

# Date Idea: Play Romantic Dating Games



By 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 night to share your best couple friends too. So hurry over to an arcade and have a fun game night with your sweetheart!

Find a luxury bowling alley that's specifically setup for romantic dating games. Usually these types of bowling alleys are done up in a glow-in-the-dark fashion and have a party-like environment that's extremely exciting. Most likely, there will be fun music, cocktails and tons of entertainment. Some

luxury bowling alleys even have restaurant 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.

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 has new games, so if you're addicted to Temple Run or Cut The Rope on your phone, try the arcade versions!

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.**

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## **Date Idea: Rent a Cabin in**

# the Snow



By 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 is a surefire way to light the flame together.

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.

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!

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 of places to vacation? Share with us in the comments below.**

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# Date Idea: Go to an Eat-In Bakery



By Gabriela Robles

If it's too cold to enjoy the great outdoors and you and your sweetheart are going a little stir crazy at home, make a trip to a local eat-in bakery. It'll be a much-needed break from your usual routine of dining out at your favorite cafe or sports bar. Plus, you'll be able to keep warm and indulge in some delicious treats at the same time.

Eat-in bakeries will usually seat you, and then a waitress come take your order. They typically offer various supplies of coffees, teas and hot chocolates, so you'll be able to have something to drink as you enjoy your sweet of choice. Think

of tonight as a dessert date. Instead of a restaurant that smells like beer and fried food, you're in a place that holds the tempting aroma of pies and cookies. What could be a better way to spend a snowy winter night?

When you first arrive, take a careful look at the drink and dessert menus; seek out new treats that you think sound tempting and ultimately decide together what you'd like to order. Step outside of your comfort zone and order something that you've never had before. If you're really in the mood for some sweets, order a second small dessert that you already know you love. Relax with a cup of your favorite dessert-esque drink as you and your man chat about your weeks and take in the scent of the sugary bakery.

Consider trying a slice of Mississippi Mud pie with a macchiato or indulge in a piece of apple strudel with a nice, warm hot chocolate. If you're a chocolate lover, order some brownie or hazelnut cake pops along with a choco-banana frappe or a chocolate cream pie paired with a dirty chai.

After the desserts arrive, share the treats with each other. Or if you want to indulge in a more private setting, take them to go. Experience a great night filled with delicious pastries, scrumptious drinks and your loving sweetheart!

**What's your favorite dessert treat to share with your date? Tell us in the comments below.**

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## **Ring in the New Year in**

# True Vegas Style: Hotel Party Roundup



By Kristin Mattern

Ring in the New Year in grand fashion by planning a getaway with your significant other or even better, surprising him with a ticket to board the next jumbo jet to Vegas. Sin city is even more alive on New Year's Eve and this year there are four amazing events taking place that will pretty much ensure you are welcoming 2014 in style. As we all know, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!

**Party Inside The Venetian at TA0:** Enjoy a night of R&B music with a live performance from Grammy Award winning artist Miguel. You and your partner are sure to get caught up in the

moment as you sway to Miguel's sweet sounds surrounded by the innovative ambiance of TAO's "Asian City" theme, featuring a twenty foot tall Buddha statue. Your taste buds will be treated to the delicious dishes of the Pacific Rim as you both enjoy hors d'oeuvres made by celebrity chefs and a premium open bar from 9 pm – midnight. Then, as the clock begins the countdown to welcome 2014, raise a complimentary glass of champagne to toast the start of another New Year in true Vegas style. At the stroke of midnight, TAO ticket stubs will also grant entrance to LAVO, providing you and your partner access to two incredible parties in one night. But that's not all. The ticket stubs also provide 10% off dinner at either TAO or LAVO the next day. What an amazing way to celebrate the start of 2014!

**Related Link:** [4 Tips to Reduce New Year's Eve Dating Anxiety](#)

**Rock Out In The Palazzo at LAVO:** Enjoy an electric end to 2013, and ring in the New Year with amplitude as you and your significant other jam with the incredibly talented DJ Vice. This spin master will rock the crowd into the New Year. Get your rave on as the two of you dance to dubstep and pop beats amongst a state of the art audio-visual system. Not only does LAVO sport an incredible sound system, the space derives design inspiration from the bathhouses of ancient Mediterranean culture and a menu that highlights the best of the region's cuisine. You and your partner can soak in the unique beauty of LAVO while enjoying tasty hors d'oeuvres, served from 9 to midnight, and enjoy some delicious cocktails at the premium open bar from 9 to 11pm. The party will continue as you enjoy a complimentary glass of champagne to toast the start of 2014! Just like above, your LAVO ticket stub will also grant access to TAO, allowing the two of you to party it up at two amazing clubs in one unforgettable evening. The tickets also provide 10% off dinner at either TAO or LAVO the next day! What a sweet New Year it will be.





Left to Right: The Chelsea;  
Bruno Mars. Photo: Kirvin Doak  
Communications

**An Intimate Evening In The Cosmopolitan at The Chelsea:** Looking for a unique experience this New Year's Eve that you can really brag about? What about a smaller venue featuring a performance by the amazing Bruno Mars? Mars will not only ring in 2014 with true Vegas showmanship, but will inaugurate The Chelsea as the new club at The Cosmopolitan. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of history as you and your loved one ring in the New Year and kick off the start to what is sure to be one of the best clubs in Vegas. The Chelsea offers an avant-garde approach to entertainment; the venue features cast glass chandeliers, a vintage lobby bar, private VIP opera boxes and a decorative grand staircase. Don't miss this exclusive chance to celebrate New Year's Eve in a truly glamorous way!

**Related Link:** [Quickie Chick's Video Dating Tips: How to Celebrate New Year's Eve if You're Single](#)



Celine Dion. Photo:  
CeasarsPalace.com

**Sing Your Heart Out in Ceasar's Palace at The Colosseum:** If you are totally in love with Celine Dion and her harmonious voice, what better way to celebrate the New Year than by seeing her perform live? You'll be swept away by the visually stunning presentation of Dion's new show that was designed exclusively for The Colosseum – a state of the art venue. This show is a spectacular event, directed by long time Grammy producer Ken Ehrlich, and features a full orchestra and band to accompany Dion's timeless classics. Don't just party this New Years Eve; have an experience! Let the awe-inspiring sounds of the big band and Dion's unforgettable voice transport you and your beau into the New Year with sophisticated style and elegance. Instead of throwing the same old party at home with flat champagne and noisemakers, do it up big, and get on the next plane for scenic Las Vegas! This party town is ready to throw down and give you and your sweetie the most memorable night of your lives. Ring in 2014 in sensational style.

*What are you waiting for? Tickets are limited, so be sure to visit Vegas's New Year's Eve Live website, [www.newyarsevelive.net/cities/las-vegas.html](http://www.newyarsevelive.net/cities/las-vegas.html) to buy spots for these, and other exclusive venues.*

How will you celebrate New Years? Heading to a fabulous location like Vegas? Let us know in the comments below!

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## Date Idea: Freaky Friday



By Kristin Mattern

Bring on the goose bumps this Friday the Thirteenth by having a superstition-based date with your baby. Take those old wives tales to heart as the two of you skip cracks hand-in-hand so you don't break your mothers' backs. Avoid walking under ladders or breaking mirrors – nobody wants seven years of bad luck. Take superstitious beliefs to a fun new place with this weekend date idea.

If you've never been superstitious, spend some time with your sweetie and look up some nifty ones from all over the world. There are a lot of bizarre superstitions out there, according to bored.com, like black cats being demons in disguise who create a barrier of evil when walking across your path. Looking at the new moon over your left shoulder (so specific!) or cutting your nails on a Friday are two more examples. While your love and you share some giggles about these negative juju actions, discover some good luck superstitions to perform and ward off the bad luck. Cross your fingers, knock on wood, spill wine while proposing a toast (just make sure you have paper towel on standby) and walk in the rain with your honey to soak up the good vibes.

Take a cue from the movie *Freaky Friday* and celebrate this Friday the Thirteenth by pretending to be one another. Act out actions each other normally does, or imitate catch phrases you both normally use. To really take it to the next level, swap clothes and just have fun! Remember to play nice though – don't harp on your partner's bad habits or annoying behaviors.

Continue this eerie date by watching *Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>*. Looking for something a little more vintage? Check out the *Twilight Zone* or a Hitchcock flick for some suspense. Your cutie is sure to snuggle close as you curl up together on the couch with some popcorn to finish off this fun Friday the Thirteenth-inspired day!

Freak out this Friday with a superstition-filled date!

**Have you and your significant other every gotten a little spooky on a Friday the Thirteenth? Let us know in the comments below!**

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# InStyle Insider: Lights. Camera. Style. Event



Are you looking for the perfect pair of jeans? Or perhaps you just enjoy shopping, whether you *need* anything or not. If either of these descriptions applies to you, join us at tomorrow's InStyle Insider event from 7-9 p.m. PT. You can shop the latest Gap denim collection and discover your personal denim style story while having a fun evening out. Plus, Jenn Rogien (Costume Designer for HBO's *Girls* and Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*) will be doing a Q&A with InStyle Style Ambassador, Tai Beauchamp – sort of an Inside the Actor's Studio with a fashion spin. There will also be sips & sweets, a DJ, digital photo booth, and amazing shopping incentives.

For more information, check out their twitter pages, @InStyle

and @Gap on Twitter. Happy shopping!

*This post has been sponsored by Single Edition Media.*

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## Date Idea: Color Your Love in Red, White and Blue



By Sarah Ribeiro

You and your sweetheart have been together for every holiday so far, and now for the Fourth of July, you're ready to take a unique approach. Celebrate in a non-traditional way by making everything red, white and blue. The easiest way to set up this color spectrum date is to split it into thirds. Decide which

part of the day will be linked to which color, and go from there.

Start your morning with red. Get up before the birds, hike up to the tallest point in town and cuddle with your man while you watch the sunrise. Then, share a breakfast picnic made out of red foods: pack a fruit salad with seasonal favorites like strawberries, cherries, blood oranges and red grapes, or make some roasted red breakfast potatoes. You can even allow yourselves a bit of red wine to drink during the sunrise.

Then, have a white afternoon. Rather than picnic-hopping all day, throw a “white party” with your love. Invite all your friends and family to come over wearing only white. To set the mood, rent some white tents, tables and chairs. Encourage your guests to bring a white food, such as vanilla ice cream, white chocolate-based desserts, grilled cheese sandwiches on white bread and risotto. Serve “white” drinks like cream soda or a white wine sangria. You can also provide small splashes of color by making red, white and blue jello shots or having a red-and-blue candy bar in the midst of all of the white.

Once the sun starts to set, get in a blue mood. Put on your best blue outfit and get red-carpet ready with your honey. The two of you can head to a blues club to spend the night in each other’s arms, sipping on Blue Hawaii’s and reflecting on an especially great holiday.

**Have a unique Fourth of July date idea? Share it with us below.**

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# Date Idea: Celebrate Half-Christmas



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

It's been six months since the cuddling and gift-giving time of year, and you're running out of summer date ideas. This weekend, ditch the summer activities and celebrate the half-way point to Christmas with your love.

Start by decorating your home like it's Christmas: hang garland, lights and maybe even mistletoe in every room. You can even get a little crafty and make paper snowflakes or a DIY Christmas Tree. Try involving every sense so that it really feels like the holidays. Light an evergreen tree-scented candle and pop some gingerbread in the oven, making your whole place smell like Christmas. You can even turn up



the air conditioning just a bit so you can wear your favorite Christmas sweater (ugly or not).

Plan a holiday feast that you and your beau can make together. Make the traditional holiday foods, such as stuffing, turkey, ham, sweet potatoes and roasted vegetables. This half-Christmas is also a chance to try out unique and innovative recipes in advance of the next holiday. Try a color-themed menu of red and green foods, including baked apples filled with brown sugar, butter, and cinnamon, an egg frittata with green spinach and red or green peppers, kale soup or cherry pie.

Don't forget the holiday beverages. To cater to the warm summer weather, try making frozen hot chocolate. Serendipity sells a mix with directions to make things easy for you and your sweetheart. Sip on some eggnog while you bake cookies for Santa. Be sure to play some holiday carols on your iPod while you cook and bake!

After dinner, you and your partner can watch one of your favorite holiday movies. If you're in the mood for something classic, watch 'It's a Wonderful Life' or 'Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.' Or go for a more contemporary film, like the Jim Carrey adaptation of 'The Grinch' or the hilarious holiday favorite 'Elf.'

Then you and your honey can swap gifts. Maybe you just want to fill your stockings with little presents for each other. Plan in advance whether you will be buying something serious or a gag gift. Either way, be sure to set a price range.

Wrap up the night with an all-time favorite Christmas activity. Get that gingerbread out of the oven and build a house with your sweetheart! For something simpler, you can build marshmallow snowmen. You can even plan ahead to next Christmas, thinking up early gift ideas for family and friends and going so far as to design your own wrapping paper.

How do you celebrate half-Christmas? Share your ideas in the comment section below!

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## Date Idea: Summer Sightseeing



By Sarah Ribeiro

Every town, no matter how small, has special hotspots. Some cities have historic sites that draw crowds or a landmark that's famous nationally. Others just have beautiful locales in the nooks and crannies of town that only the locals know about. This weekend, you and your sweetheart can see the sights as an insider without having to leave your hometown.

The first step for this touristy date is to find out what's

unique about your hometown. Does it have a factory that specializes in a weird or impressive trade? Is the water there bluer – or browner – than anywhere else in the country? Check a Tourist Directory to see what attractions are in your town or nearby. There may even be something that you and your partner have never visited or even heard of before.

Then, take on the role of the tourist couple. This date requires a bit of acting skill, but it's worth the fun. Pretend you and your love are new to the area and have never been to any of these sightseeing spots. You can even grab some friends who aren't familiar with the area to add on to the illusion of being a visitor to your town.

Grab a camera and head to your nearby tourist attraction. If it's a sightseeing location or a physical landmark, you and your partner can take turns posing in front of the spot and get a few shots of the two of you as a couple. You can also soak up the beautiful scenery. Some great sightseeing sites are lighthouses, rose gardens, rivers, or even weird monuments, like Muffler Men or the Jolly Green Giant statute in Minnesota.

If you're hitting up a historic site, try and get a guided tour. Places like the Freedom Trail in Boston offer guided tours with a thematic twist – all the tour guides dress up as historical figures or as colonials. It's worth the money: not only will you learn a lot, but you and your honey won't have to worry about getting lost as you wander around a historical neighborhood.

The best part about this date is that you don't have to travel too far. It's a great way to explore your hometown and learn about where you live while spending an entire day doing something new with your significant other.

**Have you ever taken a tourist-style date in your own hometown? Share your comments below.**

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# Married In a Year



Check out our executive editor and founder, [Lori Bizzoco](#)'s, video interview with Suzanne Oshima, matchmaker and dating coach at Dream Bachelor & Bachelorette and the founder of Single in Stilettos. Lori candidly shares her story, from a broken engagement five months before the wedding to a whirlwind romance with her now-husband. Through it all, she discovered how to brush herself off and find the positive in every situation, whether it's in your personal or professional life.

*For more videos from [CupidsPulse.com](#), check out our [YouTube channel](#).*

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# Date Idea: Go Paintballing Together



By Daniela Agurcia

This weekend, be a little playful and adventurous with your loved one: go paintballing together. Research places nearby and sign up for a day where you can both get away and have some fun. This activity is great for couples that are highly active and welcome a little challenge. You've already had those one-on-one dates where you get to know each other over a casual cup of coffee or fancy dinner out, and now it's time for something different. Paintballing is the perfect way to see the more carefree and child-like side of your partner.

Don't wear your typical date outfit; instead, wear something simple and comfortable like old jean shorts and a white t-shirt. This date is the perfect opportunity to show your man that you're low-maintenance and not always concerned with how you look. And be sure to bring a change of clothes – you may get dirty with all that paint flying through the air.

Make it a group outing, and invite other couples to join you. Get even more competitive and split into teams: girls versus guys. It's date against date. These games usually work like capture the flag, where the goal of each team is to capture the other team's flag. In this case, you'll be shooting the enemy with paintballs along the way.

Remember that well-known playground rule from your elementary days? If someone picks on you, it's because he likes you. Well, that idea comes into play when you collaborate with your teammates to make it a strategy for every one to target their date – or in this case, enemy. Don't hold back and don't be afraid to get dirty. Showing a competitive side is sexy and attractive to the opposite sex. Even make it a bet that the losing team has to buy their dates lunch afterwards.

Once the game ends and the winner has gotten their applause, clean up a little and grab a couple of burgers and fries at a place nearby. Spend the rest of the day taking it easy and regaining the energy lost from your paintball game. It's the perfect ending to a busy day! If you've had a long week of work and just want to let go of your stress, this date can be your solution.

**What other adventurous dates would be fun? Share your ideas below.**

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# Date Idea: Personal Spring Cleaning



By Sarah Ribeiro

Spring is here, and with it comes the ever-dreaded cleaning that comes along for the ride. This isn't anything your babe can't help with, though. This weekend, make Spring cleaning fun: take a chance to welcome the new season early with your honey and apply spring cleaning to your daily lives.

Start off by clearing your wardrobe. Go through your closet with your love and pick out clothes you've never worn – or never will wear. Take them to your local Goodwill or consignment store to rid yourself of the clutter. Afterwards, head to the shops with your honey. Pick out outfits for each

other that make you feel sexy and attractive.

Once you've had your fill of refilling your closet, head to your closest spa or salon. Pamper yourself with a massage, facial or manicure and pedicure. Most spas have couples deals that allow you to get treated side-by-side, and many of them offer a Jacuzzi or sauna at the end of your treatment. Take the time to relax and feel good about yourself; after all, if you're comfortable and confident, you'll both be happier in your relationship.

Feeling healthy is a surefire way to breed confidence both for yourself and for your relationship. You'll feel great and look great too, and you'll want to go out with your sweetheart more often. Take the time this weekend to talk over your health concerns with your partner and consider picking up a new health regime. Make a plan to stay fit together this spring. Schedule weekly bike rides, jogs or walks at sunset to keep your exercise feeling less like a chore and more like a date. Maybe a little cardio is what you need, or you could sign up for exercise classes. Many gyms provide couples classes like spinning, yoga, Pilates and even Zumba. If you can hold each other accountable, you'll be sure not to skimp.

While you start your exercise plan, make sure to include some dietary guidelines for the two of you. Pick a diet that is easy to follow. Some popular "fad diets" include the DASH diet, which cuts your salt intake and in turn your blood pressure and cholesterol; the Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes (TLC) diet, which decreases fat and cholesterol consumption while increasing fiber; or the "Real Food" or Happiness diet, which encourages avoiding heavily processed foods and eating whole foods instead – without the need to count calories. Grab a recipe book based on one of these diets and start planning romantic – and healthy – dinner dates with your love.

**How do you and your partner plan to spring clean? Share in the comments below.**



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# Date Idea: Shoot Some Hoops



By Sarah Ribeiro

This weekend, forget the cold weather and get active indoors with your sweetheart. Head to the gym with your love for a little one-on-one – and some March Madness of your own.

Before you play, do some warm-ups in the gym to get your heart pumping and your muscles loosened. You and your partner can jog a few laps while discussing your favorite sports. Share some stories about your sport experiences as a kid – everyone has that one embarrassing sports story that will be sure to get your sweetheart laughing.

Go for an all-out basketball workout: do a couple “suicide” drills – the childhood favorite where you run from the baseline to the free throw line closest to you and back, continuing to run to the next furthest court line and back until you run the full court. Race against your partner and kickstart your competitive drive before you even play. While you’re warming up, work with each other to improve your skills – it’s an excuse to touch each other and to teach each other something new, which keeps the date intimate. If you’ve got a great lay-up, you can show your date how to position themselves in the right spot to get that perfect shot. Or you can ask them for advice on footwork to gain a better defense against them.

Then, the real fun starts. Play a simple game of one-on-one with your partner. You can vary what type of game you want to play: try HORSE, a trick/skill game where you mimic your opponents previous shot and gain letters when you can’t mimic the skill – five points spells HORSE and you’re out! Or just pick a maximum number of points and try to outshoot each other.

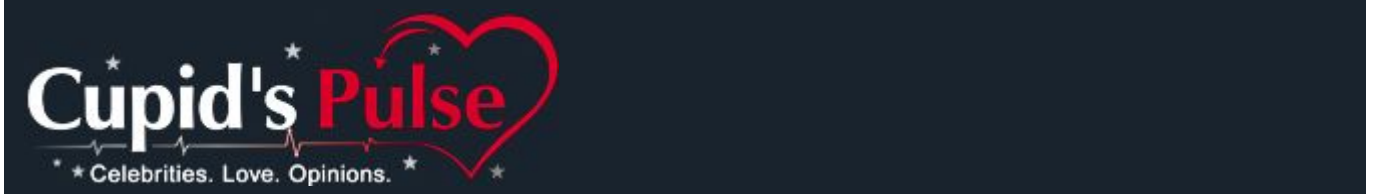
After you’ve tired yourselves out, hit the showers and get ready for the night. Keep with the hoops theme and check which teams are playing near you. You may even be able to head to a college game for March Madness. You can grab cheap tickets online, where you and your beau can cheer on from the sidelines.

If you’re on a budget, hit up your local sports bar and check out the game there. For a more romantic night alone, crack open a couple beers at home and snack on the junk food you’d only reserve for sports events: hot wings, nachos, chips and more. Be sure to ice your muscles after playing hard all day!

**How do you celebrate March Madness with your partner? Leave your date ideas in the comments below.**

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# Date Idea: Go On A Pub Crawl



By Sarah Ribeiro

Embrace the Irish holiday this weekend by grabbing a group of your friends and drinking in the tradition. Plan a pub crawl date night that your friends will talk about for years. Don't worry about your single friends, they'll have plenty to entertain themselves with on this whirlwind date. The pub scene will buzz around your crew as a mix of singles and couples join together to enjoy a few beers. This is the perfect opportunity to bridge your private and public relationship lives.

First thing's first: pick a locale. Popular cities for St. Patrick's Day include Boston, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Savannah and Phoenix. Search on Yelp or CitySearch so you can put together a list of bars, pubs and taverns that you want to visit throughout the night. Be sure to pick out spots that offer a wide range of brews, fit your budget and have an impressive menu – no drinking on an empty stomach! An important thing to remember is to keep all of your bars in one general area; having just one bar out of the way may encourage drunk driving, and you want to remain safe on this night.

It's always a good idea to call the bars ahead of time to let them know you're coming – you'll have space reserved for your party, and they may even offer you a discount. Order appetizers and pitchers in bulk, you guys will be camping out on those bar stools for a while.

Next, plan a guest list. Decide whether you want this to be one large group date or if you'll be mixing couples and singles. Keep in mind that your single friends may be uncomfortable if there are too many couples, so make sure you keep an even ratio between the two. Don't be afraid to play matchmaker and invite friends that you think could be great together!

After all the real planning is done, get creative. Pick a theme that you all can follow for the night. Make shirts with Irish sayings or Gaelic slogans on them. Get really crafty with a theme not related to the holiday: suggest that everyone dress as a character from one of your favorite movies or video games. A popular pub crawl theme is "Mario Party," where everyone dresses up as their favorite Nintendo character. It's a great way to spot your group and have a little quirky fun.

For added fun, include a scavenger hunt with things to do. Assign points to tasks like getting a free round of shots, getting the most high fives of the night or getting a picture with the bartender. Have couples compete against each other or

do couples versus singles to see who can get the most points.

Then, when the day arrives, hit the bars! Have fun drinking with your love and embrace the opportunity for the two of you to bond with each other's friends.

**How will you celebrate St. Patrick's Day with your partner? Tell us in the comments below.**

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## **Date Idea: Throw a Classic Movie Night**



By Sarah Ribeiro

This weekend, get to know your partner better by exploring each other's tastes in movies. Your beau might have a film close to their hearts that you never knew about. Pick out your favorite classic films and spend the weekend cuddling on the couch, sharing your film preferences with each other.

Start off your movie night by creating a real movie atmosphere. Dim the lights and bring out all your movie snacks. Load up beforehand on candy bars, pretzels and nachos to munch on. Split up "cooking" duties with your sweetheart: one of you can pop some corn on the stove, while the other works on homemade slushies.

To set up the night, start by writing down each of your top ten favorite films on individual pieces of paper. Be sure to have one film for each genre, separating the flicks into horror, comedy, action, chick flick, rom-com, foreign, musical, western, sci-fi and indie. Mix things up and go for older movies – either from the golden Hollywood era or from your childhood. That way, you can start a conversation about what makes those films important to you, getting a better feel for each other's interests. After writing down your list, both you and your honey can throw your personal ten into a hat, and pick out a couple slips to make the decision-making process easier. After all, no one wants to fight over a movie on date night.

If you need help picking out a movie or just want ideas for great movies to add to your list, check some online "best of" lists. The American Film Institute has posted "The 100 Greatest American Movies of All Time", and *Time Out* has posted both "The Top 50 Movies to Watch As a Family" and "The Top 50 Sports Films of All Time" as a reference. Then, the two of you can find movies you both agree on – or even watch some all-time favorites that you've never seen before.

After your hours of movie watching, get yourself ready for

your next movie date – and this time, head to the theaters. Peruse the internet for movie trailers and figure out which films just may be your newest favorites.

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

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## **Date Idea: Expand Your Tastes**



By Sarah Ribeiro

One of the great parts of dating is getting to experience new things together and grow as a couple. This weekend, think outside of the box and expand your tastes. You'll benefit from having a really unique date – plus, you have nothing to lose!

Do something with your love that the two of you normally wouldn't do. If you're used to the typical dinner-and-a-movie, try a new form of entertainment. Go to a classical symphony performance, a dinner theater, or a comedy club. A popular dinner show is 'Joey and Maria's Comedy Wedding,' an interactive comedy show that includes a realistic wedding reception and has toured all around the country. A date like this one is sure to be something that you and your honey will remember: eating, laughing and dancing the night away.

For a less interactive night, you can spice up your traditional dinner date and literally expand your palette – prepare your tastebuds for something new. Restaurant “experiences” like Opaque (located in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas and New York) that provide a “dining in the dark” experience. You and your love can experience your food in a whole new way; ridding yourself of sight allows your sense of taste to heighten. If you're on a budget, you can try this idea in your own home. The intimate environment all but guarantees a romantic time for the entirety of the night.

If you're just plain sick of going out to eat, pick up a new skill or hobby instead. Pottery shops have been popping up across the country, encouraging couples to tap into their artistic sides and try their hand at throwing pots (or just painting them). Most even have “date night” specials that include complimentary wine or champagne.

You could even mix things up and focus on taking care of yourselves: if you're generally not an active couple, take an exercise class together. Many gyms have two-for-one deals or guest passes that allow you to bring a non-member into a class. Get competitive in a spinning or kickboxing class, or get in tune with yourselves in a yoga class. It's a great way to start a new healthy habit for the two of you – and to leave you both with a new sense of confidence. After sweating it out for a couple hours, head home to soak your sore muscles in the



tub with your sweetheart.

Have a great idea for a date that expands your tastes? Share it in the comments below.

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## Date Idea: Warm Up With Winter Cocktails



By Deanna Atkins

You and your special someone can enjoy what's left of this chilly winter with warm cocktails that are perfect for this time of year. [Indulging](#) in a hot spiked apple cider or learning how to make a hot toddy will set you up for an

intimate night that's different from just cracking open a couple of beers or sipping on a glass of wine.

If it's a night for two, you and your [honey](#) can relax by the fireplace with drinks that will make you feel warm inside – and maybe even a little lovey too. Look up recipes to make so you each can try your best at perfecting your own beverages.

Have a soft spot for hot chocolate? Add tequila or peppermint schnapps to this classic drink – and don't forget the whipped cream. Another twist to attempt is adding KahlÃ to the concoction. If you have a bottle of red wine that has overstayed its welcome in your home, uncork it and add spices, citrus, sugar and brandy to achieve a delicious mulled wine. Light some candles, put on soft music and enjoy tasting each other's signature drinks.

For more [fun](#), host a (warm) cocktail party at your place. Invite close friends over to celebrate winter's end. Have each guest bring over a bottle, a mixer and a garnish, but make sure they know to stay in the theme. Some easy suggestions include eggnog, rum, Tuaca, bourbon, cinnamon sticks, dried cherries, vanilla and miscellaneous spices. Then, taste everyone's homemade cocktail and judge who made the ultimate drink at the end of the night.

This weekend's date idea can also be done at a bar with your friends and a professional mixologist. Be sure to step out of your comfort zone and try something new. Testing out a variety of unique flavors and spoiling your senses with a delicious drink will spice up your night and refuel your [connection](#) with your man.

**What is your favorite winter cocktail? Share below.**

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# Date Idea: Get Dorky Together



By Deanna Atkins

Just because Valentine's Day is over doesn't mean that you can't continue the love fest. It's the perfect time to get as dorky as you want with your beau.

Stay in for the night and break out your favorite *Star Wars* movie or a more action-packed selection from *The Bourne Trilogy*. Feeling like a comedy? Get "groovy, baby" with your love, and put on *Austin Powers*. If you're up for it, you can wear a laugh-out-loud, 70s-themed outfit. Don't be afraid to act out the characters or scenes you're watching, even if that

means pausing the flick to reenact a light-saber battle or practice your best Dr. Evil voice.

Another way you can get dorky (and impress your man) is by playing a few rounds of video games. Dabble in some Xbox Live so you can each talk to one other through the microphone in your headsets. It will be a fun way to connect, especially if you play Nazi Zombies in *Call of Duty*. Your goal will be to slay the living corpses using shotguns, molten cocktails and machine guns while simultaneously protecting one another. If blood and gore isn't your style, dig out your retro Nintendo 64 to play some old-school *Mario Kart*. Racing each other head-to-head will be a friendly competition that could continue all night.

You and your honey can also choose to stay in and build a gigantic fort in your living room. If you want to get out of the house for a bit, unleash your inner nerd with a trip to a planetarium. Gaze at the stars as you get lost in the dreamy atmosphere. You can take turns testing each other's constellation knowledge or just enjoy learning something new together. You could also visit a nearby museum. Whether your guilty pleasure is biology, natural history or modern art, there's a geeky institution for you!

If you're feeling creative, set up a scavenger hunt that you know your other half will enjoy. Accompany your partner on the hunt, giving him or her clues along with a handmade treasure map. This activity will give you a ton to bond over.

Showing your sweetheart how much you love him or her is as easy as being yourself. You don't need to go to a five-star restaurant to have an amazing time together.

**What are some ways to be a dork with your loved one? Share below!**

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# Kelly Ripa's NYC Chic



By Ann Csincsak

Kelly Ripa is the queen of morning talk shows and the fashion envy of every woman who turns on their television to catch her witty gossip and banter. As a mother of three, Kelly's toned figure and effortless style is a great reason to set your DVR to *LIVE with Kelly and Michael* on ABC.

Often seen on the streets of New York City with her hunky husband, Mark Consuelos, Kelly proves that beauty, brains and style *can* all be found in one package (image above).

1. [Lipsy Dome Handbag](#) \$75

2. [House of Harlow Lynn Sunglasses](#) \$70
3. [Michael Kors Berkley Sandal](#) \$150
4. [Banana Republic Ponte Striped Skirt](#) \$79.50
5. [Vintage Lion Head Necklace](#) \$49
6. [Y-3 Racer-Back Tank](#) \$25



1. [Oasis Yellow Drape Blouse](#) \$45
2. [Hudson Signature Boot Cut Jeans](#) \$198
3. [Kork-Ease Hailey Wedges](#) \$170
4. [Alice and Olivia Elise Blazer](#) \$194
5. [Forever21 Marble Mint Ring](#) \$3.80
6. [Essie 'Put A Ripka Ring' Polish](#) \$14

This multitasking mother gives us the perfect blend of sweet and savvy with her everyday outfits. Follow her lead and dress to impress by wearing solid tops and fantastic accessories. It doesn't matter if Kelly's relaxing on the beach in the Hamptons, picking her children up from school or walking the red carpet for an event, this blonde bombshell always makes a splash!

*For more style tips and tricks, follow me on [www.cashmereandcoco.com](http://www.cashmereandcoco.com) or on twitter at @anncsincsak!*

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# Kate Beckinsale's High Fashion Charm



By [Ann Csincsak](#)

If I had to admit my celebrity fashion crushes, [Kate Beckinsale](#) would be at the top of the list. Not only does this [mother](#) have amazing fashion sense, but her effortless beauty is a showstopper in every weekly magazine.

This first look (image above) is perfect for a day [date](#) in the city. A simple tee and vintage-washed jeans will make you appear simple and chic, while some great gold accessories and dark polish will help you catch his eye.

1. [Michael Kors Oversized Watch](#) \$275
2. [Sol Angeles Sugar Sugar Tee](#) \$58
3. Essie Licorice Nail Polish \$8
4. [Ray Ban Classic Wayfarer](#) \$200
5. [Joe's Jeans Skinny Vintage](#) \$165

The next outfit shows off the best of spring fashion with a muted print blazer, cropped jeans and dark accessories. Take a cue from Kate's street style, and pair our favorite spring blazer (below) with your comfortable cropped skinny jeans to step out for a great [spring date](#).



1. [Hudson Collin Skinny in Westwood](#) \$205
2. [D&G Oversized Sunglasses](#) \$160
3. [Chica Nova Rainbow Stripe Blazer](#) \$82
4. [Vintage Chanel Xl Jumbo Quilted Bag](#) \*actual bag shown in picture

For more style tips and tricks, follow me on [www.cashmereandcoco.com](http://www.cashmereandcoco.com) or on twitter at [@anncsincksak](https://twitter.com/anncsincksak)!



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# Date Idea: Dress Up



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

Tired of being cooped up all winter? 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 revitalizing your imagination.

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 [romantic](#) 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.

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 [sweetheart](#).

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 as 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.'

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 [partner](#) 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 [date](#), 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.**

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# Jessica Alba's Sexy Sweet Style



By Ann Csincsak

From a hero in *The Fantastic Four* to a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters, this woman knows how to steal the spotlight with every outfit she wears. Her chic style is the envy of every shopper at the Target checkout counter since she graces the cover of *InStyle's* February issue.

Jessica has the perfect balance of sexy and smart in this street-savvy black ensemble and denim-on-denim outfit. She perfectly transitions from winter to spring with a vest and

open-toed heels. **STYLE TIP:** Keep your accessories light and dainty for the upcoming season!

## Get The Look



1. MinkPink Motorcycle Diaries Vest, \$69

2. J Brand Low Rise Leggings, \$150

3. Essie Chinchilly Nail Polish, \$8

4. Kate Spade Mini Bow Ring, \$48 \*TREND ALERT!

## Jessica Alba



1. Wildfox Couture Peacock Feather, \$59

2. Missoni Maki Skirt, \$450

3. Chicnova Denim Vest, \$39

4. Baublebar Arrow Ring, \$24

*For more style tips and tricks, follow me on [www.cashmereandcoco.com](http://www.cashmereandcoco.com) or on twitter at @anncsincksak!*

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## Date Idea: Get Off the Grid



By Sarah Ribeiro

Stay away from a boring date night this weekend and go on a

spontaneous road trip with your partner by hopping in the car and driving with no plans in place.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

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## **Date Idea: Bring the Beach to You**



By Sarah Ribeiro

Escape the cold winter months and bring the beach to you. Have your own island getaway by planning a romantic and private stay-cation.

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.

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 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 pina colodas 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.

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](http://lushusa.com) – their Heavenilli 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.**