

# 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:** [How to Get the Best Sleep You Can With Your Partner](#)

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!**

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# 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.

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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!**

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# 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!**

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## **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 Soleil 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!**

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# Date Idea: Play Romantic Dating Games



By Gabriela Robles

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

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

luxury bowling alleys even have restaurant or grills attached to them as well as lounges, game rooms, cigar bars and dance areas. This atmosphere will insure an amusing night that both you and your date will enjoy.

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

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

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

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

# the Snow



By Gabriela Robles

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

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

Before you go, think about what you may need. Besides the cozy

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

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

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

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

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# Date Idea: Go to an Eat-In Bakery



By Gabriela Robles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Date Idea: Freaky Friday**



By Kristin Mattern

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

If you've never been superstitious, spend some time with your sweetie and look up some nifty ones from all over the world. There are a lot of bizarre superstitions out there, according to bored.com, like black cats being demons in disguise who create a barrier of evil when walking across your path. Looking at the new moon over your left shoulder (so specific!) or cutting your nails on a Friday are two more examples. While your love and you share some giggles about these negative juju

actions, discover some good luck superstitions to perform and ward off the bad luck. Cross your fingers, knock on wood, spill wine while proposing a toast (just make sure you have paper towel on standby) and walk in the rain with your honey to soak up the good vibes.

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

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

Freak out this Friday with a superstition-filled date!

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

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## How to Date Outside the Box in NYC







By Daniel Brown from Date Valet

Dating in NYC can be a minefield. Getting a date is hard enough these days, but then you have to come up with something fun and romantic to do. The most common New York Date ideas typically involve the movies and a drink or a meal. Going out for a nice meal at one of the most romantic restaurants NYC has to offer is a good date idea. However, it should be tied in with something a little more unique if you want to make the best first impression.

### **Consider unusual date times**

Thinking outside the box doesn't have to just be about the date activity; it can also be relevant in terms of date times too. Friday and Saturday nights tend to be the most popular option when it comes to date night. This is because you and your date are both typically working a 9-5 job and the weekends are the only time you have available. Changing the time of the date can drastically alter the experience. This is easier to do if you're self-employed. However you could also take a day off if you're due a holiday at work. Make it an

all-day date if you can.

**Related:** [Fantasy Dating: How to Play the Game Right](#)

### **Take a mini vacation**

As NY dates go, you can't get more unique than a mini vacation. Surprise your date by whisking them away for a weekend. Now obviously if you've only just met them this may seem a little forward. However, providing you book separate rooms and you are respectful of their personal space; this date idea can really help you to make a fantastic first impression. It will be a date that you'll both never forget.

### **Opt for a cultural experience**

If you're both interested in art and culture, why not arrange a museum or art gallery date? You can do this during the day and many museums are actually free to enter. This is great news if you're on a budget. You can impress your date without having to spend a fortune. New York is a fantastic cultural hub with plenty to see and do.

### **Treat them to a Broadway show**

New York is the birthplace of Broadway. It may not be the most 'out there' date idea, but it's certainly one of the best. It's entertaining and more cultural than heading to the movies. It's also something you can both talk about afterwards. Wrap the evening up by taking her to one of the most romantic restaurants in NYC.

### **Take them on a romantic picnic**

It's hard to escape the hustle and bustle of New York life. It may be one of the best cities in the world, but sometimes it's nice to take a little time out. Pack a romantic picnic and head out to one of the many amazing parks in and around the city. A picnic is definitely one of the best New York date ideas. It allows you to enjoy delicious food as you really get

to know your date. You don't have to compete with the noise of the city. It's just you, your date and nature; nothing could be more romantic.

### **Book an experience day**

If you really want to treat your date to an unforgettable experience then an experience day could be the ideal option. These are usually adrenaline based activities such as hot air balloon rides, flying and track days. However, there are also spa experiences and wildlife encounters you can book. These unique activities will help you to have a great time on your date, provide you with a great topic of conversation and it's also something they'll never forget.

Try to get a feel for what type of activities they will likely enjoy before you book. If you book a tandem skydive and they're scared of heights it could prove to be memorable for all of the wrong reasons!

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### **Cook together**

Going out to a fancy restaurant can be romantic, but so can cooking together! Pick your date up and head to the supermarket. Shopping for groceries may not sound like the great start to a date but you'd be surprised. It provides you with a casual location where you will both feel at ease. You can then go back to the comfort of your home and cook a nice meal together. As you prepare the ingredients, you'll get to bond and get to really know each other. It's even recommended that long term couples cook together in order to bring the romance back into their relationship.

Overall there are so many things you can do on a date. Try to be as imaginative as possible. Think about what your date likes and what type of activities they prefer. Making it personal will ensure you have the best NY date.

*The Date Valet is a collective of artists, musicians, financiers, and entrepreneurs all infected with a serious case of nightlife and dating. You can get dating advice, tips and planning ideas for your date. It also plans you date less than the price of a cocktail.*

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## **How to Locally Sail the High Seas With Your First Mate**



By April Littleton

Traveling the world together can give you and your partner the chance to relax and reconnect romantically. When you're out at

at sea, time seems to slow down. How could you worry about anything when you have such a beautiful view surrounding you? Don't worry, you don't have to spend your entire life saving in order to venture out to new places. Cupid has some ideas:

**1. Check out cruise sites:** Some of the cheapest cruise deals are found on the Internet. Try websites such as Travelocity.com and expedia.com for great, low rates on some of the best cruise packages. You'll almost never find any generous discounts if you choose to book the cruise directly from the source, so try some secondary websites first before you decide to spend half your paycheck.

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**2. Rent a boat:** If either you or your partner has some experience with a boat or a yacht, then forget about a cruise and take to the sea yourself. Do some research on boat rental companies that are located near you and pick the dates you want to reserve. Even if you and your honey are inexperienced, the opportunity to be alone and try new things with one another will certainly be the highlight of the day.

**3. Cook for the crew:** You and your significant other might want the REAL sailing experience. If you know anyone who works with a boating crew, ask if you can volunteer over a weekend. Crew members can always use an extra set of hands on deck, so don't be afraid to ask for a ride – as long as you're willing to help out. How fun would it be for you and your boo to prepare the meals for the boat? You might not know what you're doing, but that's part of the fun. Plus, you'll probably be alone with your partner in a cramped room. Aside from the funny fish smells, you might find the whole thing a bit romantic.

**Related:** [Should You Have a Second Date When the First was OK?](#)

**4. Find a cabin near the ocean:** You might not necessarily want

to be out at sea, but you wouldn't mind having a similar view. Pick a weekend where both you and your love have some free-time and rent a nice cabin or beach house out by the ocean. If a short weekend getaway just isn't enough, take a couple of weeks off of work and spend some time rekindling the flame with your lover. You can learn how to jet ski or water paddle in the process.

**What are some other ways to locally sail the high seas with your first mate? Comment below.**

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## **Celebrity Couples Giving Back on 9/11**





By Courtney Allen

If there is one thing celebrities have in common with those of us who spend our lives out of the spotlight and away from the paparazzi flashes, it's giving back. As a nation, and as individual people, we all have the ability to raise our country's standards through strengthening the educational system, empowering youth, women, the homeless and the disabled, raising money for disaster relief, sustaining the environment and so much more.

Although it often slips our minds as celebs glamorously glide down the red carpet in Alexander McQueen and drop six figures on Bugattis and Bentleys, celebrities are classified by more than just "the rich and famous". They are volunteers, humanitarians, environmentalists and ambassadors. Many of them often use their fame, power and influence for the benefit of others, especially in the midst of tragedies like September 11th. These super-famous couples did just that in order to both support and honor those who suffered and continue to suffer as a result of that horrific day in 2001:

**1. Beyoncé and Jay Z:** You could say that Beyoncé and Jay Z have it all. The proud parents and performers are one of the most powerful pairs in the entire world, both bringing in one of the largest incomes of any couple. There is no doubt that Bey and Jay are living the lap of luxury with baby Blue Ivy in New York, but they spread just as much love as they do money. In 2009, the king of rap himself held a September 11th benefit concert in New York City, of course, with Queen Bey by his side. The concert was expected to raise nearly one million dollars, which was all donated to the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund. But it doesn't end there. For the 10th anniversary of 911, Beyoncé released a single entitled "God Bless the USA" in order to raise funds for the same organizations as her hubby just two years before. Back in 2011, Mrs. Carter told Ace Entertainment reporters, "We were all affected by the tragedies of 911 and continue to keep the families who lost loved ones close to our hearts." Bey and her other half sure showed just how much 911 means to them.

**Related:** [5 Ways that You and Your Honey Can Give Back during the Holidays](#)

**2. Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon:** With 5 years of marriage, a set of twins and extremely successful careers in every field of entertainment between the two of them under their belts, Mariah and Nick are unstoppable in every aspect of their lives. The parents may be super busy these days with play dates, romantic vacations and appearances, but they still make time to give back to those in need, just like they always have. In 2001, just ten days after the tragic events of September 11th, Mariah participated in a benefit concert, America: A Tribute to Heroes, in New York City. Her performance helped raise money for 911 victims and their families, as well as New York City firefighters and police. Triple-threat Nick Cannon still gives back on 911, but in a different way. Two years ago, the actor/comedian hit the streets of Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles and hosted a back-to-



school event in which he gave away backpacks and school supplies to over 500 kids. Cannon also joined the kids for fun and games, as well as a concert that featured the New Boyz and other artists. Looks like this power pair knows how to give back in all the right ways.

**Related:** [Celebrity Couples in Interracial Relationships](#)

What are some ways you can give back on 9/11? Share your ideas with us!

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## Amanda Seyfried and Justin Long Bond Over Her Dog



By Kristyn Schwiep

Justin Long and Amanda Seyfried bonded over her dog. The new couple, who announced they were dating earlier this month, took her Australian shepherd, Finn, on a walk. According to [UsMagazine.com](http://UsMagazine.com), the new couple took her dog to a nearby park, where they relaxed on a blanket and let Finn play. "They recently started hanging out more, going on date-like activities. They're both busy...but they're seeing where it goes," said a source.

## **How do you incorporate pets into your dates?**

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

Taking pets on your dates is a cute way to spend time with both your pet and your partner. So what are some dates you can go on with both your partner and your pet? Cupid has some advice for you:

- 1. Picnic:** Going on a picnic is a romantic and classic date. You can also bring your pet with you. This is the perfect simple and sweet date for both you, your partner, and your pet. While you and your partner are enjoying your picnic your pet can be playing with their favorite toy.
- 2. Hiking:** If you and your partner like exercising, hiking is the perfect date for you. You and your partner will get your exercise in for the day, you get to spend time alone, and you can bring your pet along too. It's the perfect date.
- 3. The beach:** Take your pet and partner to the beach. You can enjoy the sand and water with your partner and let your pet splash in the waves, fetch frisbees, and roll around in the sand.

**How have you incorporated pets into your dates? Shares your stories below.**

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# 10 End-of-Summer Date Ideas



By [Melanie Mar](#)

Have you been enjoying a summer of love? This season is often associated with long balmy nights and bright sunny days spent with our significant other, but within a few short weeks, autumn will be upon us. The nights will get cooler and the days, shorter. So, with this thought in mind, make the most of the warm weather with the following end-of-summer date ideas.

**1. Picnic with a twist:** A picnic is a cute couple thing to do. You get to spend time together doing simple things: going to the grocery store to shop for your favorite foods and then

loading up the car with a packed basket and big blanket. For a spin on this classic date, why not do it at sunrise? The moment when the sun starts to peek over the horizon is very special, and as the sunlight starts to glow across the sky, it will make for a truly memorable start to your day together.

**2. Go for a bike ride:** Put some effort into the planning, and with a little creativity, this can be a lovely day out. First, if you don't both own bikes, figure out the most convenient spot to rent them. Sit down and decide your destination; go somewhere that neither of you have been to before and explore a new place together. Find a great place to stop for a leisurely lunch and then resume your adventure.

**Related Link:** [A Summer of Love](#)

**3. Wine tasting tour:** Even if you're not really a fan of wine, there is something rather romantic about being in the wine country surrounded by vineyards in the middle of nowhere. Plus, sampling a winery's finest is not expensive; some tastings are as low as 10 dollars or even free with a purchase. Once you learn the process of how wine is made and the history behind your favorite vineyards, you might want to bring a bottle home with you.

**4. Rent a jet ski:** If you're located near water, a jet ski can be a great way to bond with your man. As you hold on tightly to each other, there's an element of trust, and combined with the adrenaline rush from the speed, you're sure to get your heart racing! Let's not forget that you're wearing your swimsuits, and skin-to-skin touch immediately amps up the excitement factor.

**5. Fairground fun:** Remember when you were young and the thrill of the fairground never ceased to amaze you? Well, it still can! Laughter is a fabulous aphrodisiac. Riding the ferris wheel while holding hands; chasing each other in the bumper cars; or enjoying feeding each other cotton candy can evoke

fond childhood memories and also create new ones with your partner.

**6. Sunset cruise:** Nothing conjures up romance more than watching a sunset wrapped in each other arms. If you live near the ocean, take advantage of the sunset cruises available. As you sail away together, you can enjoy cocktails, dinner and music – a truly wonderful way to reconnect on a summer night.

**7. Drive-in movie:** These theaters aren't as common as days gone by, making them even more special. There is something quite iconic about a drive-in date. Think about your grandparents and imagine this is what they might have done during their courtship. Find a spot near you that's playing a romantic flick, recline in your car seats, and enjoy the unique experience.

**8. Outdoor music festival:** Music has and will always be a great way to achieve a feel-good factor. Singing and dancing together brings closeness to a couple. Check your local parks to see who is playing; there's a wide spectrum of mostly unknown but terrifically talented performers. Just grab a blanket, some munchies, and some sunscreen, and get ready to have some fun.

**Related Link:** [The New Dating Game](#)

**9. Camping:** Get ready to spend the night together outdoors. Make sure you have a double sleeping bag to cuddle in, and light a campfire to roast marshmallows and make s'mores. Alternatively, if you're not so in tune with Mother Nature, you can turn it up a notch and try "glamping" (glamorous camping). No tents to pitch or fires to build here! Enjoy the great outdoors without giving up modern luxury.

**10. Dinner under the stars:** Create a romantic ambiance in your garden or on your roof top (permitting). Play soft music, light many candles, and bring throw pillows and a blanket – really set the scene and reignite the flames of love in the

privacy of your own space. After dinner, lie back to look at the stars with your dearest and savor the sweetest kisses.

*Melanie Mar is a celebrity relationship specialist, matchmaker, and life coach. For more information on Melanie, you can follow her on Twitter @Melanie\_Mar [www.facebook.com/melaniemarinternational](http://www.facebook.com/melaniemarinternational)*

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## How to Create a Great (No Meal) First Date



By Kristin Mattern

You've met someone special. You're electrified with excitement

and looking for a date idea, but you don't have the money for a meal, or you're just not feeling food for your first date. No problem! There are tons of great date ideas that will wow your new sweetie without having to deal with preparing a three-course dinner. With a little creativity, and a quick bite before you leave, you and your honey will have a wonderful time sans-food.

Start your date after dinnertime, and while you'll still be ingesting something, grabbing a cup of coffee is a great way to begin the date. The two of you can meet up at the coffee shop of your choice, order your favorite drinks and treat your darling to his/her cup-of-joe. This nice gesture will get the date going. Sit and enjoy the cozy coffee shop atmosphere and chat over your drinks about what each of you do for a living, favorite activities and interests. Make sure to listen as much as you speak. You don't want to dominate the conversation.

**Related:** [Five Conversations to Avoid on the First Date](#)

While you're both enjoying your cozy caffeine haze and butterfly jitters, continue the date by heading over to a local museum. Admission is fairly priced, if not free, and the abundance of art or historical pieces makes for great conversation starters. *Howaboutwe.com* recommends The Merchant House Museum in NYC, the Museum of Contemporary Art in LA, the Hirshorn Museum in DC and the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco as some great date museums. As you tour, show off your art or history knowledge, or discover if your sweetie is a museum lover. Slowly meander through the exhibits as you chat about one another and the various items on display. Museums or art exhibitions are great because the two of you can still speak to one another while enjoying the stimulating cultural atmosphere. Learn about each other while you share the moment of learning something new.

After you've both exhausted the exhibits, grab your babe and

take an urban stroll. Explore the town or city that the museum is located in, or drive to the nearest downtown area to take advantage of what the strip has to offer. Check out the town or city website before you go to find out what is going on in the area. Sometimes, especially in the warmer months, there will be live music or other free events like festivals and street fairs. Aim for your date to be on a day when an event is going on, so as you walk around you can enjoy the sweet sensations of a smooth jazz concert, or share some screams at a community carnival with your sweetheart. Play it smooth and make it seem like you didn't know the event was going on, it will increase the first date magic and feeling of serendipity. If you live near a historic town, see if you can walk around battlefields or visit houses where important people have lived, like Teddy Roosevelt's house, or where George Washington grew up. This date can take you anywhere; just make sure you both wear sturdy shoes.

**Related:** [Falling In Love: When to Say the L-Word for the First Time](#)

To end the date, find a place where the two of you can look out over the landscape of the city or town you are in. If you live near the water, head out to a local pier to admire the open ocean. Hold your honey as the sun goes down, or take in the beautiful sight of the moon shining over the scenery. Get a little sentimental with this date ending, it's sure to be a memorable one.

**Ever gone "hungry" on a first date? Tell us all about it in the comments below!**

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



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

Start your morning with red. Get up before the birds, hike up to the tallest point in town and cuddle with your man while you watch the sunrise. Then, share a breakfast picnic made out

of red foods: pack a fruit salad with seasonal favorites like strawberries, cherries, blood oranges and red grapes, or make some roasted red breakfast potatoes. You can even allow yourselves a bit of red wine to drink during the sunrise.

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

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

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

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## **Date Idea: Celebrate Half-Christmas**





By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

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

Start by decorating your home like it's Christmas: hang garland, lights and maybe even mistletoe in every room. You can even get a little crafty and make paper snowflakes or a DIY Christmas Tree. Try involving every sense so that it really feels like the holidays. Light an evergreen tree-scented candle and pop some gingerbread in the oven, making your whole place smell like Christmas. You can even turn up the air conditioning just a bit so you can wear your favorite Christmas sweater (ugly or not).

Plan a holiday feast that you and your beau can make together. Make the traditional holiday foods, such as stuffing, turkey, ham, sweet potatoes and roasted vegetables. This half-Christmas is also a chance to try out unique and innovative recipes in advance of the next holiday. Try a color-themed menu of red and green foods, including baked apples filled

with brown sugar, butter, and cinnamon, an egg frittata with green spinach and red or green peppers, kale soup or cherry pie.

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

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

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

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

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

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# Your First Trip Together? 10 Packing Tips



By Laura Seldon for GalTime.com

Packing for any vacation can be exhausting, but it gets even harder when you're deciding what to take on your first trip with your new flame. But just like in relationships, when it comes to packing for a trip, it's best to leave all extra baggage behind! To help you "pack for success," here are the top 10 things to take with you whether you are hitting the wide-open road together, or jetting away to somewhere exotic!

## 1. Comfy Walking Shoes

Start your trip off on the right foot with a good pair of walking shoes. While you may want to look good in front of

your new love interest, it's important to bring a reliable pair of sneakers "so you can walk and explore together," says author Carrie Knowles.

## **2. Picnic Provisions**

What's better than a romantic meal for two? A romantic picnic for two! "Bring a small backpack with a corkscrew and knife for an impromptu picnic," suggests Knowles. This way you and your new suitor can enjoy some alone time in the great outdoors!

**Related:** [10 Relationship Behaviors You Think Are Odd...That Are Totally Normal!](#)

## **3. Reading Materials**

Consider sharing more than just a hotel room on your romantic getaway – how about sharing a book as well? "That way you can read to each other," explains Knowles. "There's nothing more romantic." Not only will reading together give you something to talk about, but reading something sexy (think *Fifty Shades of Grey*) could really heat up your excursion!

## **4. First-Aid Kit**

Allergies, indigestion and bloating will cramp your style on a romantic getaway. "Bring a first-aid kit," says Bonnie Joy Dewkett, a professional organizer and packing pro. "Because nothing is worse than having your time spoiled by a headache, sunburn or upset stomach."

## **5. GPS & Maps**

Navigate your way to romance with the help of your trusty GPS! "Couples notoriously fight over directions," says Dewkett. "The key to a road trip is to have a GPS, maps and a plan!"

## **6. Denim with Diversity**

Be sure to pack a pair of jeans that can be dressed up or down. “Who knows what activities your romantic getaway will entail,” says Jennifer Kelton, a dating advisor and the founder of DressForTheDate.com. “Pack a pair of jeans that can be dressed down for activities like horseback riding, but can also be dressed up for hitting a trendy pub.”

**Related:** [Fend Off the Post-Wedding Blues](#)

## **7. Unisex Toiletries**

If you’re already sharing a book (as advised in #3), then why not share a few bathroom products as well, including shampoo, conditioner and lotion? “Sharing is caring,” says PR pro Stephanie Scott. “And it also cuts down on the amount of products that you need to pack. Try travel-sized goodies that couples can share.”

## **8. A Good Playlist**

When there’s a moment of awkward silence, it’s best to fill it with the sound of music! Just make sure your playlist (for the car or bedroom) include songs you both like, advises Dr. Jane Greer, a marriage and family therapist. “It will destroy the whole trip if your car ride isn’t enjoyable.”

## **9. A Solid Set of Snacks**

Don’t rely on a run-down convenience store for your snack supply! Instead, ask your new flame for a list of their favorite snacks (granola bars, chips, apples, etc.) and pack some provisions. “Bring some of your favorite snacks to ease tension on the road,” suggests Aimee Cebulski, author of *The Finding 40 Project*. “It will also ward off the crankies and make each of you happy.”

## **10. An Open Mind**

One of the most important items you can bring with you on any vacation is an open mind. “It sounds cheesy,” says Cebulski.

“But this might be the first time you see your sweetheart clean his ears... or he sees that you are an extreme over-packer. Go easy on each other. It’s supposed to be fun!”

The best part about taking an open mind on your trip? It takes up hardly any space in your suitcase!

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## Date Idea: Summer Sightseeing



By Sarah Ribeiro

Every town, no matter how small, has special hotspots. Some cities have historic sites that draw crowds or a landmark that’s famous nationally. Others just have beautiful locales in the nooks and crannies of town that only the locals know



about. This weekend, you and your sweetheart can see the sights as an insider without having to leave your hometown.

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

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

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

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

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

something new with your significant other.

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

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## Dating Advice: 10 Great Date Ideas Under \$50



By Laura Seldon for GalTime.com

Great dates don't have to come in the form of a helicopter ride at sunset or a weekend spa getaway (although a massage does sound nice right about now...) No, contrary to what *The Bachelor* would have you believe, romance doesn't depend on

spending money in big flashy ways. To prove it, here are 10 fun and unique date ideas that will cost you less than \$50!

### **1. Hit up a video arcade**

Tired of playing games in relationships? You won't feel that way when the games are part of a video console! "This kind of date makes you feel like a kid again," says Tripp, a dating coach in Los Angeles and the founder of TrippAdvice.com. "Playing games and building up the tension of competition can make for a steamy date!"

### **2. Plan a picnic**

Seems a bit cheesy for a date, right? Well, think again! Planning a picnic is a great way to get to know someone new beyond the walls of a coffee shop. "Go to the grocery store with your date and pick out the food together," suggests Tripp. "Make sure you have a blanket in your car and pick a scenic spot."

### **3. Visit the farmer's market**

Like planning a picnic, heading to the farmer's market allows you to spend some quality time with your date in a relaxing outdoor space. "Check out your local farmer's market and make a nice afternoon of it," says Tripp. "Pick out some fresh food and eat while you enjoy the day together."

### **4. Compete in a game night**

Nothing stokes the romance flames like a little competition! "Invite your date over to play an array of games together while you eat some snacks or have a few drinks," says Tripp. However, Tripp also suggests you go beyond playing innocent board games. "There's nothing like a risqué game of strip poker when the mood is right!"

### **5. Make it a group date**

“Get a bunch of other couples to screen a movie on the side of someone’s garage,” suggests Dr. Nancy Irwin, a therapist and life coach in Los Angeles. No place to screen a movie? Throw a potluck picnic in your backyard. “This is really fun because it is a party with as many other people as you like.”

Not only will you reduce your costs if you get a few other couples in on the fun, but you’ll also be bonding with your friends and your date all at once.

## **6. Visit a museum**

Museum tickets don’t necessarily have to add up to a pricey date. “In many cities, there are usually free museum days,” says Larry Moore, a relationship expert and blogger in Houston, Texas. “Museums are great for dates because there’s always something in the museum that sparks conversation or serves as an ice breaker, giving each person a chance to get to know more about the other person.”

## **7. Show ‘em your hood**

Consider spending a romantic evening touring your neighborhood with the object of your affection. “What better way is there to show a date who you really are than to show that person where you are from?” asks Sujeiry Gonzalez, a relationship expert and author in Los Angeles. “Besides, you have home advantage. You know the little shops and restaurants that won’t bleed out your wallet!”

## **8. Explore your hobbies**

Always wanted to learn a few skills in the kitchen? Longing to try out rock climbing? Ready to take your love for dance to the next level? Then do it... but with a date! “Not only will you build your relationship, but you may also end up realizing you both have another shared interest,” says Marni Kinrys, founder of MarniWingGirl.com. “It’s also great for conversation starters!”

## 9. Peruse a thrift store

Take a date shopping at a thrift store and compete to see who can find the silliest outfit. You can even take pictures and have a few mementos from your date. "Showing your fun side while trying on silly hats and taking pictures will create a lasting memory for both of you," says Jeff Callahan, a dating coach in Little Rock, Arkansas. "I believe that having a fantastic date shouldn't crush your wallet."

## 10. Browse your local bookstore

Judge a few books by their covers while perusing the romance novel section of your local bookstore. Not only is it free, but it's also utterly entertaining. "Reading trashy romance novels aloud to each other will make you both laugh," says Callahan. "And possibly set the mood for romance." So, head to a local book shop and tell your date to read between the lines!

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# Dating Advice: 5 Date Ideas Created Just for Moms





By [Whitney Baker Johnson](#)

It's always important to recognize the hard work moms do – not just on Mother's Day, but every day of the year. They often put their partners and children first, forgetting to take time for themselves. This May, we're encouraging moms to step away from their household duties and embrace some kid-free time with their significant others. Remember, your loved ones want to make you just as happy as you make them. Below are five date ideas that every mom will enjoy.

**1. Chick Flick:** Sure, your beau may want to see the latest action movie, but instead, pick the most romantic movie in theaters and enjoy every cheesy minute of it. Take this opportunity to snuggle up to your hubby and reignite the spark that may be dimming. You'll have at least two hours to relax and decompress before you resume your mom duties.

**Related:** [Create an Action Plan to Make Every Date Feel Like Valentine's Day](#)

**2. Spa Day:** While your man may be hesitant to admit it, he'll

enjoy a couple's massage just as much as you do. Be fully in the moment as you both take this time to recharge. Get a manicure, pedicure or a facial to make the most of your day of pampering. Your partner can sip on some champagne and keep you company while you feel like a princess for an afternoon.

**3. Just Dance:** Sometimes, the best way to let loose is to literally *let loose*. Sign up for weekly dance classes and learn a romantic waltz together, or head to a local salsa club and practice your moves in an environment filled with passion. Any mom will love the chance to not only bond with her significant other, but to also do an adult-only activity. End your night with a glass of wine at your favorite restaurant.

**4. Date Night at Home:** Plan for grandma and grandpa to watch your children so that you and your honey can have a fun evening in the comfort of your own home. Cook a romantic meal together and open up your favorite bottle of wine. Enjoy the warm weather by cuddling up outside and counting the stars. Steer conversation away from your babies, and instead, focus on your marriage. When bedtime rolls around, don't set an alarm!

**Related:** [How Celebrity Moms Keep an Active Dating Life](#)

**5. Breakfast in Bed:** Don't let your date night at home end when you crawl in bed. Wrap up your alone time with breakfast in bed. You can make an extravagant meal with all of your favorite foods: from scrambled eggs with cheese and fresh vegetables to crispy bacon and toast topped with butter and homemade jam. Order in from a local diner – somewhere you may have frequented before the kids came along – and enjoy every greasy bite.

**Moms, we want to hear from you: What's your favorite date idea? Share below.**

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# Date Idea: Go Paintballing Together



By Daniela Agurcia

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



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

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

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

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

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

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# Date Idea: Personal Spring Cleaning



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

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

other that make you feel sexy and attractive.

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

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

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

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

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# Date Idea: Shoot Some Hoops



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Date Idea: Go On A Pub Crawl



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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