

# Date Idea: Get Off the Grid



By Sarah Ribeiro and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

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. With this [date idea](#) 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.

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## Date Idea: Play Dress Up



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#) and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Tired of being cooped up all winter? For this [date idea](#), 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 [date night](#) 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 [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.

**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 [sweetheart](#).

**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 [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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## **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 [date idea](#), find a cause that both you and your significant other think is important, and spend [date night](#) 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.**

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## **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 [date idea](#).

**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 [date night](#) 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 hand-print 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.**

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## **Date Idea: Inspire Your Date with Art**



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

If you're tired of heading to the same date place each week for [date night](#), getting in touch with your creative side may be just the thing you need to rekindle (or jump start) your romance. Here are some [date ideas](#) 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!**

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## **Dating Advice: 3 Ways to Know If Your Relationship Is Worth Saving**





By Tori Autumn

There comes a time in many relationships when tensions flare up, underlying resentment starts to rise, and overall trust is broken. You start to question if the relationship in question is worth saving. Is there a long-term commitment coming down the line? It can be extremely tough to know if the person you're with is the one for you.

**In this [dating advice](#), find out if your relationship is worth saving.**

**1. Evaluate the way you both bounce back from arguments.**

How you handle the storm when things go haywire can speak volumes to how you interact with each other moving forward. When you both need to cool off, do you find yourself still resenting your partner after a few weeks have gone by? Is your partner open to having normal conversations after the argument or does he/she avoid the topic and pretend like it didn't happen? And, most importantly, how do you feel overall after

having a bad day with your partner? When you evaluate your reactions to both small and big arguments, this will bring you one step closer to understanding if the person you're with is the right one for you.

**Related Link:** [Alternatives to Couples Therapy: Save Your Relationship and Love Life](#)

## **2. The chemistry is still there.**

A good sign that your relationship is strong is that whenever you see your partner, it still feels good. Being with the person who makes you happy can feel new and fresh. Whether you've been together for one year or 10 years, you're both able to continue the romance, laughter, chemistry, and overall great company.

The important thing to remember about chemistry is that you should pay attention to the consistent behaviors and the reactions you're both expecting. For example, if your ideas of keeping the romance alive are going out on dates, watching comedies, planning trips/activities together, etc., you should make sure your partner is open to the things that make you happy. This should go both ways. This way, you won't feel like you're putting in more effort than your S.O.

**Related Link:** [Expert Dating Advice: Why Can't I Seem to Find The One?](#)

## **3. You still feel safe communicating yourself.**

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest, how much trust do you have in your relationship? Trust can take the form of communicating your issues, happiness, frustrations, loyalty or emotional security. If your relationship went through a rough patch, and you can both find the strength to sit down and have those meaningful talks, this is one of the most common ways of knowing a little tension is something your partnership will survive.

All in all, you'll know if this relationship is worth saving if this is something you both really want. Take a step each day to think about if your life has changed for the better since you've been with your partner. And if so, be open to trying out new ways to keep the relationship going!

*Tori Autumn is a certified relationship coach, blogger, and author. Her coaching business is named Tori Autumn Coaching and her website is [tautumncoaching.com](http://tautumncoaching.com).*

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## Movie Review: Ready or Not



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

In *Ready or Not*, a bride's wedding night takes an unexpected turn when her new in-laws convince her to play a sinister game. *Ready or Not*, starring Samara Weaving as Grace and Andie MacDowell as Becky Le Domas, is about a new bride who finds out that her new family has a terrifying way of accepting new people into their family. If she's not careful, what she thought was a simple game of hide-and-seek could be her first and last night as a new member of the Le Domas family. This movie shows you don't really know people until you make them family. Check out our [movie review](#).

## **Check out our movie review on *Ready or Not*, a thriller that gives a new meaning to wedding night fun!**

**Should you see it:** If you are a fan of thrillers, then *Ready or Not* will be right up your alley. This movie will keep you on the edge of your seat as Grace fights to stay alive on her wedding night where she learns that her in-laws have sinister secrets. Grab the popcorn and a friend to hold onto tight, this one is going to be a thrilling ride.

**Who to take:** *Ready or Not* is rated R and will make a great movie for date night so you can hold your partner tight in your arms. It's also great for a friends night out for you and your thrill-seeking friends.

### **Cupid's Advice:**

In *Ready or Not*, Grace is excited to get to know her new in-laws on her wedding night. Little did she know the terrifying door she was walking through when they tell her they are having game-night and she draws the hide-and-seek card. It can be hard to really know people and what they are capable of, and that can be a scary thought especially when those people are going to become your family. Cupid has some advice on

getting to know your in-laws before the wedding night:

**1. Invite them to dinner:** You're gaining a new extended family after you marry your partner. If you live near your future in-laws it would be good to meet and get to know them before your big day. Invite them to dinner on occasion so you can learn about them and they can learn about you. You want to build your relationship with them because you'll be family forever once you say, "I do".

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Aladdin](#)

**2. Spend time with them without your partner:** In some cases, your partner's family might act on their best behavior when your partner is around making it hard to really get to know them. Spend some time with them on your own to get to know who they are when your partner isn't around. Invite them out for lunch or on a shopping trip.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: A Star is Born](#)

**3. Understand that you may not get along:** In an ideal world everyone would love their in-laws and get along with them, but that isn't always the case. If you don't get along with your future in-laws make peace and try not to take it out on your partner. If you don't get along, be respectful and courteous when you have to attend family functions. There is no rule that says you have to love every new person you meet, and this includes extended family and in-laws.

**What are some ways you spend time with your in-laws to build your relationship? Share your thoughts below!**

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# Movie Review: The Informer



By [Katie Sotack](#)

*Altered Carbon*'s star Joel Kinnaman is set to debut as the star of the summer thriller, *The Informer*. The [movie](#) is centered around a past felon who, as a current FBI informant, must return to prison in order to infiltrate the mob. Only matters become more complicated with the informant's family to consider and the local police department breathing down the FBI's back. A story of power, corruption, and vengeance, *The Informer* will keep you on the edge of your seat, praying that our hero makes it through.

**Check out *The Informer* for a date**

# night thriller that'll keep you on your toes!

**Should you see it:** If you're looking for a suspenseful crime drama that'll spike your adrenaline and have you rooting for the underdog, this film is right for you.

**Who to take:** *The Informer* may be deal with darker themes, but it's centered around family being everything. The movie is too mature to bring the kids, but it's perfect for date night. Grab your partner for a reminder that no matter what stands in your path, you can fight your way back to family.

## **Cupid's Advice:**

The protagonist's drive to live free with his family is inspiring. His risk taking and perseverance show a man dedicated to his wife and little girl. With that in mind, here are ways to prioritize your family:

**1. Have a set work schedule:** It's difficult to prioritize your family when you never see them. By having a set work schedule your family will know that you will reliably be present at certain times of the day. This isn't possible for everyone, but if you can, obtain a consistent schedule with hours aligned with your family's time table.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Spider-Man: Far From Home](#)

**2. Quality time:** Along with a consistent schedule, it might be tempting to poop out at the end of the day. If the couch is calling your name it's still important to make an effort. By all means, lay down and take a nap. But cut the time in half and make room for your loved ones in your day.

**3. Be their safety net:** While Kinnaman's character's adrenaline junkie risk taking might be sexy on screen it has many negatives in real life. When it comes to adventures it's

better to check in with your significant other on their opinion and it's effect on the family. As the patriarch or matriarch of the family you should provide a sense of security.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Ophelia](#)

**4. Avoid arguing:** Perhaps the hardest advice of all for some. It is perfectly fine to have a disagreement, but don't let that turn into an all out war. When dealing with conflict, treat the members of your family with respect and patience. Eventually things will settle down and compromise will occur.

**How do you maintain your family relationships? Share in the comments below!**

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## **Dating Advice: 3 Coping Strategies for Widowers that Work**





People who have never experienced tremendous loss can never relate to what it's like to be a widower and frankly wouldn't know anything about [dating a widower](#) either. Moving on and accepting the fact that the world won't stop turning just because it feels like your life has come to an end is quite challenging, but doable when the time is right. Below, you'll find our top three coping strategies for widowers not sure how to deal with the stress of getting back to dating following their spouse's death.

## Dating Advice: How to Heal After the Death of a Spouse

The death of a significant other is much harder to overcome than a divorce or a break-up. Here is some [dating advice](#) on how to begin to heal and move on.

**Dip Your Toes Into it:** How will you ever know if you're ready to date again if you don't try it? It's only natural you're overwhelmed with feelings of guilt, and grief itself isn't that far behind on the list of things you feel the most, but

that doesn't mean you shouldn't at least give it a shot. Nobody expects you to go out to a bar and meet people six months following your spouse's death; however, online dating provides you with a perfect opportunity to test the waters and see how you feel about talking to someone you find interesting. Open up a profile and check out what's out there. Simple companionship might do the trick at first before you meet someone truly worthy of your time.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: How to Approach Social Media Post-Breakup](#)

**Keep it to Yourself:** If you have kids, it's unlikely they'll understand that you're trying to move on. Rest assured the same goes with your spouse's family. Nonetheless, you should try to get your life back on track when you feel you're ready and nobody in the world can say when that is but you. There will be people who'll think it's too soon, but don't blame them. Everyone deals with loss in a different way. This is precisely why you should keep the fact you're going back to dating under wraps until you meet someone you'd like by your side at a family dinner or a camping trip with friends. Wait until the opportune moment to let your inner circle know there is someone new in your life and take it from there without making too much of a fuss.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: The Afterlife Connection](#)

**Cherish the Memory:** The fact that you're trying to move on doesn't mean you can't cherish the memory of your late spouse. Having someone to watch a movie with, go out to dinner or to confide in will be fulfilling enough, so that you don't feel like a burden to your kids, family, or friends. In time, they'll understand that it's good for everyone that you're not alone and will come to terms with a new person sitting across from them at your birthday party. The most important thing you need to remember is that you can talk about your late spouse whenever you feel the need to do so, regardless of the fact

that life goes on. Visit their grave with your kids, openly talk about them, and keep letting your kids know you're not forgetting about their mom or dad.

*What suggestions do you have for dating after the death of an S.O.? Offer advice below!*

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## **Relationship Advice: What We Can Learn From The Trials And Triumphs Of Celebrity Relationships**





By Dr. Jane Greer

Coming out of a toxic relationship can be difficult in and of itself, and often requires an emotional detox. Even though the relationship is clearly over, you may find that you still have issues to work through. You might be experiencing not only the sadness and loss, but also pain and anxiety. If you got to this point after a tremendous betrayal or a chronic problem the magnitude of which you were not able to surmount, you probably have many questions and concerns about how you got into that situation in the first place, and how someone you loved could treat you so poorly. Sandra Bullock had a public breakup with her ex-husband Jesse James who [admittedly](#) cheated on her multiple times. Despite that, Sandra has finally [found love again](#) with a person whom she calls “the one,” Bryan Randall, and the couple reportedly couldn’t be happier. How, then, when you finally do find yourself on the other side and are ready to think about dating again, can you trust another person as well as your own judgement as you, like Sandra, move past the bad and attempt to find the good? How can you make sure you don’t allow yourself to fall into a toxic relationship again?

# Dr. Greer's Relationship Advice Teaches Us How to Date Again After a Toxic Relationship

One thing to keep in mind is that it is natural to be more guarded and question everything when you begin something new after what you have been through. And that is a good thing. Take your time as you get to know someone who has caught your eye. Even if the connection feels comfortable right away, and you experience the temptation to slip into an immediate closeness of constant texting, talking, and even spending the night together, try to resist that at first. Remain your "me" for as long as you can before you jump into being a "we," so you don't shoot past any warning signals. Take inventory: do they call when they say they will? Do they keep the plans you have made? Do they generally seem to be telling you the truth about things, or have you caught them in any lies? Do they have friends, or do they appear to have many past relationships – friendly and romantic – that have ended with all ties cut? Take the time you need to read all the road signs, so to speak, and to stop at all the caution lights so you can get a sense of what's coming down the road. Give yourself a chance to learn who this person really is, instead of making excuses when necessary and allowing them to form in your mind as who you hope they will be. Along these lines, be more selective about who you might let in, let them show you they are worthy of your love. Sit back a little, possibly more than you usually have, and instead of being an open book and freely sharing your past and your hopes for the future, let them take the lead and reveal those things first. That way, you will have a better sense of what you are getting into before you open yourself up to them.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Talking Through the Tough Times](#)



By doing this and taking any red flags that might come up seriously, you can work to head off future betrayals and strengthen your own self-confidence as you evaluate your new potential love interest and decide how much you want to share with them. It will also give you more control. The goal here is to find someone who you can believe in, who has your best interest in mind, and who, ultimately, will not stamp on your heart. Proceed with this expectation, that this is what you deserve and what you will get, and this will help give you more clarity and insight as you begin to date. If you feel secure in yourself, you are much more likely to find someone who will support you rather than undermine you.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Working Through Your Heartbreak](#)

Moving on after a toxic relationship isn't easy, but it is possible, as we saw with Sandra and Bryan. The experience, however terrible it might have been, can be a lesson for you to learn from. Once you can stop thinking of it as a recovery process, and more of a moving beyond process, taking with you all that you now know, you can be stronger and better placed to have a healthier relationship than ever before.

*Please tune in to the Doctor on Call radio hour on [HealthyLife.net](http://HealthyLife.net) every Tuesday at 2 PM EST, 11 AM PST. First and third Tuesdays are Shrink Wrap on Call, second Tuesdays are HuffPost on Call, and the last Tuesday of the month is Let's Talk Sex! Email your questions dealing with relationships, intimacy, family, and friendships to Dr. Greer at [askdrjane@drjanegreer.com](mailto:askdrjane@drjanegreer.com). Connect with Dr. Jane Greer on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer](http://www.facebook.com/DrJaneGreer), and be sure to follow [@DrJaneGreer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DrJaneGreer) for her latest insights on love, relationships, sex, and intimacy. For more on Dr. Greer, visit <http://www.drjanegreer.com>.*

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# 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 [date ideas](#) for you and your partner:

# In this dating advice, [relationship expert](#) 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 [date night](#) 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](http://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.

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## **Date Idea: Embrace a Rainy Day**





By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

You had a perfect outdoor date planned for this weekend, but now it's supposed to rain. What are you going to do? Are you going to cancel date night and curl up under the covers? No way! Cupid has some great [date ideas](#) for when the rain runs you inside.

## **Check out these date night ideas for when your outdoor plans get rained out.**

Take advantage of a rainy weekend by adapting and planning something fun with your significant other even though it may not have been your original idea. Cuddle up with your honey next to the fire and enjoy each other's company. Or, better yet, move all of your furniture and build a little fortress just like when you were a little kid and the rain kept you from going outside.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Romance at a Resort](#)

If you don't want to stay at home, then check out a flick you've been dying to see, whether that means going to the theater or watching it at home. A perfect rainy day movie to see is Woody Allen's recent movie *Midnight In Paris*. It centers around Paris being beautiful in the rain!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Dance the Night Away](#)

If you're not in the mood for seeing a movie and want something with a little competition, consider going bowling or to an arcade. Check out the "it" bowling destination for our favorite celebrities, Lucky Strikes. They have numerous locations throughout the U.S., and you never know which celebrities you may run into; [Justin Bieber](#) celebrated his album release party this past March at the New York City location. If you're not a bowler, then hit the arcade. Dave & Buster's has over 55 locations, so you're sure to find one near you for a game-filled night inside and out of the rain.

If you really want to get romantic, take a hint from *The Notebook*, and recreate one of the heart-warming movie's key scenes. Kiss in the rain! Now that's one great way to make a seemingly bleak day look cheerful.

**How do you and your significant other embrace a rainy day? Share your stories below!**

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**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 [date idea](#).

**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!**

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## **Ask the Guy’s Guy: How Can I Support My Man’s Mental Health?**







By [Robert Manni](#)

Question from Alyssa B: “My relationship has gotten pretty rocky ever since my man’s mental health has started to decline. He’s always upset, but won’t ever talk to me. How can I help him past this?”

### **Helping a Partner Through Tough Mental Times is Hard**

Hi Alyssa:

Thanks for this question. When a guy is “struggling with his mental health,” it casts a wide net of reasons why, especially these days. Every situation is different and I want avoid generalizing. Regardless of the issue, your support is needed and appreciated, even if your man may not seem to be responding to your efforts.

**Related Link:** [Ask the Guy’s Guy: Should I Stick Around to Feel the Spark Again?](#)

The key here, as with most relationship issues, is being present and keeping the lines of communications open at all times. Men are protective of their feelings and often hold

things inside, rather than sharing with their partners. Some guys still think that talking about their problems is a sign of weakness. We know this is the furthest thing from the truth, so you have some work to do.

The challenge is getting him to open up and tell you what's going on. After all, how can you be supportive if you don't know what's up with your man? Find a time to get him to talk and do it in a non-threatening way. If he has issues, he probably does not want you to know how much he's hurting. He may even be embarrassed or ashamed.

**Related Link:** [Ask the Guy's Guy: What Do I Do If I Have Trouble Opening Up To My Significant Other?](#)

I've found that the casual, not too serious approach works best with guys. Take him to dinner, a movie, a ball game, a round of golf, a walk, or whatever you think will put him at ease. Afterwards, look him in the eyes, tell him he seems preoccupied, and ask if there is something he wants to talk about. Make sure he knows you are there for him in a non-judgmental way, whatever the issue. See how he responds. At this point, you've let him know that you're aware something's troubling him. As your partner, it's up to him to share his feelings and perspective. Go slowly, but don't let it pass without a response. And be gentle. Things could get worse if he clams up.

Again, every situation is different when it comes to "struggles with a man's mental health," so no one size or solution fits all. It could be something benign or he may have done something harmful to himself or the relationship. You'll never know if you don't take the time and put in the effort to find out what's going on.

I hope this helps. Good luck.

Robert Manni

If you would like relationship expert Robert Manni to answer

your online dating/relationship questions, please email [lori@cupidspulse.com](mailto:lori@cupidspulse.com).

### **More about the Guy's Guy:**



Robert is the host of Guy's Guy Radio, featured on Blog Talk Radio and available on iTunes, Stitcher, and TuneIn. The weekly podcast features interviews with relationship coaches, entertainers, authors, wellness experts, spiritual teachers, sports personalities, and a weekly "Guys' Guy's Guide" exploring current guy-focused topics.

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friendship, career or wellness, Robert explores ways to help both men and women be at their best so that everybody wins.

Read more from the Guy's Guy on [Cupid's](#).

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## Date Idea: Carve Your Way Into His Heart



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

This [date idea](#) begins at your local pumpkin patch, farmer's market, or supermarket where you and your significant other can pick out the perfect pumpkins to decorate for Halloween. Don't buy only two pumpkins; grab a bunch of different sizes

so you can make your very own pumpkin patch. To strengthen your relationship and love on this date idea, all you need are some pumpkins and a little creativity!

## Get Creative With This Pumpkin-Themed Date Idea

This date idea is a little messy but really fun. You can attempt all sorts of themes with your jack-o-lanterns. Try making scary and happy faces. If you're really artistic, pull out all the stops and carve your pumpkins into someone's likeness, like a celebrity or maybe even your beau. If you don't feel like making faces, you can dress up your pumpkin in fun patterns instead. You don't have to be skilled with a knife to make them look great! Consider decorating them with a little glue and glitter or paint to make a glitzy jack-o-lantern. It doesn't matter how they turn out; the main thing is to give it your best shot and enjoy the time with your partner.

**Related Link:** [Top 10 Halloween Treats For Your Mate That Won't Ruin Their Waistline](#)

You two may have so much fun that you'll want to keep going! Spread your happiness around by buying smaller pumpkins and carving or decorating them to give as gifts to your friends and family. Place yours around your house, inside and out, to really get your home ready for Halloween.

**Related Link:** [Best Celebrity Couple Costumes for Halloween](#)

Carving pumpkins is also the perfect time for you and honey to discuss your Halloween costume ideas. Consider this dating advice and think about choosing a couples costume this year. Get into the spirit of this weekend date idea by munching on Halloween snacks and treats and putting on a Halloween playlist or movie to entertain and inspire you.

After you're done with the carving and clean-up, you can even try your hand at making delicious dried pumpkin seeds from the leftovers. You and your partner will have plenty to talk about – like your favorite Halloween memory – as you express your creative side!

Have you and your mate carved pumpkins together before? Tell us about it below!

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## Date Idea: Explore the Big Apple



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

If you're searching for an adventurous [date idea](#), you may want to consider spending the weekend in New York City. From museums to concerts to endless other attractions, you and your partner are sure to have the time of your life.

## **Check out this great date night idea if you're looking for a little adventure!**

If you love movies and being outdoors, look into one of the many free outdoor concerts and films at the Lincoln Center. It's a classy vibe and an exciting way to enjoy New York City without spending a dime. You can even experience a live orchestra for free.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Mid-Year Resolutions](#)

While you're there, don't forget to take your mate to The Nuyorican Poetry Cafe, where you can indulge your artistic side with poetry performances from brilliant spoken-word poets. Be delighted by literary events, theatre, performance, and music, all for an affordable price.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Thrifty](#)

Or better yet, a little shimmy could get you off your feet. New York City hosts its popular Summer Stage, where you and your man can enjoy free performances of talented dancers, who show off their flexible bodies. If you're interested in attending, don't forget to bring a blanket to spread on the ground, and possibly an umbrella to shield yourselves from the sun. You want to be as comfortable as possible at these kinds of events.

For a complete list of attractions, visit New York City's official guide for tourists. Once you plan out the perfect

date in the city for your sweetheart, head over there. Take a bite out of the Big Apple and enjoy yourselves!

Have some of your own exciting New York events? Cupid would love to know. Spread the word! And if you want other themed date ideas, drop Cupid a comment below!

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## Date Idea: Don't Let Fall Cool Your Dates Down



By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Fall is here, and what better way to get ready for the cool weather than by heading indoors for dinner and a movie? Try



out a new [date idea](#) by heading to a recently opened restaurant in your town or trying a dish that you and your date can share. Not only are you creating memories, but you're getting ready for the holiday, which is all about giving thanks to one another.

**Check out this date night idea and try out some new foods while you make some lasting memories.**

To get current information on new restaurants coming to your area and for some great deals (who doesn't want to save money before the holidays?), check out websites like Bloomspot, Groupon and Living Social.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Finders Keepers](#)

If you'd rather stay in, become a chef in your own kitchen and start whipping up some fall-flavored creations. Bake a pumpkin pie for your sweetheart, or embrace the season by making it together. Whether you decide to cook a three-course meal or just dessert, finish the evening with a movie by the fire, which will put you in the mood to cuddle well into winter.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: One, Two, Walk in My Shoes](#)

**Do you and your special someone have a specific restaurant you love? Let us know by commenting below.**

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# 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 90s 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.

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## 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!

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## Movie Review: The Lion King



By [Mara Miller](#)

Disney is on a roll with the live-action remakes of our favorite classics, aren't they? *The Lion King* is the story set in the Savannah where a young lion prince is born. Not everyone is willing to celebrate the new prince's arrival. Scar, the current King's brother –and former heir to the throne–is not happy about the new cub's arrival. Scar banishes

Simba from the kingdom after tragedy strikes. This is a story about a prince taking what is rightfully his with his friends' help. And, we can't forget that there's a little romance with Nala! The movie features Donald Glover as Simba, [Beyoncé](#) as Nala, James Earl Jones (reprising his role) as Mufasa, Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar, Seth Rogen as Pumbaa and Billy Eichner as Timon.

**Check out our movie review for this live-action re-make! It's great fun for the entire family.**

**Should you see it:** If watching Timone and Pumba again isn't convincing enough, then yes. Go see this movie. Even if you've never seen the original film, it's worth it.

**Who to take:** While this is a great date night movie, you can also think about taking the whole family!

#### **Cupid's Advice:**

Simba faces a lot of challenges. He has to take over his entire kingdom back and has very little support in doing so, but his biggest supporter is Nala, his childhood friend/love. What are some ways to be supportive of your new partner when they face a stressful situation?

**1. Listen to them:** Let them vent. Venting can be therapeutic. Try not to interrupt. Listening will show them you are supportive of whatever decision it is they need to make.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Aladdin](#)

**2. Don't judge:** Judging can make the situation worse. Try to keep your opinions to yourself unless they ask you what you think.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Hampstead](#)

**3. Encourage them:** If your partner seems dead-set on their decision, the best thing you can do is to encourage them to do what they feel is right, no matter what the situation may be.

**What are some other ways to be supportive of your partner?**

Check out other [movie reviews](#) from Cupid!

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## Movie Review: Spider-Man: Far From Home





By [Bonnie Griffin](#)

In the next Marvel installment, *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, Peter Parker, played by Tom Holland, is trying to get away and spend some quality time with his crush, M.J., but evil has a different idea. He must face a new evil intent on ending the world without the help of the Avengers. Parker is forced to step up and believe in himself. He needs to find his own strength, and face his fears on his own in order to defeat the newest threat to the world's survival. Check out our [movie review](#).

**Check out our movie review on *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, an action-packed film for the whole family!**

**Should you see it:** If you are a fan of the Marvel universe, and you have seen *Avengers: Endgame*, then you will not want to miss what comes next in *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. As the next installment following in the Marvel franchise, this movie will help us Marvel fans see beyond the world *Endgame* left for our neighborhood friendly *Spider-Man*. It is a movie of perseverance and teaches us that we can all conquer evil if we just believe in ourselves.

**Who to take:** *Spider-Man: Far From Home* is rated PG-13 and is a great action packed movie you can watch with your family, with just enough romance for [date night](#).

**Cupid's Advice:**

We're inspired by the strength that Spider-Man shows in this movie. He has to learn to believe in himself and understand that he is good enough to defeat evil even when he doesn't have the backup of the Avengers at his side. We have some

advice about believing in yourself to overcome any negative obstacle that stands between you and success:

**1. Believe it is possible:** You set the tone for your own life and legacy. If you want to overcome anything that tries to stand in your way, then it is important that you believe in yourself. If you tell yourself you can achieve your dreams and be successful, and take action, then you will find yourself turning your dreams into realities in your future.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: Aladdin](#)

**2. Visualize the win:** If you have a goal in mind you want to achieve, practice visualizing yourself in that role every day, and follow through with tasks that can help you obtain what you want. Want a promotion at work? Begin volunteering to help with events and new initiatives. Visualize your self in the new role you desire, then put yourself out there to make steps towards your dream becoming your reality.

**Related Link:** [Movie Review: A Star is Born](#)

**3. Understand that failure is okay:** If we are being honest, then we have to understand that the path to achieving our dreams will not be lined with just successes. No, there will be times when you try something to achieve your goals and it will fail. That is okay, and it will offer a great learning experience for you. Don't take failure to heart. Examine what went wrong and learn from the mistakes so you can succeed at your next attempt.

**What are some things you've done to learn to believe in yourself and achieve your goals? Share your thoughts below:**

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# Ask the Guy's Guy: Should I Stick Around to Feel the Spark Again?



By [Robert Manni](#)

Question from Riley A, "I feel distant in my relationship. I feel like we're growing apart, but I want to grow together. I don't know what to do. Should I end it, and maybe find the spark in someone else? Or stay and wait for the romance to come back?"

## Should you wait for the spark to

# come back? Or move on?

Hi Riley:

It can be challenging when you reach the point in a relationship when things feel stagnant and that special spark is missing.

It sounds like you want to keep things going so I suggest you take a step back and consider where your relationship began, where it has led you, and how you feel about it now. Ask yourself why things may have changed and what circumstances may have affected the current lack of sparkles. The answers are usually right there when we become still and look inside.

**Related Link:** [Ask The Guy's Guy: Should I Follow My Boyfriend To Where His Job Is?](#)

I also suggest broaching the subject with your partner. Ask him how he feels about things if he has any issues, and where he sees the relationship going. That will also provide context for where your relationship stands and its future possibilities.

Every relationship is different and every couple has to find their own ways to make things work if this is what they both really want.

Take the time to look inside, then trust your gut and intuition. Ultimately, this is about your finding the happiness and love you deserve.

Good luck.

Robert Manni

If you would like relationship expert Robert Manni to answer your online dating/relationship questions, please email [gillian@nvmediainc.com](mailto:gillian@nvmediainc.com)

**More about the Guy's Guy:**



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Read more at [Cupid’s](#).

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# Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Is there anything more romantic than staying up all night to spend some quality alone time with your partner? Cupid has some [dating advice](#) to deepen your relationship and love by connecting under the light of the moon. For this [date idea](#), you need nothing, but each other...and maybe a little caffeine!

## Be Playful with This Romantic Date Idea

Staying up past your bedtime will make you both feel like kids

again. And there's so much you can do together as you waste the night away! Use this time to talk and get to know each other even better. Consider playing a game like Would You Rather or Truth or Dare to get the conversation flowing. Or get out your old family photos and learn more about each other's childhoods.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Spend an Intimate Night Indoors](#)

If you're in a playful mood, you may want to play a card game or pull out those board games from the back of your closet. You don't even have to follow the rules! Since you have all night, try combining two games and coming up with your own guidelines to create something new together. This weekend date idea should be light-hearted and fun. Make coffee, hot chocolate, or tea to keep those eyelids from drooping. And don't forget a midnight snack!

To make this date idea even more romantic, light candles around the house. Since the weather is nice this time of year, you can venture outside and star gaze while you snuggle together under a blanket. See how many constellations you can name – you can check your work with an app like SkyView. Don't forget to make a wish on any shooting stars you might see!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Slumber Party](#)

You'll be making memories you can cherish for years to come. Since the nighttime is often free of distractions (like work e-mails and texts to answers), your relationship and love will be stronger after taking this dating advice. Perhaps the moon will allow you to see your partner in a totally new light. This could be a story to tell your grandkids!

**Have you ever stayed up all night with your honey? Share with us in the comments below!**

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# Love Advice: Get Your Country On



By Emma L. Wells and [Bonnie Griffin](#)

Put on your cowboy boots, because this [date idea](#) will have y'all traveling to a dude ranch! You'll have a barrel of laughs as you ride horses, stop by the rodeo, and even learn to square dance.

## Pick Up New Skills with This



# Country-Themed Date Idea

For this date idea, you and your partner will head to a nearby dude ranch. They have a lot of fun weekend activities for you two to enjoy. Channel your inner cowgirl and boy as you're taught how to ride horses and use a lasso. You might even catch a rodeo. Whether you're horseback riding through mountain trails or hiking along a river, this is the perfect opportunity to connect with each other and with nature. Take this [dating advice](#) and make sure to snap lots of pictures so your friends and family can see how much fun you had.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Thrifty](#)

Some dude ranches offer a variety of sports activities, including archery and horseshoes. Why not turn it into a fun competition? You can even rope in (pun intended!) another couple and make some new friends. Ranches that are near lakes or rivers will often have canoeing and fishing too. If it's a hot day, take advantage of these water activities and cool off!

Next, it's time to get your country music on. You'll be sure to wrangle his heart as you spin each other around the dance floor and learn to square dance. Your relationship and love will grow as you and your significant other try to keep up with the quick pace of the tunes. You two will impress your friends next time you pull out your new moves; you might even have a secret talent for it.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Hunt for Love](#)

Don't forget to dress the part too! Because these are mostly outdoor activities, you don't want to wear anything too nice. You'll be comfortable in jeans and boots or sneakers. If you plan on getting on a horse, make sure you're wearing long

pants. Bring a cowboy hat if you have one!

You and your beau will have a blast on this country-themed weekend date idea. Doing something outside your comfort zone will help you connect on a totally new level. Not to mention, you'll have plenty of great pictures and lots of happy memories together after the day is done!

**Have you and your honey ever visited a dude ranch? Tell us below!**