

After you and your love have a romantic sunset picnic, set up an easel (or two) and try your hand at painting. Choose between painting your sweetheart or the landscape around you. Don't be afraid to experiment with color and style. Be silly with one another — you can even try painting a caricature! You don't have to be a great artist to enjoy being creative. Painting is a great way to unwind and relax on a quiet night with your love.

Related Link: Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight

Another way to get artsy is to head to your local art supply store or studio and register for a class. Most studio-based art classes offer deals for couples who register for classes, sometimes providing Date Night specials which include complimentary champagne. Pick something you and your partner have never done before: shops like Color Me Mine let you paint your own ceramics, or you can try making ceramics yourself. Glassblowing is also becoming incredibly popular and is showing up in more studios. Plus, you'll get a professional product that you and your sweetheart can take home with you.

Have an idea for a crafty date? Share it in the comments below.

Date Idea: Meeting the Parents





By Sarah Ribeiro & Melissa Lee

Celebrate this Mother's Day by taking a trip home. Plan a weekend visiting each other's parents in the spirit of the holiday.

Check out this weekend date idea if you're interested in introducing your partner to the family!

If you live nearby, look at this weekend as a road trip with your beau. The two of you can pack snacks and create a

playlist with songs from your childhood to makes yourselves feel nostalgic. Some great 70's and 80's favorites include "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Livin' on a Prayer," "Vogue," "Dancing Queen," "Take on Me," and "Thriller." If your honey has never met your family, you can share stories about them on the ride to get him or her ready for their endearing eccentricities, like the fact that your father sings opera in the shower or that your mother will wake up at 5 a.m. to make you all breakfast. Make it a game to see who has the strangest family stories.

Related Link: Date Idea: Say 'Ahhh' at the Spa

Before you get to your parent's house, take a drive around your hometown. Show your sweetheart where you grew up: take them to your high school or grammar school, bring them to where you had your first date and show them your favorite hangouts when you were a kid. Pick out the best ice cream shop in town and buy a cone for your partner, telling them your favorite memories of going out for an after-dinner sweet treat with your parents.

Related Link: Date Idea: Learn a New Sport Together

After the nostalgia has worn out, head to the house and make a mother's day meal with your love. Try to replicate your favorite recipes that your parents used to make you and serve it to them on a fully set table with flowers and candles. Don't forget to bring a bottle of wine and dessert. You can harken back to your childhood with dessert: try something simple that you would make as a child, like brownies, ice cream sundaes or strawberries with whipped cream. It's a great chance for you and your love to work together and bond in the kitchen. Be sure to let your parents know how much you appreciate them – and don't forget to buy a Mother's Day gift!

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Close with Nature

After dinner, pull out your old photo albums. Let yourself be

humbled as your parents tell your partner all of your embarrassing childhood stories and show off your braces-filled middle school yearbook photo. Then spend the next day doing the same with your sweetheart's parents.

What's your favorite Mother's Day date? Tell us below.

Date Idea: Cuddle With a Furry Friend





By Sarah Ribeiro & Melissa Lee

Spend the weekend with your partner surrounded by each other's love and your love for animals. Getting a chance to cuddle up

with a gentle creature will put the two of you in a loving mood.

Looking for a fun way to spend the weekend with your significant other? This date night idea is perfect if you two love animals!

Plan a zoo trip with your love — check out the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to find a local zoo that the two of you have never visited. While you're there, be sure to take photos not just of the animals, but of you and your sweetheart too. Be sure to let go of your inhibitions and let your inner child show; there's nothing more endearing than watching your partner get excited over seeing giraffes. Plus, it's a great photo (or video!) opportunity. At the end of the day, head to the souvenir shop and find something memorable to get each other. It can even be something humorous and tacky, like the typical gorilla stuffed animal holding a heart, so long as you two can make a loving memory out of the gift.

Related Link: Date Idea: Embrace Your Inner Child

If you're more of a community-centric couple, try your hand at volunteering. Call up your local animal shelter and see if you can set up a time for the two of you to help them out. Petfinder offers a directory of animal welfare groups where you can volunteer. This day is definitely another "photo op" for you two, as you may get the chance to play with or walk a homeless animal. Be prepared for dirty work, too: most shelters ask for help cleaning and sanitizing cages and kennels, but the work is well worth it. You may find an adorable cat or dog that the two of you are willing to foster or even adopt.

Related Link: Date Idea: Take A Trip to the Park

For those who already have enough animals in your life, take them on a date with you. Head to your nearest dog park with your honey. Let your pets play while you sit back and relax with your beau, holding hands and bonding over your love for your furry babies. Or keep them on the leash and take a walk – or even a hike – and take in the new spring weather. Tell each other stories about your first pets, why you love animals and what your favorite furry creature is and why. It's a great opportunity to get to know each other better and enforce why you love each other.

Have an idea for a great animal-lover's date? Share it with us in the comments below.