Date Idea: Enjoy a Secret Sunset





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

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

Enjoy a beautiful sunset on this

summer date night!

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

Related Link: Date Idea: Dance the Night Away

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

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

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

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

Date Idea: See Sparks Fly





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

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

Indulge in this Fourth of July date idea!

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

Related Link: <u>Celebrity Couples Who Love Fourth of July</u>

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

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

If you're the after-party type, there's sure to be plenty to do when the fireworks are over. If you want to get really festive, dress up in your best red, white, and blue outfits and find a bar that really speaks to your wilder side. Rooftop spots are especially popular since everyone's eyes are looking toward the sky already. This is a day for everyone to celebrate, so let loose with the one who makes every day as romantic as it can be!

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

Dating Advice: 5 Lessons Learned from a Bachelorette Junkie





By Caroline Liller

Bachelorette parties equal the ultimate girls' weekend getaway. Fortunately for me, or some might say unfortunately, I've attended my fair share of bachelorette extravaganzas. From Napa Valley, to New York City to Nashville and everywhere in between — I've planned or attended a combined 12 destination bachelorette parties in seven years. You could say I have a thing for them. I've learned a lot from these three, sometimes four-day weekend parties.

Here are a few confessions and lessons worth passing the torch on:

1. Let the Bride Pick the Destination

There's nothing worse as a Maid of Honor than planning a trip around what you 'think' the bride will enjoy or forcing her to do things she doesn't want to. It not only makes it miserable for her, but everyone attending. Remember the main goal for the weekend is for the bride and her best group of girl friends or future family members to get together. If she wants a relaxing weekend in the mountains, don't force everyone to go out on the town and go clubbing. She'll probably leave the club early anyway and everyone will be disappointed. In my experience, forcing the bride to do things 'because she has to – it's her bachelorette party' never ends well. It's best to involve the bride in the planning process so that expectations for the weekend are already set, and everyone is on the same page.

2. Understand Not Everyone Meshes

Bachelorette parties can consist of a very interesting group of people. Essentially you are inviting siblings, future inlaws, old friends from elementary school and newer friends from your college years — to all go on vacation together. Mix in everyone's opinions on where to eat, what to do and who pays for what (and alcohol) and there's potential for a lot of drama. It's best to stay neutral and lie low if you can. Focus on having fun and the bride's wishes.

3. Know Your Limits

As a bachelorette attendee, you should know your limits and own up to them to make for a better experience for all. For example, if you can't fly hungover, you shouldn't book your return flight for 6 AM on Sunday. The same goes for a drivable destination. If you've offered to drive the group, make sure you are available to get everyone home safely. Sometimes it's easy to forget about details such as these until you're in the moment and they can have a big impact on the group. Bachelorette parties are not a time to be selfish (unless you are the bride).

4. It's OK to Not Attend

In all seriousness, if you know you can't hang — or don't want to — it's ok to politely decline an invitation to a weekend of partying. Also, if you know you can't contribute or afford what is being planned by the majority of the group, simply say you can't attend. Remember to speak up way in advance though, since your attendance likely influences costs for everyone else. These extravaganzas really add up so know what you're getting yourself into.

5. Make the Bride Feel Special

What's a bachelorette party without fun gifts and <u>bachelorette</u> <u>accessories</u> for the bride? Delegate members in the group to bring different items to make sure all of your bases are covered. One person shouldn't have to buy everything — you should all pitch in to make sure the bride feels special. Hopefully the favor will be returned someday when she's attending your bachelorette party.

There are many things you will learn from bachelorette-ing with a group of people you rarely hang with all together. But with any luck, it will be one of the most memorable weekends (in at least one way or another!) for all of you.

Caroline Liller is a digital marketer who specializes in client management and content marketing. She has been writing for over five years by day and attending bachelorette parties on weekends.

Love Advice: Old-Fashioned Summer Fun





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

When you were a kid, there was nothing like summertime: no school for two months, water balloon fights, the classic Slip 'N Slide, and frequent pool days. Just because you're older now doesn't mean you and your boo can't enjoy some throwback fun! Follow this <u>dating advice</u> to enjoy all the summer activities you reveled in as a child.

Check out this fun summertime date idea!

Water balloon fights are an excellent activity for a big group, so get your honey to grab his friends while you invite yours and initiate a water war on this weekend date idea. Pinterest has tons of ideas for planning an epic water fight, so all you need is a good-sized backyard and the will to clean up all the balloon scraps when you're done! Water balloon fights are the perfect opportunity for the two of you to be extra flirty as well. Take advantage of the constant surprise attacks and your sexy, soaking wet man! **Related Link:** <u>Relationship Advice: Should You Elope?</u>

Slip 'N Slides may have been the token summer toy in the 90's, but they're still for sale. All kinds of Slip 'N Slides can be found on Amazon. They make a great gift, so you can surprise your lover with one and then put it to good use. Chances are, you'll start reminiscing about the fun times you had playing on a Slip 'N Slide as a kid, which will make for an especially romantic date. Don't fret if it's rainy outside: The Slip 'N Slide is fun in the mud too!

Related Link: Date Idea: Spend an Intimate Night Indoors

Let your inner child come out to play when you follow this love advice and visit your neighborhood pool. Sunbathing is fun, but laying there in silence next to your partner isn't as exciting as a splash fight or ordering ice cream cones from the snack bar. Indulge in all the things you would've enjoyed when you were younger, and you'll both be overcome with giggles — which we all know is *the* way to bond. If you want to spend the entire day at the pool, pack a picnic, books, and water guns. You'll never have a moment to be bored!

What were your favorite childhood summer activities? Tell us in the comments below!

Father's Day Date Idea: Gone Fishing





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

Instead of celebrating Father's Day with just you and your pops, consider this <u>dating and relationship advice</u>, and make plans with your partner and his dad, too. To make this special day even more memorable, plan a fun day doing something you know your fathers will love: fishing!

Take Your Dads Fishing on This Fun Date Idea

On this weekend date idea, enjoy the beautiful summer weather while you hang out at a nearby pond, river, or lake. Be sure to make preparations ahead of time: Rent a boat or other equipment you may need; fill your tackle box with all of the necessities (or buy a pre-packed box if you don't have one in the garage), and grab those fishing rods. Be sure to pack a picnic lunch too! Load up the car, and on your drive, play some music that you know your dads will enjoy. If it's still early in the day, pick up some coffee and bagels for breakfast. **Related Link:** <u>Best Celebrity Dads (Who Always Make Great</u> <u>Husbands)</u>

If you've never been fishing before or don't remember the tips you were taught as a child, this date idea is the perfect time to learn from both your partner and your dad. Let them show you how to bait your hook (don't get squeamish!) and cast your line. Don't be afraid to ask questions too; they'll enjoy your interest in one of their hobbies.

Once you get the hang of it, have a competition between you and your dad and your partner and his old man. Ready, set, fish! See who can catch the most fish before lunch. If the fish are slow to bite, see who can hook the biggest fish instead. Take pictures to document your best catches. You can even pick a prize too, like losers have to pack up the gear at the end of the day and buy dinner.

Related Link: <u>Vanessa Lachey Explains Having Date Night on</u> <u>Father's Day</u>

While we're fans of catch and release fishing spots, if you want to keep your fish to eat later, they're sure to make a great Father's Day meal. On the way home, stop at the grocery store to pick up some seasonings and sides. Grab your dads' favorite kind of beers too! Light up the grill and reminisce about your day as you enjoy the results of your hard work.

Don't forget to tell your dads how much you love them and thank them for being such great fathers. Talk about your favorite childhood memories and the most important lessons you learned from them. Happy Father's Day!

Have another Father's Day date idea? Comment below!

Date Idea: Finders Keepers





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

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

Dating Advice for Your Next Trip to

the Beach

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

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

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

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

Related Link: Date Idea: Get in the Game

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

Date Idea: Resolutions

Mid-Year





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

It's hard to believe that the year is already halfway over! If you follow this date idea, you and your partner can read over your New Year's resolutions and recommit yourself to those goals. Maybe you have some mid-year resolutions to add to your list for the remainder of 2019, too.

Follow This Love Advice and Set Goals for the Remainder of the Year!

First, rewrite your list by dividing it into two categories: those resolutions you've already completed and those you still need to do. Maybe you've lost those stubborn 10 pounds that you gained during the holiday season (go you!), but you're still not exercising enough. Follow this <u>love advice</u> and talk to your sweetheart about how you can each achieve your individual goals together. For instance, you can meet at the gym after work at least three days each week. Having a plan in place will help you check these remaining resolutions off of your list.

Related Link: Love Tips & Romantic DIY Gift Ideas for Your Sweetheart

With this date idea, you can even start accomplishing your objectives right now. If you feel like you need an extra boost to get yourself to workout, download a fun, fast-paced playlist to listen to while you're running. If you prefer to use a treadmill, you can even purchase a season pass of your favorite show on iTunes. Then, only allow yourself to watch *Grey's Anatomy* or *Modern Family* while you're getting your cardio done. If a gym membership is too pricey for you, order a few new Jillian Michaels DVDs from Amazon.

Now that you're on track to finish your January resolutions, it's time to make some new ones, specifically ones to improve your relationship and love! Get creative and think outside of the box. If you're both into amusement park rides, plan to ride every roller coaster at your local park before the summer ends. If you're scared of heights, this weekend date idea is a great way to conquer your fear with your sweetheart by your side. Related Link: Expert Dating Advice: How to Date a Coworker

Perhaps you have a more serious resolution in mind. If you need to add more money to your savings account each month, brainstorm ways to cut back. Promise to only eat out once or twice each month and think off ways to spend less at the grocery store. You can also come up with a list of cheap date ideas, like playing with puppies a nearby animal shelter or throwing the frisbee and enjoying a picnic in the park. If your mid-year resolutions allow you and your significant other to spend more time together, that's even better!

By Sunday evening, try to accomplish just one item on your list. That'll motivate you to keep the momentum going for the rest of the year!

What mid-year resolutions will you and your partner make? Share with us in the comments below!

Date Idea: One, Two, Walk in My Shoes





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

Dates with your special someone don't have to be the same week after week. To change up your usual nights of dinner and your favorite television shows, follow your partner during their typical day and be an active part of it. This date idea will not only give you insight into your sweetheart's typical routine, but you'll have new things to talk about when the day is over.

Follow Your Honey Around with This Date Idea

Even if you aren't a morning person, you still have to roll out of bed when your honey's alarm goes off. If he's an early gym-goer, put your exercise gear on. With your beau by your side, you're sure to make it through that grueling workout. You can jump on treadmills next to each other to encourage each other during a warm-up run and then help each other count reps in the weight room. By the end of the workout, you'll forget how much you wanted to hit that snooze button!

Related Link: Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds Hit the Gym

After a shower and some breakfast, it's time to head to work. On this weekend date idea, see if you can go into the office to really see what your partner does every day at work. It'll help you better understand their daily tasks if you're actually there to see them complete them. Plus, it'll be a turn-on to see them so focused and powerful!

Instead of a normal lunch break with their co-workers, follow this love advice: Use this opportunity for an afternoon date together. Ask your partner to take you to their go-to restaurant near work. You've seen them bring home leftovers enough; you'll be excited to finally get to try to the yummy food! After you finish eating, if it's nice out, take a romantic stroll before you go back to work.

Related Link: Date Idea: Go Shopping

When five o'clock rolls around, punch out. Swing by the grocery store if needed and cook a favorite recipe tonight. Since you spent the whole day together, your dinner conversation will be a bit different than usual. Talk about what you learned about your partner today. Tomorrow, you can switch roles and show your significant other how you usually spend your day!

Ever spend the day shadowing your significant other? Share your stories and dating advice below!

Dating Advice: Plan a City

Scavenger Hunt





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

If you're looking for a fun and active date idea, head into the city for a new adventure! Instead of doing the same old thing — shopping followed by dinner and a movie — change it up. A scavenger hunt is a perfect way to get to know your hometown even more. To turn this <u>relationship advice</u> into a competition, invite your friends and their partners to join you.

Follow This Dating Advice to Plan a Scavenger Hunt!

Look online for lists of items to search for during your

scavenger hunt. Sites like Pinterest have great ideas that are catered to specific cities. If you want to get even more creative, you can combine different lists and make your own. You could even focus on a specific theme, like cultural activities or historical spots.

Related Link: <u>Dating Advice: 5 Online Dating Tips to Start the</u> <u>New Year Right</u>

On the day of the event, assign certain items from the list to each couple. For this weekend date idea, distribute the lists and make sure each couple has a camera to document their finds. To give you and your partner an advantage, make sure you have a GPS and map. To be even more prepared, bring extra batteries for your camera and portable chargers for your phones in case of emergencies. Be sure to pick a place and time to meet up in a few hours too!

Related Link: Dating Advice: How to Make Summer Love Last

During your time in the city, don't just complete everything on your list; create memories too. Stop and take pictures together at fun areas around town. Hold hands and reminisce about your relationship and love. Once the hunt is over and you've met back up with your friends, share your findings over dinner and drinks.

Have you ever planned a scavenger hunt with your love? Tell us your best relationship advice below!

Dating Advice: Celebrate Your

Mothers





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

With Mother's Day around the corner, show your love not only for your mom but for your partner's mom too! With this <u>dating</u> <u>advice</u>, you can spend time getting ready for this special holiday with one of the people you love most. It can help you and your partner bond over your mothers as you talk about childhood memories, pick out the perfect gift, and cook a yummy meal.

A Mother's Day Date Idea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Happy Mother's Day!

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

Expert Dating Advice: 5 First Date Ideas to Get Past the Winter Blues





By Joshua Pompey

Winter sure seems like it lasts forever sometimes. Especially here in New York. But that doesn't mean you have to put your dating life into hibernation. Before you let that polar vortex get the best of you, let's take a look at five dating ideas that will spark some heat back into those long winter months.

First Date Ideas for the Winter Months!

Ice Skating. Holding hands. Catching your date as she falls. Unleashing the inner child within. What more could you ask for? This is an easy way to form a quick bond as your up against the physical progression and have some fun in the process.

Warm up with a drink. For those of you looking for a lowrisk date, head to a local dessert shop for a warm cup of hot chocolate. Going to bars can get extremely cliche after a while. Coffee can feel cheap. But hot chocolate near in a desert themed cafe with a warm feeling ambiance? That's much more fun. Add some great conversation to the mix and you are good to go.

Related Link: <u>Dating Advice: 5 Online Dating Tips to Start the</u> <u>New Year Right</u>

Sledding or Snow Tubing. Skiing is a bit expensive for a first date. Not to mention, dangerous and expensive. Snow tubing might serve as the perfect balance. Have some fun as you race down the mountains and break away from the monotony of most first dates.

Indoor Rock Climbing. It may be too cold (and icy!) for outdoor rock climbing, but that doesn't mean you have to sit on your couch wasting away till spring. Have some fun indoors and get that adrenaline flowing for a memorable date.

Related Link: Dating Advice: How to Make the First Move (Women's Edition)

Go to a ball game. Baseball is still around the corner and football might be over, but there is plenty of basketball and hockey to keep the season going. Even if you aren't a huge sports fan, that ambiance of a sporting event, along with the positive energy (unless your a Knicks fan like me) and food will be enough to keep your date smiling.

For more information from Joshua Pompey, visiting https://www.nemvip.com/online-dating-work-for-you

Movie Review: Captain Marvel





By Courtney Shapiro

If you're looking for a movie full of action, a strong female lead, and another cinematic trip into the famed Marvel Universe, then *Captain Marvel* is perfect for you. With a journey into a previously unseen part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, this movie starring Brie Larson as Carol Danvers will be great for date night! Carol Danvers becomes one of the world's most powerful heroes when Earth becomes wedged in the middle of a war between two alien races. The movie also features other Marvel celebrities, including Samuel L. Jackson and Jude Law. Check out our <u>movie review</u> on why you should see *Captain Marvel*.

Captain Marvel is a great action film for your next date night or time to spend with family!

Should you see it: If you're already a Marvel fan and love action movies, then this a no-brainer.

Who to take: This movie can be good for a date, but since it's full of action, and sci-fi elements, it can also be great to see as a family.

Cupid's Advice:

Captain Danvers seems to constantly have to prove her worth which is sometimes difficult. We have some advice on why you should believe in yourself and keep moving forward:

1. Know your worth: You have talent and value. If you chose a certain job or have a passion or hobby, keep pursuing it. You don't have to prove yourself to anyone if you are doing something you love. Take a couple steps back from the negativity and just live your life.

Related Link: <u>Movie Review: Have a Blast Watching 'The Spy Who</u> <u>Dumped Me'</u>

2. Use your actions: If you're tired of people questioning you, prove them wrong through what you accomplish. It's a waste of energy to use words and go on an on about how well you can do something. If people don't see it, they may not fully believe in you.

Related Link: Movie Review:Night School

3. Write yourself positive feedback: If no one else seems to be giving you positive feedback, it is totally okay to give it to yourself. Boost your own confidence, and be your number one supporter.

Have you had to prove yourself over and over again? Share your advice below.

Love Tips & Romantic DIY Gift Ideas for Your Sweetheart





By Rachael Pace

Sweet letters, cards, and personal trinkets often rank high on people's best gift lists for a reason — because they mean something! Sure, diamond earrings and tickets to your favorite sporting events are gifts that are guaranteed to please. But, if you think back to the best gift that you've ever received, we'll bet that it was something a lot more sentimental than jewelry.

If you're stumped for what to get your sweetheart on this day of romance, one of our biggest love tips is for you to think outside the box. Get creative and pour your heart out in your gift.

Here are five romantic Do-It-Yourself gifts that your partner is going to cherish forever:

1. Put Your Talents to Good Use

Are you an extremely talented individual? Why not let your creative side loose and give your spouse a gift that's not only heartfelt but also completely unique!

Use your musical talents to write your spouse a song. It can be as silly, ooey-gooey, or stuffed with inside jokes as you like. If you're not good on the guitar or can't hold a tune, no worries. You can still write something beautiful for your partner. A poem or deep letter can have more sentimental value than any store-bought gift ever could. Another great way to put your talents to good use is to use your natural artistic abilities. Draw a stunning portrait of your partner, make an art book of things you both enjoy, or draw an adorable chibi version of yourselves doing something cute together. No matter what your talent is, you are sure to create something your spouse will love.

Related Link: Dating Advice on How to Meet Someone for Valentine's Day

2. The "52 Reasons I Love You" Deck of Cards

This is a great DIY gift that is both sweet and fun. Start by purchasing a deck of cards at your local dollar store. Make sure the cards have enough white space on the face so that you can write on them. Next, think of 52 reasons why you love your spouse. Some ideas include:

- I love you because... You have the cutest smile
- You are incredibly kind-hearted
- You always know how to make me laugh
- You are an amazing kisser

 You aren't afraid to face off with me in an air-guitar battle

Take your time writing down each idea on one of the cards. If you feel that your gift doesn't feel quite done after you've written on all the cards you can easily embellish them with cut out photos and pictures that will make this DIY gift that much more personal. Another great option for this deck of cards idea is to put these same reasons into 52 different envelopes and fill a "treasure chest" with the letters. Then your spouse can open them whenever they need a pick-me-up.

3. Cool Shadowbox Ideas

Do you and your spouse attend a lot of events? If so, our next love tip is to make an amazing shadowbox to commemorate your good times together.

You can get a shadowbox starter from most craft stores and customize them to fit your interests. For example, if you love to travel, gather up your train, plane, and cruise tickets, along with museum tickets and other memorable vouchers that you used on your trip. Concert goers will love being able to display their favorite concert tickets on the wall. You can ever get fancy and have some small autographed memorabilia or add guitar picks into the mix to make a visually textured shadowbox of memories.

Related Link: <u>Celebrity Style: Valentine's Day Date Night</u> <u>Outfits</u>

4. Bake Something Sweet

Are you looking for something personal that's also underbudget? We have love tips for that! They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and we'd argue that girls are no different! One deliciously affordable gift idea is to bake your spouse something amazing. Some ideas include:

- Heart shaped brownies
- Cupcakes with pink frostings and

 Raspberry and white chocolate shortbread cookies with heart cut-outs

- Chocolate Cheesecake
- Strawberries drizzled in chocolate
- Chocolate chip cookies
- A "bouquet" of cake pops

And of course, your spouse's favorite dessert idea works perfectly, too! Baking something is a great idea for a gift because it's cheap to do and it is highly personal because of the effort it takes to make it. Plus, with fondant and icing pens, you can get as creative with this gift as you like!

5. Personalized Scrapbook/Memory Box

One of the sweetest love tips you can follow this day of romance is creating a personalized memory box for your sweetheart. There are two ways you can go about this. The first option is to do a linear timeline by making a scrapbook of your memories together.

Print out pictures and align them in a timeline of your relationship. Choose exciting and memorable dates and paste down pictures into the pages of the book. Next, to the photos, write down your favorite memory of that day/month/time in your relationship. Your spouse will love flipping through the pages and seeing your take on your time together.

If you love your personalized trinkets and don't want to tape or glue them down into a booklet, fear not! You can still make a special memory box for your spouse. Take all of the photos, letters, and anything else you would have put into your scrapbook and set them into a beautiful box. This can be a personalized, carved wooden box with a lock or a simple decorated box with a lid.

Either one of these DIY gift ideas is great a choice because, for the most part, it only uses things you already have on hand. Plus, it is super romantic. Great gifts don't have to cost a fortune. It's what comes from the heart that truly shows your spouse you care. Once you begin to think about all the reasons you love your partner, the rest will come naturally. Follow these love tips for a great DIY present that is sure to put a smile on your sweetheart's face.

Rachael Pace is a relationship expert with years of experience in training and helping couples. She has helped countless individuals and organizations around the world, offering effective and efficient solutions for healthy and successful relationships. She is a featured writer for <u>Marriage.com</u>, a reliable resource to support healthy happy marriages.

Date Idea: Hunt for Love





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

Easter is just around the corner! Who says you can't act like a kid for the day? Searching for homemade treats and sweet notes from your beau is an easy way to enjoy the holiday and strengthen your relationship.

Easter Weekend Date Idea

To get started on this <u>weekend date idea</u>, bake some sugar cookies and decorate them with pastel frosting and Easter images, like colorful eggs, bunnies, and spring flowers. If you want to make something a bit more challenging, you can check out Allrecipes.com for recipes for chocolate-covered Easter eggs and rocky road candies. Once they've cooled, wrap them in saran wrap with pretty pink and blue bows. To follow this dating advice, hide them around the house in places your partner may not expect, like the back of his t-shirt drawer or behind his favorite book on the bookshelf. When your man's sweet tooth hits, tell him to start hunting!

Related Link: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West Spend Easter

Weekend in Paris Shopping for Baby Clothes

To make this date idea a bit more personal, grab a pen and a pad of paper to write a few love notes. If you have it handy, use Easter or springtime-themed stationery. For inspiration, Google "love quotes" or "famous movie quotes" and steal some lines from your favorite writers and actors. You can tie these sweet sentiments to your baked goodies.

Related Link: Leann Rimes Talks About First Easter as a Wife

If you'd rather not hide your presents around the house, create a grown-up Easter basked instead. In addition to your cookies, candies, and love notes, buy your sweetheart that video game he's been wanting or surprise him with a gift card to your go-to date night restaurant.

If you really want to get in the Easter spirit, spend the day with your nieces and nephews or with your friends' children. Their infectious giggles are sure to get you in the mood for an exciting egg hunt! Even if you don't have little ones, it's a wonderful time to spend with your family. After a morning spent alone with your significant other, get together for a home-cooked brunch and remind yourself of how blessed you are.

Happy Easter!

How do you celebrate Easter with your love? Tell us your best dating advice in the comments below!

Date Idea: Get Thrifty





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

Guys usually can't stand when they're dragged on a shopping trip. They end up complaining as they wait around, holding your purse and bags of brand new clothes. To keep your man interested, put a little twist on your next day out. To follow this <u>date idea</u> and <u>dating advice</u>, look for gently-used clothing and accessories at your local thrift stores! You can buy budget-friendly items while making some new memories with your other half.

Go Thrift Store Shopping with This Date Idea!

Before you go shopping for new goodies, go through your own closets and donate items that you no longer need. Many of these shops even offer an in-store credit for donations, which can save you money during your shopping spree. You'll appreciate your new purchases even more if you made some extra room in your closet beforehand!

Related Link: Celebrity Couples That Are Always On the Go

Now, it's time to decide where to go on this date idea. Sites like *TheThriftShopper.com* can help you navigate and find stores near you to visit. You simply enter your zip code or city and search for the closest spots near you. Once you get your list, you can check out an array of information about the stores, including what type of clothes they currently have and their hours. As you browse their websites, maybe you'll be inspired to look for 80's gear for an upcoming party or try to find that perfect pair of jeans you've been wanting.

Related Link: <u>Olivia Wilde and Jason Sudeikis Enjoy Boston</u> <u>Getaway</u>

Once you decide your destination, you can check out other spots nearby by downloading the mobile app, Yelp. After you work up an appetite from shopping, look for one-of-a-kind restaurants and check out their reviews. You never know what hole-in-the-wall spots could be to-die-for according to the locals.

Have you ever gone thrift shopping with your cutie? Share your memories below!

Date Idea: Rain, Rain, Come Out and Play





By Amanda Boyer and Mara Miller

Sure, it's tempting to snuggle up and stay in bed all day when April showers roll around. Instead of having a lazy, moviefilled afternoon, follow this <u>relationship advice</u>: Grab your rain jacket and colorful rubber boots, and head outside with your loved one to have fun *without* the sun. You can take a stroll to your favorite coffee shop and then warm up with a hot chocolate.

Check out this rainy day date idea!

To really embrace the rain, create a water park in your backyard. Put your bathing suit on, set-up a Slip N Slide, and turn those sprinklers on. If you don't have any water toys available, play an old-fashioned game of tag. During this weekend date idea, be careful not to slip on the wet grass and muddy ground! If you really want to get messy, add body paint to the equation and have a color war as the rain and sprinklers splash you and your beau. See who ends up with the most colors on their tie-dyed skin.

Related Link: <u>Kim Kardashian Hopes the Rain Doesn't Ruin Her</u> <u>Wedding</u>

If you prefer not to get so dirty, consider this love advice and go for a swim instead. Walk to your neighborhood pool, and take turns doing your craziest jumps off of the diving board. Pool & Spa Outdoors has a lot of games ideas that you can do with your honey as the rain comes down! Plus, the setting will be so romantic that you can't help but sneak in a smooch or two. Stay safe, and head back inside at the first sign of lightning or thunder.

Related Link: Date Idea: Be a Sweetheart

You can document your rainy day date by taking pictures. Newer iPhone and Android models are now waterproofed so you don't have to worry about ruining your phone. You can print out your favorite photo and frame it for your living room. It'll be a constant reminder of this fun-filled date – and the next time that you're faced with a rainy day, you won't even *want* to stay indoors!

Cupid wants to know: How do you and your honey embrace a rainy day? Share your comments below.

Date Idea: Build a Fort





By Amanda Boyer and <u>Mara Miller</u>

If it's too rainy for outdoor camping or if you're just not the nature-loving type, you can still enjoy a day in a fort, thanks to this weekend <u>date idea</u>! It's time to bring back some childhood memories and create an indoor hideaway for you and your honey.

Indulge in this date idea, and built a fort!

First, make sure you have an area large enough to build your fort. Try the basement or family room and make sure there aren't huge pieces of furniture that may impede your progress. After all, you won't want to be crammed in a small space and be uncomfortable! If available, you could make your tent on a screened-in porch or patio for a little bit of fresh air.

Related Link: Rent a Cabin in the Snow

After you select your location for this date idea, gather the items you need to build your hideaway. Using chairs and tables, you can create a sturdy base to structure your masterpiece around. For the cover of your fort, use sheets and blankets. Grab some chip clips from the kitchen to keep them secured to the chairs and tables. You may even need weights to hold them in place. Now, take a step back and admire your handy work!

Related Link: Go Camping or Glamping

To continue following this dating advice, fill the inside with blankets and pillows. If there's enough room, add a blow-up mattress too. To give your secret spot a romantic feel, you can spray your favorite perfume and add some rose petals as a finishing touch. Stay away from candles, though, since your sheets could potentially fall at any time.

Finally, you need to grab the essentials to keep you entertained throughout the day: snacks, your iPad, a deck of cards, your favorite book, magazines, etc. Leave your phone in another room and just focus on your relationship. Enjoy bonding with your partner and relaxing in your new spot.

Have you ever made a secret hideaway with your love? Share your relationship advice below!

Relationship Advice: Could Your Partner Be Spying?





We've become dependent on our cell phones, as they store everything from that text message with new directions to your friend's house to ideas for your next date with your beau. But, did you know your partner can spy on you even if they've never touched your phone? If you have a jealous partner who wants to keep tabs on you at all times because they're paranoid you're cheating, you should be on the lookout.

In this relationship advice, check out some spying apps of which you need to be aware.

These apps can be used to read <u>someone's text messages without</u> <u>installing software on their phone</u>.

Sometimes you'll need to spy on your loved ones if they get

into trouble or indulge in dangerous activities. And, sometimes, you have to be careful that you're not the one being spied on because your spouse is constantly jealous. Here are some apps/programs that can be used to spy:

1. MySpyLite: MySpyLite is an app that can be used by your partner to receive your text messages. They only ask a few questions about your mobile device and don't ask for any personal information. In less than 24 hours, your partner can receive information from your texts, e-mails, call log, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram. They can also SpyChat messages as you receive them on your phone. And it's all done without touching the device.

2. TeenSafe: This is an app that is commonly used by parents to spy on their teenagers—but could also be employed for other reasons. It allows tracking of not only the movement of the device, texts, call history, and web browsing history, all the way down to the contacts that are on your phone. Facebook, WhatsApp, and Kik Messenger can also be monitored. And yes, this can be done without your consent.

3. SPYERA: This is another way your jealous partner might watch your every move. They can read messages sent and received on social media and will have access to your call logs.

4. GeoZilla: This is a robust app that tracks the GPS of a mobile phone to monitor someone's location. The spy can tell where you are on a real-time basis. This is software that is used most often for tracking the whereabouts of a cheating spouse *if* they're suspicious. But not all apps are bad, this one can also be used to monitor your children if you feel the need to keep track of them for their safety.

5. FlexiSPY: This software is used for spying on anyone without them knowing about it. If your partner is spying with this program, they can read all messages and see who you have

called. It will also give them access to everything you do on social media like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

Share your experiences below.

Movie Review: Isn't It Romantic





By Lauren Burczyk

Looking for the perfect rom com to attend with your love? You won't have to look any further than this review! We have the perfect romantic comedy, where a woman's life actually turns into one. After hitting her head on a pole in the subway trying to save her purse from a thief, Natalie, a love cynic, played by the delightfully hilarious Rebel Wilson, wakes up to find herself in a world much different from her own. In theaters February 13th, this lighthearted comedy will be the perfect start to your Valentine's holiday.

Isn't It Romantic is a romantic comedy about a woman that doesn't believe in love who suffers an injury and wakes up to find herself in a world revolving around love and romance. Something that initially feels like her worst nightmare, turns into being everything she always needed. Read on for our movie review and ways to stop being so cynical about love.

Should you see it: If you're looking for a great romantic comedy to get you in the Valentine's Day holiday spirit, then this one's for you!

Who to take: This movie is perfect for a <u>date night</u>. Take your partner or someone you recently started dating to kick off Valentine's Day.

Cupid's Advice:

Cynicism is often times a defense mechanism. If you've been jaded by love in the past, then it's common to become cynical

about love. Here are some ways to stop being such a love cynic and find your perfect match:

1. Recognize that you've become cynical about love: Just like anything else, it's important to identify your problem, so that you can overcome it. Take a look at how you view other couples and how you feel about your past relationships, if your thoughts are mostly negative, then this may determine just how cynical about romance you've become.

Related Link: Movie Review: A Star is Born

2. Challenge your inner love cynic: To change how you feel about love, you must challenge your current thoughts on being in a relationship. For instance, if you think that relationships are a waste of time, try seeing it another way. Look at a relationship as an experience to learn and grow from another individual, no matter the outcome of how it turns out.

Related Link: Movie Review: Night School

3. Examine your social media posts: A great way to change your thoughts on love and become more open to the idea of a relationship, is to examine your posts on social media. If many of your shared posts are negative toward love and relationships, try unfollowing the original page that posted the content, so that you are not subject to that type of thought any longer.

Can you think of any other ways to stop being such a love cynic? Comment below.

Date Idea: Play All Day





By Ann Luther and Mara Miller

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date Idea: Garage Sale





By Ann Luther and Mara Miller

This weekend, embrace the traditional activity of spring cleaning and host a garage sale together. For this date idea, advertise throughout your community to get rid of all of the clutter in your homes to make way for the new memories you'll create together. Throwing away, giving away, or selling the items that made up your past says to your partner that you're ready for your future as a couple. It's tough to let go, but you're not using all that old stuff for a reason and if this task seems impossible, you can always hire a <u>home cleaning</u> <u>service</u> to help!

Do Some Spring Cleaning With This Weekend Date Idea

Cleaning out your closet can be fun too! Put on a fashion show before you get rid of out of date clothing. You and your beau can laugh at all of those oh-so-wrong statements you made. You can also give your partner a look into the life you lived before you met him, which is another special thing to share.

If you're thinking of moving in together, follow this <u>expert</u> <u>dating advice</u>: Make a list of all the essentials you both have at your respective residences. You won't need two things like vacuums, brooms, dust pans, dish drying racks, tool boxes, shower curtains, and sets of pots and pans. Keep the best of everything (just like you do in your relationship!), be rid of the rest, and make enough money to go to a fancy restaurant after the garage sale is over.

Related Link: Date Idea: Redecorate

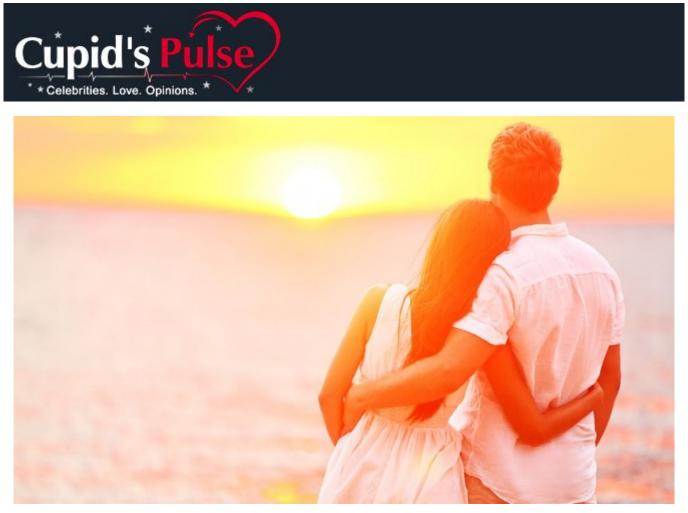
This weekend date idea allows you to soak up the magnificent weather by getting out and plastering your town with flyers about your garage sale. You might make a competition out of it: See who can post flyers down either side of the block faster. Post a picture of the winner and the flyer on social media to advertise your sale and to show off your happy relationship to your friends and family. To further your sale's exposure, Garagesalestracker.com is a great forum to inform the surrounding areas that you'll be open for business.

Related Link: Date Idea: Personal Spring Cleaning

On the afternoon of the sale, bring out some speakers and a bottle of wine to make the long day more bearable. The fun atmosphere will bring more people to your lawn, and you can dance with your man in between transactions. Whatever you don't sell, you can donate to Goodwill, The Salvation Army, or another charitable organization. Thanks to this love advice, when the day is done, you'll have more space, more money, and more fun memories.

Have you ever gotten rid of junk to make space for your partner? Share your stories below.

Date Idea: Bookworms



By Ann Luther and Mara Miller

This weekend, get lost in the romantic words of others and embrace the tender sentiments of the great writers with your great relationship and love. With this date idea, you and your partner can get out and explore your favorite authors, your city, and your passion for one another.

Enjoy Books About Love With This Literary Date Idea

Take a walk to your local bookstore with your beau, a stack of Post-it notes, and a pen. Write notes of love, encouragement, or dating advice until your hands cramp up. While you're writing, exchange ideas with each other — you might learn something new about your man's perspective on adoration. Then, hide these notes in your favorite books about love for a future reader to find later. You might even sneak into the teen section of the store and place them in books for the next generation of lovers.

While the pair of you are scanning the rows, try to find a romantic novel that neither of you has read yet. A few of the best so far in 2019 include: *Meet Cute* by Helena Hunting, *Verity* by Colleen Hoover, and *The Kiss Thief* by L.J. Shen. This will keep the date going long after the day is done. You might buy one copy and read it to each other, or you can buy two copies to read separately with the other person in mind. Whichever you choose, you'll have something new to talk about and share.

Related Link: Date Idea: Plan A Walk Around Town

Few things go better with reading than coffee. Delocator.net is a fabulously easy way to find independently owned and run businesses in your area. Once you've settled into your seats in an intimate coffee shop, pull out a book of sweet love poems. Grab your darling's hand and read those poems aloud. Your honey will love to hear all of those romantic notions straight from your lips! You can check this list of the top 10 love poem books before you go and choose a few that speak to you.

Related Link: Date Idea: Write A Book

If you'd prefer to stay in, you don't have to leave the comfort of your home for this date idea! You can make a pot of coffee or tea, and while it brews, hide love notes in every room for your partner to find. Then, the two of you can cuddle up on the couch with your mugs and poems and start the readings. It would be a perfect way to heat up a rainy day.

Sometimes, we get too afraid to let all of the emotion in the books we read to take over our own relationships and love. This weekend, let go of all apprehension and have fun with romance!

Have you ever been on a bookstore date? Share your stories below.

Date Idea: Plant Some Roots





By Ann Luther and Mara Miller

Spring has sprung! Flowers are blooming everywhere — and so are your feelings for your partner. Take advantage of this beautiful season with this weekend date idea. You can plant seeds in the ground *and* each other's hearts!

Plant a Garden for This Weekend Date Idea

Go for a drive with the windows down and hunt the neighborhood for inspiration for your garden to follow this <u>relationship</u> advice. You can check out the lawn of other residents, hanging baskets in front of local storefronts, and the wild vegetation peeking out everywhere you turn. You might even try going to a nearby park and taking a stroll. The park will be full of blossoming flowers, native grasses, and intricate landscaping. Before you leave, stop and pick up a dandelion, make a wish for you and your lovebird, and blow!

Related Link: First Date Outfit Ideas: Outdoor Festivals

On this date idea, you can pick out plants based on their meanings and what you want your garden to convey. Jasmine signifies eternal love, and agrimony flowers stand for thankfulness. Coriander is a sign of lust, while sweet peas smell fantastic and symbolize gratitude. Oxeye daisies are lovely representations of patience. With a little research and the right intentions, you can create a garden that ushers in much more than beauty into your lives.

Once you and your beau are fully inspired, learn which plants grow best in your area. Provenwinner.com is a great resource for area-determinant gardening. Then, it's off to the local gardening store for you two! Stock up on all the supplies you'll need— like shovels, gloves, potting soil, and, of course, whatever seeds or plants you picked out. Be sure to pick up some pretty pots to add a bit of color to your front porch too!

Related Link: <u>10 End-of-Summer Date Ideas</u>

If none of the pots fit your fancy, purchase normal clay pots and make a quick trip to the craft store for some acrylic paint and a few paint brushes on the way home. Get to gardening, but before you start on the potted plants, take your paint and brushes and decorate the pots! You can paint hearts or design something more abstract. It doesn't have to be precise; it just has to be colorful. On the bottom of the pots, paint the date to make sure you'll never forget.

Take your time today. Enjoy the sun, the breeze, and your relationship and love. Winter felt like it lasted forever, and summer will be here in no time, so bask in the beautiful weather of the spring. As the seasons roll on, you'll have your sweet garden to remind you of this weekend date idea.

Have you ever planned a gardening date? Share your stories below!

Date Idea: Explore Love on a Road Trip





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

After a stressful week, you just want to unwind and spend quality time with your partner. So pack a light bag, jump in the car, and head out on a road trip! Taking to the open road is bound to be an experience to remember; it's a great way to spend quality time together and explore your relationship and love. It shouldn't take too much planning, but in order to enjoy your journey, there are a few things you need to keep in mind.

Road Trip Your Way to a Stronger Relationship and Love

The first step is to choose a few destinations. For this date idea, you and your partner should select places not too far or too close to home. One great idea is to visit a popular city in your state or a neighboring state. If you don't have any preferences, ask friends who have been on road trips. It's always a great idea to get dating advice and personal recommendations from your loved ones — that way, you can also get information on the best places to eat, lodge, and just have a good time!

Related Link: Bring the Beach to You

Deciding where to go has a lot to do with you and your boo's personalities. If you're music junkies, you might want to hit up Nashville, Tennessee. Or maybe you're history buffs, and you want to see the marvelous Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Your chosen spot depends on the kind of romance you want to stir up as well. You may want to pick a place that's known for its party scene or somewhere with a beautiful, breathtakinglysilent landscape.

Once the destination has been chosen, it's time to get your suitcase out. Several items you should take with you on this weekend date idea are music you both enjoy, a GPS or map, books, snacks, drinks, a first aid kit, some clothes (be sure to check the weather!), and cash or credit card.

Related Link: Rent a Cabin for the Weekend

In order to enjoy the road trip and make the most of your relationship and love, give yourself sufficient time to check out your destination spot as well as places you pass through. Take pictures and keep receipts as souvenirs. With these tips and the right planning, you'll be ready to take another road trip next weekend!

Do you have any suggestions about road tripping with your sweetheart? Share with our readers by commenting below.