## Date Idea: Tour a Chocolate Factory





By Leslie Chavez

Chocolate and romance are two things that go together oh so well. The sweet, dark candy is considered to be an aphrodisiac and can add a little passion and sensuality to any relationship when used correctly. If you have a sweet tooth, these chocolate-filled date ideas are sure to satisfy it!

Change your general romance routine by spending the day at a chocolate factory. Most visits include a short tour of the chocolate factory and free tastings of a variety of the company's most popular chocolates. There might even be a chocolate-making demo included with the tour.

If you're interested in getting a more hands-on approach, try taking some classes at a chocolate school. You can learn how to manufacture chocolate, produce candy and confections, use chocolate molds, and create professional chocolate recipes. Have fun with it! Tease each other and flirt your way to the best chocolate soufflé you've ever made.

#### Related Link: Love Your Mate With Food

Take the skills you learned in your chocolatier class and use them at home. Spending the night with your love baking, drizzling, and melting the decadent treat is a perfect way to add romance to the date. Make some chocolate-dipped strawberries, white chocolate fudge, hot cocoa, or truffles. And don't worry about making a mess — you can clean it up later!

Not only can you treat your stomach to a chocolate treat, you can also treat your body, mind, and spirit. Visit a chocolate spa where you can experience the latest in massages, skincare, and other chocolate-based services. There are a number of spas that have these options, but the most popular is – where else? – Hershey, Pennsylvania. There, a cocoa massage, whipped cocoa bath, and a chocolate bean polish are offered.

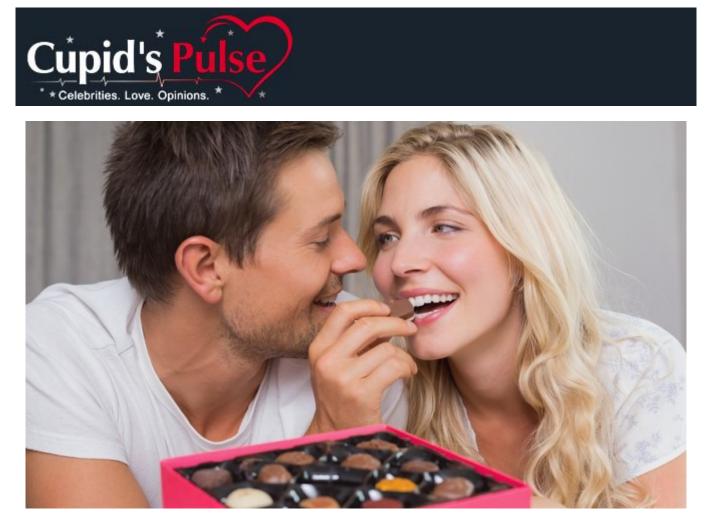
#### Related Link: Relax With a Spa Day at Home

If you can't make it to Hershey this weekend, you can always make your own **chocolate romance** bath for two. Now, all you need is a little champagne and some chocolate-scented candles for a scrumptious evening at home.

This weekend, forget the diet and indulge in a sugary treat with your man. As if you needed another excuse to eat chocolate!

What sort of chocolate-filled date would you enjoy? Tell us in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Visit a Tarot Card Reader



By Leslie Chavez

If you're strolling around that little beach town you visited for the weekend and looking for something different to do, check out that **tarot card reader** you spotted on the street. Come on — you know you're a little curious! Take a look into the crystal ball and see what the future holds for you and your love.

It seems like everywhere you go, you can count on some sort of psychic, tarot card reader, or the like to be around the

second corner or down that quiet alley. You should finally take the plunge and see what all the fuss is about! Couples readings can be a fun and illuminating experience. They can also be very healing, providing you with a neutral space to work through issues and look at the bigger picture of your relationship. However, in order to avoid a tense situation, make sure that your partner is comfortable and open to the idea.

Related Link: <u>3 Ways to Use the Psychic Edge to Find Mr. Right</u>

The tarot card reader encourages you to ask questions that move your situation in a healthy direction rather than asking something like, "Should we move in together?" She also suggests talking with your partner beforehand to discuss what questions you will ask in order to avoid any surprises. Consider having separate readers for you and him if you feel uncomfortable going in together. After determining which option is best for you, relax and get ready to gain insight into your past, present, and future.

One of the most common approaches are tarot card readings, a method that uses a symbolic deck of cards with specific drawings that are believed to be guided by spiritual forces. The forces are believed to help interpret a current situation someone is going through or uncover something about their future. Is there a walk down the aisle in the cards for you? Tarot card readings are a great way to find out.

Another sought-after method of seeing the future is palm reading, which evaluates a person's character or future by studying their hand. There are three major lines – the heart, the head, and the lifeline – that tell you more about yourself than you ever imagined. Getting your beau's palm read can be a good way to get some insight into his emotional stability and romantic perspective. Sneaky girl!

Related Link: Look Into Your Future

These psychic options are fun ways to explore the spiritual and supernatural realm with each other. You may even gain some interesting insight into yourselves and your relationship. Whether or not you choose to truly believe the messages in the stars is totally up to you.

Have you ever gotten tarot cards read with your partner? Share your story in the comments below.

## What Are Some Superstitions You Fear? Try Them Out for Date Night!





By Leslie Chavez

Friday the thirteenth doesn't have to be unlucky when it comes to love. In fact, you can turn the unlucky into a few unique date ideas. What are some superstitions you fear? Face your fears and spend the day together seeing how many superstitions you can prove wrong.

Admit it: Being a little scared is kind of fun! Plus, it gives you an excuse to hold on to your man just a little bit tighter. According to LiveScience.com, "Many superstitions stem from the same human trait that causes us to believe in monsters and ghosts: When our brains can't explain something, we make stuff up." The rush of knowing that you're doing something that's considered unlucky will give you a little rush of hormones and a heart-racing thrill that also produces a sensation of pleasure. Push the superstitious limits and have a silly time challenging the infamous day.

#### Related Link: Take a Risk and Be Daring

Trying out superstitions is your excuse to be bad, so think of everything you're not supposed to do today and *do it*! Open up

an umbrella inside and dance around together, challenging the rain of misfortune to come down. If you're feeling really brave, take a small mirror and crack it — but be careful not to cut yourself! There is a belief that mirrors don't just reflect your image; they hold parts of your soul. This is why breaking mirrors is believed to be such bad luck, but look at it as a way to free yourself of unwanted vanity.

If you see a ladder, take a walk underneath it. One theory holds that walking under a ladder has to do with its resemblance to medieval gallows and is therefore something you should avoid. However, the thrill is harmless, and you can add it to the list of rules you broke today. Spot a black cat? Let it cross your path; heck, call it over and pet it a bit! It can't hurt you, right?

When you're at dinner that night, spill a little salt on the table while seasoning your veggies. Can't you just see him grin mischievously at you from across the table, thinking of what bad things you can do next? Doing these little reckless things together will make you feel brave and bring some spice into your relationship.

#### Related Link: Freaky Friday

Sometimes, doing something wrong can feel so right, and developing unique date ideas so that you are spending the day breaking these ridiculous superstitions will make you feel fun, foolish, and carefree. Remember that the misfortune that comes with Friday the Thirteenth is all superstition, so you should make it through the day with all of your original luck intact. Fingers crossed!

## Cupid wants to know: How will you celebrate Friday the Thirteenth?

## Date Idea: Live Out Your Fairytale





By Leslie Chavez

Once upon a time, in a land far away, there was a place where chivalry prevailed, where it was acceptable for fair ladies to wear flower garlands, and where a princess could always count on being rescued by her Prince Charming. But fear not, dear maidens, for this enchanted image need not remain only fantasy. This weekend, let whimsical romance take over and live a few days in make-believe.

#### Related Link: Dress Up

Head to the nearest medieval fair and see the world of knights and queens come to life! After picking up a sword for your man and a piece of handcrafted jewelry for you, take a leisurely walk through the marketplace on your way to the big joust. You'll be on the edge of your seat watching the lance-armed knights battle it out for her majesty. To settle your nerves after all that excitement, grab two mugs of ale before experiencing the festive music and entertaining jesters of the town. However, be aware of the peasants, pirates, and wenches that also roam the streets – although there's no doubt that your gallant knight will surely come to your rescue if need be.

If the realm of poetry and plays is of more interest to you, check out a summer Shakespeare festival and immerse yourself in his beautiful prose, filled with star-crossed lovers and noble cavaliers. Spend the day in the grass, listening to the expressive words of one of the world's greatest poets. Many festivals also include talks, readings, and classes that allow you to gain more insight into the romantic, chivalrous world portrayed on the stage. Submerge yourself in the imaginary love stories and embody the intense passion of Shakespeare's knights and maidens.

For a more intimate experience, create a magical evening at home. Together, prepare a small Middle Ages feast of roast chicken, honey cakes, and mead, fit for the king and queen that you are. While you're at it, listen to some instrumental tunes worthy of a royal ballroom waltz.

#### Related Link: Expand Your Tastes

After dinner, you can relax with the remainder of your mead and a fantasy TV marathon, be it *Game of Thrones* or the romantic tales of Disney's finest: Charming, Phillip, Eric, and the Beast. Either way, get ready for a night so jam-packed with true love's kisses and acts of bravery and charisma, it will definitely inspire your prince to follow suit. You'll both be so enamored by the romantic storylines of these oldfashioned and courtly characters from another time that it'll bring meaning and magic back to the words, "And they lived happily ever after."

What is your fairytale date? Share with us in the comments below!

### Date Idea: Write a Book





By Leslie Chavez

The act of writing can be so romantic. It's a creative way to reflect on an experience and express your feelings on a special moment in sweet, expressive language. Just think of John Keats, Lord Byron, or William Wordsworth penning their observant and emotional poetry. They'll be sure to inspire you to create a written keepsake with your love.

Be each other's muses as you construct a work that reflects your relationship. If you both love reading, put together a book of your favorite quotes from literature and poetry. You can go back to the book every now and then and take a trip down memory lane, reminiscing on what quotes you chose and why you chose them.

#### Related Link: Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

Sharing with each other why these words are important to you will make you feel more emotionally connected. Or take it to the next level and do a special exercise: Pick a poetic quote that reminds you of your man and have him do the same for you. Flattery with beautiful verse is such a turn on. Indulge in a little *word*play, if you will.

If you both enjoy cooking, develop your own special cookbook. Jot down your favorite recipes to make together. You can even include drawings or funny stories about your experiences when making a specific recipe. Did you stop and have a flirty food fight? Is this something that you made on one of your first dates? Document your experiences! Each time you turn to your special cookbook, it will help you remember the sweet moments that you've spent together. This reminder will give you more than just a meal to savor.

If you want to get even more creative, write a short story, poem, or love sonnet together. Throw some ideas around and don't be afraid of what the other person thinks. Being able to express creative ideas with your partner without feeling selfconscious brings your trust for each other to a whole new level.

Related Link: Publish a Love Sonnet

Let yourself be silly. No matter how crazy an idea seems, tell your love; the worst thing that can happen is that you'll laugh at each other, only elevating your mood and enhancing creativity. When you guys finish your masterpiece, you'll be able to say that you created a work of art together, serving as each other's inspirations.

You can even write about your own relationship. According to new research from Northwestern University, a few minutes spent writing about your relationship can protect your bond. In the exercise, couples were asked to write about an argument that they recently had from a neutral third-party perspective. When doing this activity, they were much better able to contemplate what the best, most logical solution to a problem in their relationship would be. According to the article, "The reflection and contemplation involved in writing makes for a healthier relationship and reduces the amounts of distress couples feel about arguments." What a relief!

So whether used to reflect or to create, writing serves as an intellectual experience you and your muse can connect with and benefit from.

Have you ever written something special with your love? Tell us in the comments below!

## Adventure Date: Do Something Daring





By Leslie Chavez

If you're tired of your go-to movie and dinner date, shake things up this weekend then plan an **adventure date** that will lead to a spontaneous and exciting day that you'll both be talking about for weeks to come. Get inventive and think of something that you two have always wanted to do together but have never found the time, money or...courage.

Try skydiving! In addition to the adrenaline rush, this adventure date will help you de-stress, forget about your worries, and enjoy the simplicities of life with your love. Being in a situation where you feel like you're doing something dangerous or overcoming an exhilarating challenge with your partner will bring you closer together. Plus, what could be more intimate than grasping on to each other as you plummet quickly to the ground with the air rushing past your face at unimaginable speeds? Oh, the things we do for love!

#### Related Link: Dare to Romance

Indoor rock climbing can be another adventure date. You can experience the vertical world of bouldering from the safety of an indoor gym. Climb along sheer drops and sculpted edges and feel the rush as you clutch onto the rocks twenty feet above the ground. You can encourage and support each other as you bound up the wall and race to the top.

It will also give you a chance to admire your man's strength – and his sexy back muscles! Reward yourself with some ice cream or a smoothie afterward, and you can swap climbing strategies for next time. IndoorClimbing.com has a great directory of gyms all over the country for you to choose from.

If you have a need for speed, then go-karting is the perfect adventure date for you. Experience the thrill of driving fast and battle it out with your lover to see who can get the quickest lap time. Guys love a girl who's a little competitive and brings her A-game. Lap him at the last second, and it'll drive him wild. Trying any new sport is sure to bring some extra excitement to your romance.

#### Related Link: Try an Unusual Sport

For something a little more romantic, head to the beach at night. Bring a blanket and a bottle of wine and gaze up at the beautiful star-filled sky. You'll feel like you're doing something bad by being on the deserted sand in the middle of the night. Savor the intimate moment together under the stars on your own private oasis. If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, you might even suggest skinny-dipping in the moonlight.

Have you been on a spontaneous date before? Share your story below!

### Date Idea: Beat of the Music





By Leslie Chavez

Everyone loves music, right? And listening to your favorite tunes has been known to help you relax, boost your mood, and energize you. Nothing beats seeing a singer you love play live, especially when it's with your sweetheart. So take advantage of all the great music events that the next few months have to offer!

With summer comes tons of music festivals all over the country. Find a festival with bands that you both love. From the Electronic Music Festival in Detroit, Michigan, to Soundset, a hip-hop festival in Minnesota, to Rock on the Range in Columbus, Ohio, there is something for every taste. Grab your favorite festival attire – cut-off shorts and cowboy boots are encouraged — and hit the road! Enjoy the whole weekend, basking in the sunshine and swaying your hips to the beat of the music with your lover by your side.

#### Related Link: Listen to the Music

You might even get the chance to dance where the wild things are. A lot of zoos around the country have summer concert series where a number of great local bands or disc jockeys play at stages within the park after regular zoo hours. As the sun sets, the zoo really comes to life; along with great dance music, delicious food trucks and even bar services fill the gated area. This is a unique opportunity to experience the wildlife of the zoo in a whole new way. Give in to your animal instincts – we promise your man won't mind.

Don't forget about the major arena concerts that happen during the season too. This is a great chance to dress your best and buy those front row seats. Whether it's the Staple Center or Madison Square Garden, you can see some of the biggest names in music and have the night of your life. Raise your glass, let go, and impress him with your perfect pitch as you sing along to Katy Perry's go-girl anthem "Roar."

Related Link: Pub Crawl

If smaller, more intimate shows are more your thing, there are still plenty of options. Tons of bands are playing at your city's restaurants and bars on hot nights. Cool off after a busy day with a refreshing, ice cold beer and foot-stomping live music. You and your man will have so much fun unwinding in the laid-back and easygoing atmosphere. Challenge him to a game of darts or pool when the band takes a break.

Happy summer!

How will you enjoy music with your love this summer? Tell us in the comments below.

## Romantic Boat Ride





By Leslie Chavez

Test your love on the high seas and hit the water this weekend by going for a **romantic boat ride** with your favorite first mate!

If you're an early riser, experience a beautiful sunrise and see some of the spectacular landmarks at a harbor near you. Being aboard a pristine sailboat and gliding on the open water is a thrilling experience. You'll feel the wind in your hair, the salty air on your face, and your lover's arms wrapped tightly around you as you bob through the waves. There might even be time to go fishing while you're out braving the wild seas. What a romantic way to spend quality time together, free from the distractions of real life on land! So throw caution to the wind and get aboard your very own love boat.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Get Wet and Wild on the Water

There are a ton of companies that offer afternoon and sunset romantic boat rides, where you can bring a nice picnic to snack on in case you work up an appetite as you put your sailing skills to good use. And don't forget the chilled bottle of Chardonnay for you and your date to sip as you enjoy the scenery. Check out some of these sailing companies that offer romantic boat rides, like Sushi Sundays or a Hawaiian Grill Sail, both in Santa Cruz.

If you don't happen to be next to an ocean, don't fret — you can still cruise your way to paradise with your beau. Grab an oar and take a ride in a rowboat on a nearby pond. Lounge in your boat on a warm and lazy afternoon and watch the day go by. Imagine him sitting opposite from you, wooing you with verse or song as you gaze deeply into his eyes. Perching a parasol over your shoulder is recommended to fully accomplish the classic love story scene.

If you're lucky, a gondola ride might be an option too. It won't be hard to picture the beautiful canals, aged bridges, quaint cafes, and old balconies of Venice as your singing gondolier guides you and your love on a romantic journey through time and place.

#### **Related Link:** Date Idea: Get Fishy

A paddle boat is also a great way to get some exercise and spend a romantic evening together. Grab some food to go – something simple like burgers and shakes – and hit the lake. Start out at dusk so you have enough sunlight left to enjoy your dinner and view the sites as you paddle around. Finish up your meal right before the sun sets and watch the city lights turn on. See their reflection on the water, shining brighter as the sky grows dim for an even more romantic setting.

Have you ever had a romantic boat ride on the water? Share your story in the comments below!

# Mexican Cooking Classes: Spice Up Date Night





By Leslie Chavez

Spice up the kitchen with your "amor" this Cinco de Mayo by adding Mexican Cooking Classes do your date menu! Discover how to create classic Mexican dishes that are fresh and fiery. Throw in some margaritas, and you'll have all the ingredients you need for the perfect fiesta.

For starters, try checking out some local Mexican restaurants and see if they are offering special cooking classes with their executive chef for the holiday. Or you might find a special event through local flyers and town websites where you can discover and compare some of the best courses out there. Maybe you want your class to look something like this: First, snack on some homemade guacamole and chips. Maybe you can whip up some pozole verde and beef and pumpkin empanadas for the main course. For dessert, take a shot at baking tres leches cake.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Wine and Dine

Once you finish the Mexican cooking class, you can have your own celebration at home and show off your new skills. Cooking dinner for a date is a great way to engage with each other in an intimate way while working towards a common goal. You will be able to learn about each other's strengths, practice communicating, and have fun. Plus, you'll make new memories because of the experience and discover how to better operate as a team.

Ask him about his week as you chop chilies together, or put your hand over his as he stirs the enchilada sauce. Turn up the mariachi music — try listening to greats like Vincente Fernandez or Luis Miguel — as you prepare your meal and dance a little salsa around the stove. Enjoy the process of creating a meal as a couple and sip on tequila sunrises as you go. Cooking is a multi-sensory experience, so embrace the sight, smell, touch and feel of the food…and each other. Muy Caliente!

#### Related Link: Celebrate Cinco De Mayo with Your Mate

Remember it's all about having fun and connecting with your

lover, your cooking dinner for a date, not a contest, so be careful about getting too competitive or ambitious with your partner. After all, the key ingredient in any dish is love.

How do you and your love plan to celebrate Cinco de Mayo? Tell us in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Climb Every Mountain



By Amanda Boyer

You and your partner are tired of the typical dinner-and-amovie and need a new <u>date idea</u>. You want to do something that will get your feet moving and your heart rate up. To integrate some exercise into your normal routine, follow this relationship advice and plan a rock climbing date! You can check out an indoor gym if it's still chilly where you live or head outside if the weather has warmed up enough.

Related Link: Celebrity Couples That Are Always On the Go

### Go Rock Climbing on This Weekend Date Idea

To find a good spot close to home for this weekend date idea, check out websites like RockandIce.com, and *IndoorClimbing.com*. Rock and Ice even has articles on *how* to rock climb, so if one of you is nervous about going or has never tried the sport before, read up for some helpful tips. Be sure to find out what gear is required and purchase or rent shoes, clothes, and ropes as needed.

Once the day arrives, don't let your nerves get the best of you! Start by just taking a few steps up the mountain or wall so you get a sense of where the best rocks are and what kind of foot and hand holds you want to use. This warm-up will have you laughing and joking around with each other as you both struggle to learn something new. Make sure you feel comfortable before you challenge each other and step it up to the next level.

Once you both are ready to go, it's time to race! To turn this rock climbing date idea into a contest, you can climb up the mountain three times; whoever gets to the top first two times in a row can get bragging rights for the night. To raise the stakes, make a bet: The loser has to buy dinner afterwards. The pressure's on!

Related Link: Take a Charity Walk

Whether it's making fun of your significant other for

slipping or getting to see your cutie compete against you, you're sure to have a fun time. After a few hours of climbing, betting, and having fun with your honey, you'll be tired and ready for a low-key evening. You and your partner will form a stronger bond over the challenges faced on the rock climbing wall and have new memories to bring to your relationship and love.

Have you ever gone on a rock climbing date? Share your experience below!

### Date Idea: Get Off the Beaten Path





By Gabby Robles

Grab your honey and get environmental! Our Earth is so beautiful, but with our busy schedules, we can forget how amazing it actually is. Lace up your sneakers and get ready for a good old-fashioned clean up with your man.

Related Link: Date Idea: Volunteer Your Time Together

This date can really bring out the fun, romantic, and philanthropic side of your beau. It'll open your minds as a couple and help you see all the beauty that's in the world. You'll both notice the little things and experience something wonderful while also helping the green environment for the better. With the crisp, fresh air and the regrowth of plants all around us, we can really feel the need to give back to our planet, and now is the perfect time to do it!

Thanks to Earth Day on April 22nd, there will be plenty of organized clean ups taking place. Some areas focus on hard trails, while others prefer sunny beaches. The choice is your's, and once you both decide where you want to go, search for a nearby spot. A company like CleanUpTheWorld.Org is very helpful for finding activities and events in your area

But don't just go and get dirty! Scope out some future date spots too. You might find that you like that quaint area of the park or a sweet part of the beach. When you expand your horizons, you'll discover new things about yourselves, and doing this activity together will help you grow as a twosome. You might even want to continue joining clean ups after Earth Day! Maybe you'll make it your new "thing."

Related Link: <u>Jay-Z and Beyonce Raise \$1 Million at Fundraiser</u>

You'll be starved afterwards, so grab some lunch with your sweetheart at a local restaurant. While there, talk about more ways you can help the environment and about your favorite part of today's clean up.

There are other, simpler ways to take care of the environment too: You can donate your recyclables or plant some fresh trees at a city park. The sky's the limit – just be sure to keep it clean!

We want to know: How are you spending Earth Day this year? Share with us below!

## Date Idea: Take a Virtual Vacation





By Gabby Robles

Just because you can't go on vacation this spring doesn't mean you can't still enjoy a much-deserved break. First, pick an interesting country and research it online with your honey. Set your wallpapers on all your devices to photos of the hotspot and check out some of the country's facts and famous tourist attractions to learn more about the locale.

#### **Related Link:** <u>Travel Abroad Without Leaving the Country</u>

This date idea is a great opportunity to learn together. Maybe you want to explore each other's heritages and expand your knowledge about each other's families in a deeper way, ultimately developing a stronger connection. The more questions you ask, the more stimulating the conversation will be.

Perhaps one or both of you has never been out of the country. So why not make an adventure out of this pretend trip? Or if you have plans to take a real trip in a few months, you can use this virtual vacation as a test run. If you want a real-life experience, do some digging to find a museum near you that celebrates the culture of the country of your choosing and head over there for some educational, relaxing fun. If you're in the New York area, take a trip to the American Museum of Natural History. If you're in L.A., check out the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and see different countries habitats and the animals that inhabit them.

Related Link: Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum

After your trip to the museum, find a restaurant that specializes in the dishes of your country and enjoy a night out with your love. You can both take a step out of your comfort zone and try something new. While you wait for your delicious food to arrive, ask what his mom used to make for dinner, what his favorite ethnic food was growing up, and what he enjoys now. You two may share the same favorite dish and not even know it!

It may be fun to teach each other some phrases from your country's native language too. You can hold simple conversations with each other and make some memories. Who knows, you might even find a new catchphrase!

Be sure to jump into this date with excitement and have an open mind.

Cupid wants to know: Where would you go on a virtual vacation?

### Date Idea: Take a Charity

### Walk





By Gabby Robles

Charity walks are perfect for this time of year. The sun shines brightly, and the air is a bit cool, so being outside is particularly enjoyable. Throw on a pair of leggings and a sweater (or a t-shirt if your hometown allows) and grab your man for the walk!

Finding a charity walk is simple. If one of your Facebook friends isn't posting about it, check out local listings on your own. If you live in New York City (or nearby), why not do the Parkinson's Unity Walk? If you're in the Los Angeles area, look into the Relay For Life walk.

**Related Link:** <u>Celebrity Couples Who've Made the World a Better</u> <u>Place</u> If you want to choose a cause that's close to your heart, search for events related to that cause and see if there's a walk going on. For instance, runs that fund breast cancer, leukemia, and poverty are pretty common everywhere. The two of you can talk about what charities are important to you. Make it a real discussion; this conversation is the chance to deepen your bond. Plus, it'll open you both up to each other.

Doing a charity walk not only promotes and helps out the charity, but it's a great way to do a fun workout with your sweetheart. Usually, these walks are at least a 5K, so you'll be able to replace that day's gym time. Even if you opt to walk rather than run, as many people do, you can have some alone time with your guy while simultaneously making some new pals by talking to those around you.

Or invite your own friends and family! This is a great opportunity to get close to your guy's loved ones or vice versa.

Related Link: Date Idea: Volunteer Together

One of the best parts of this date? The aftermath. Since most walks take place during the early morning, you can stop at a your favorite diner or a nearby restaurant for a delicious brunch. As long as you have a charitable mind, you'll have a great day with your date!

Tell us: Have you ever done a charity walk with your man?

### Date Idea: Go For A Ride





By Kristin Mattern

Spring is in the air. Take advantage of the warming weather and hit the road with your man. Head to the racetrack to enjoy the fresh air and excitement with your dearest, or get a little romantic and go for a trail ride. However you welcome the new season, you're sure to feel the love blossom.

**Related Link:** <u>5 Ways to Know if Your Relationship is More Than</u> <u>Just a Spring Fling</u>

Dig out your big hat and cutest sundress before heading to watch the ponies with your partner. You and your cutie can share the excitement as you watch the jockey's push their thoroughbreds to victory. Spend the extra money and get in to view the horses before each race. This way, the two of you can see the horses up close and get a sense of how each of them is going to perform. Guess which horse you think will do the best with your sweetie. Bring some brews with you to sip while you watch, or treat yourselves to a fancy meal at the track. Be sure to set a price cap so the two of you don't go overboard.

After a few hours at the racetrack, it's time to grab the reigns yourselves. You and your baby can catch up and enjoy some alone time as you trot down the trail together. If you're near a beach or shore, see if you and your honey can have a race down the beach. The two of you will love the feel of the spring wind in your hair as you speed down the coast. Whoever loses can pay for dinner!

**Related Link:** <u>Date Idea: A Day in the Hay</u>

To end your big day, head to a sports bar that plays the races. Sit back and relax with your sweetie as the two of you recount your fun day day and enjoy one another's company.

Have you ever headed to the race track for a date? Tell us about it in the comments below!

### Date Idea: Light Up the Night





By Kristin Mattern

Kick start the spark of love this weekend by taking your sweetie to see a laser light show and to play some laser tag. Keep the electric feel going by hitting up a club with your cutie and getting down on the dance floor as the lights flash and the disco ball twirls. You're sure to light up each other's world as the two of you dance the night away on this high amplitude powered date!

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

Light shows are a unique sight to see. Find one near you and watch as the professionals light up the night and the lasers dance to make creatures come to life from thin air. Snuggle up next to your honey while you take in the show. If it's an outside affair, be sure to bring a blanket to sit on and one to wrap around each other. You'll both enjoy being cuddled close while viewing the performance. Share a kiss beneath the warm electric glow.

To keep the fun going, head over to a laser tag arcade after the show and suit up for some friendly competition. Play on the same team and rendezvous for a thrilling moment of stolen intimacy as you strategize your next move. Feel the adrenaline pumping and evade other players together. Or duke it out as you run around in the dimly lit maze and zap each other to see who is the master of the laser tag.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Arcade Game Night

With all that wattage running through your veins, the two of you are sure to keep the energy pumping as you head out to a nightclub. Show off your dance moves and dip and sway beneath the flutter of neon lights. Get lost together as the fog machine and strobe lights pulse to the electronica beat. The two of you are sure to feel the tingle of love after this light-filled date!

Have you ever gone electric with your sweetie? Share in the comments below!

### Date Idea: Bar Crawl Party!





By Kristin Mattern

What would St. Patrick's Day be without a bar crawl? Grab your leprechaun love and something green — because on St. Patty's Day, everyone is a little Irish! Make a day of it and start the morning off by viewing a parade with your sweetie. Then head over to the local strip to tour the bars. Once you and your cutie are tired of the bar scene, head back home to keep the party going with your friends. The two of you are sure to strike a pot of gold with this fun date idea!

Related Link: First Date Outfit Ideas: Dinner and Drinks

Many towns have their own St. Patty's Parade, but if your's doesn't, look up parades in cities nearest you. In Chicago, they even dye the river green for the occasion! What a sight to see. If you're in New Orleans, you might just get a kiss or set of beads from a green-costumed parade goer. Set out for adventure with your love as the two of you get to see bagpipers, leprechauns, all manner of floats, and, of course, men in kilts. Get really decked out with shamrock necklaces and "Kiss me, I'm Irish" shirts. It's the perfect excuse to plant one on your honey as you watch the parade! After all the floats have made their way to the end of the parade, get your babe and friends together for a bar crawl. Some cities have guided tours you have to book ahead of time. Visit PubCrawls.com to find one in a city near you. The advantage to booking a pub crawl is you and your group are guided around a pre-determined route, don't have to pay covers, and sometimes get one free drink included in the price of the tour. Also, you might be able to avoid some of the longer lines.

#### **Related Link:** <u>How to Redeem Yourself If You Get Drunk On a</u> <u>First Date</u>

However, if you like to fly by the seat of your pants and the luck of the Irish is on your side, plan your own bar crawl ahead of time. Map out your route so you know where you and your cutie are headed. You might even want to call ahead so you know if the bars have covers or if they are only open to tours that day. Then go wild and drink some green beer in honor of St. Patrick! Just make sure someone is the designated driver or you have plans to ride public transportation home.

When you and your crew have sampled all the Irish Car Bombs and Guinness you can stomach, head back home to keep the party going. Play traditional Irish melodies at home, or toss on the Dropkick Murphy's or Flogging Molly to reach your inner Irish Rocker. You and your partner can host an Irish dinner party by serving up some Corn Beef and Cabbage, easy to make in a crock-pot, and provide green cupcakes and other green-dyed goodies for dessert. Or serve up a traditional Irish Soda bread. Make Irish Coffee to compliment your delicious end to your Bar Crawl Party date with your honey.

Erin go bragh to you and your partner on this fun St. Patrick's Day date!

What are your St. Patrick's Day plans? Tell us in the comments below!

### Date Idea: Take a Shot





By Kristin Mattern

This weekend, impress your cutie with your sweet moves at the bar. Get a little flirty by showing him your pool hall expertise, and then take aim at love as you play darts together. Have a friendly competition while you share wings and drinks for a fun date night.

Your man will definitely appreciate this guy-approved date. Not a pool hall shark? Let your babe teach you how to play. He'll love the opportunity to wrap his arms around you as he shows you how to shoot. If you're aces at pool, step it up and let him see your game face as you play for who pays for the next round of drinks. Or go Dutch and take turns paying for each other. After all, he usually pays for you, right?

Related Link: What Does Your Date's Drink Say About Him?

Play darts against your sweetheart, or team up and invite another couple to play against you. Root each other on as you step up to the line and try to hit the bulls-eye. Celebrate your victory by grabbing a table and enjoying dinner.

Men love wing night; it's just one of those things. If you're up for it, have a contest to see who can eat the spiciest or the most wings. Or just relax and enjoy the different varieties of wings the establishment has to offer. From sweet and savory to red hot and peppery, you and your darling can share the different sensory sensations as you taste your way through the evening.

Related Link: <u>Tease Your Taste Buds on This Weekend Date Idea</u>

To round out the date — and burn some of those recently ingested wing calories, drag your man out onto the dance floor. Shake up the night as you boogie down and show off your sexy moves.

Ever taken a shot at love in a pool hall? Let us know in the comments below!

# Date Idea: Slumber Party





By Kristin Mattern

Go back in time this weekend and invite your cutie over for a good, old-fashioned slumber party! Break out the sleeping bags and grab your silliest pajamas for this fun date night that will have the two of you giggling like a couple of teenagers.

Related Link: <u>How to Get the Best Sleep You Can With Your</u> <u>Partner</u>

Get out the Twister and pour the grape soda because it's time to rock your house like you and your sweetie are high school sweethearts. Pick out fun games for the two of you to play. If you used to love truth or dare, put a twist on this classic sleepover game and make it a bit sexy. For instance, dare your man to kiss you on your shoulder or ask him to reveal his favorite moment that the two of you have shared. If you're a couple of card sharks, amp up the flirty atmosphere with a rousing game of strip poker and make bets about who has to make breakfast in the morning. Top off the night with a pillow fight.

What's a slumber party without munchies? Make some truly

sinful snacks that you used to nosh on as teens. Melt cheese over chips for quick nachos, or place cheese, grilled chicken and peppers between two flour wraps and heat it up on a skillet for stuffed tortillas. Maybe the two of you were candy lovers as kids; chew on Airheads and Sourpatch Kids, or scarf down some Sweetarts.

#### Related Link: Romantic Dinner for Two

After your food-induced coma has passed, share some laughs as you prank each other. Freeze his boxers when he's not looking. Slip a pinch of cayenne pepper into his dinner. Get a little cuddly with a tickle war. Keep it friendly and silly though; you don't want to send him home in the morning with hurt feelings.

When it is time to start winding down, set up your living room like you did when you were a kid prepping for a slumber party. Place the sleeping bags on the floor (yes, the floor!) in front of the television to set the mood. This way, you and your honey can snuggle up next to each other while you snack on popcorn and watch movies. Pick out your favorite films from your youth and have a movie marathon. Or watch your favorite shows together on Netflix – enjoy an entire season of *The O.C.* or *Dawson's Creek*. Snuggle up as you end your teenage dream together on this fun-filled slumber party date night.

Ever had a slumber party with your significant other? Tell us how your night went in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Spa Vacation





By Kristin Mattern

Who says you can't swim in the winter? And no, we don't mean join the Polar Bear Club! This weekend, take your snow bunny for a spa getaway and dive into love. You''ll both enjoy this romantic and relaxing date idea.

Rent a room at a hotel with the works and take advantage of the spa, pool, sauna and fancy restaurant. First, have a couples massage and facial with your man, and bond over the shared relaxing experience. Sweat out some sweet romance as the two of you enjoy a steamy sauna session and then cool off in the swimming pool. You're sure to grow even closer as you take those refreshing laps through the cool water.

#### Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Shot

After feeling truly pampered, get dressed up and head on down to the restaurant with your dear. Order a nice bottle of wine to share over your three-course meal. Splurge on dessert, and then head out to a local nightclub for some classy cocktails and dancing.

If you're at a true health spa, try some organic, whole-food veggie or fruit juice to sip while you and your honey enjoy a detox dinner. Afterwards, catch a late yoga class and really get rid of any remaining tension that the winter months have brought.

**Related Link:** Exciting and Inexpensive Honeymoon Destinations

Looking to really leave the winter behind and experience true summertime? Take your dearest on a spa vacation to somewhere tropical. Check out sites like Travelocity and TripAdvisor to find some steals for your getaway. Make sure to pick a spot with extravagant pools and beautiful beaches. Pack your favorite bathing suits and leave the cold behind as you escape to an island resort. Enjoy the balmy weather and smooth sand as the spa staff spoils you beneath the warmth of the sun.

Escape the cold this winter and indulge in summer-themed spa date!

Have you ever skipped out on the snow to relive the summer with your darling? Let us know in the comments below!

# Date Idea: Be a "Cheap" Date





By Kristin Mattern

You and your sweetie are sick of the same old Valentine's Day traditions, or maybe you're both convinced it's just a day made up by the card companies. Perhaps your pockets are just little lighter this year and you're looking for ways to save money. Whatever your reason, this Valentine's Day is a great time to have a cheap date to celebrate your love together.

#### Related Link: List Your Live

Get crafty this weekend and make your own cards. Cut out hearts from red and pink construction paper and use paper lace doilies and glitter to decorate. Write cute and corny lines to put a smile on each other's faces. For a longer-lasting idea, cut photographs into heart shapes and make a collage you can enjoy for years to come. If you're not the most artistic person, print images and cut them out to create an easy but still sentimental card for your honey.

To exchange gifts and not burn a hole in your pocket, agree to set a price cap with your significant other. This way, you can both give each other a little something special, but you aren't going overboard. Or stick with the homemade route and get creative. If you've been dying for your man to surprise you with breakfast in bed or cook a candlelit dinner, let that be his gift to you! If you're a guy, maybe you dream of your girlfriend making a batch of your favorite cookies, or you really want her to crochet you a scarf in your favorite football team's colors. Just ask her. Think outside the chocolate box and do something unique.

Related Link: Movie Night

Another idea is to make dinner with what you have in the fridge, or order Italian if the two of you are feeling like you want to be pampered a little. Watch romantic and fun movies like 50 First Dates or the ever-classic Casablanca. Whatever you decide to pop in the DVD player, you and your sweetheart are sure to have a lovely ending to your non-traditional V-day all on the cheap!

Have you ever gone beyond giving roses on Valentine's Day? Tell us in the comments below!

## Date Idea: Bet On It





By Kristin Mattern

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Date Idea: Play Romantic

# Dating Games





By Gabriela Robles

This weekend, spend the night indoors with your love by showing off your competitive side by organizing a few romantic dating games. This is a great night to share your best couple friends too. So hurry over to an arcade and have a fun game night with your sweetheart!

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

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

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

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

# Date Idea: Rent a Cabin in the Snow





By Gabriela Robles

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Date Idea: Go to an Eat-In

# Bakery





By Gabriela Robles

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

Eat-in bakeries will usually seat you, and then a waitress come take your order. They typically offer various supplies of coffees, teas and hot chocolates, so you'll be able to have something to drink as you enjoy your sweet of choice. Think of tonight as a dessert date. Instead of a restaurant that smells like beer and fried food, you're in a place that holds the tempting aroma of pies and cookies. What could be a better way to spend a snowy winter night?

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

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

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

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