

Date Idea: Throw a Classic Movie Night



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

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

works on homemade slushies.

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

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

After your hours of movie watching, get yourself ready for your next movie date – and this time, head to the theaters. Peruse the internet for movie trailers and figure out which films just may be your newest favorites.

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

Date Idea: Expand Your Tastes



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

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

remember: eating, laughing and dancing the night away.

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

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

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

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

How to Date Like A Celebrity



By Andrea Surujnauth

You always hear about celebrities going on flashy dates and having such a great time. But how can we experience glamorous dates like that without having to rob a bank? We took some extravagant dates by different celebrities ... and re-modeled them with more reasonable price tags. No need to break a sweat when re-creating these amazing dates:

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez

The Biebs has a wallet that weighs more than he does, so he had no problem taking Selena Gomez to the Staples Center just to watch the *Titanic* ... all alone. No biggie!

DIY Version:

Throw on a nice outfit. Just because you're watching a movie at home doesn't mean it has to be the same old DVD and pajama routine. No need to wear a dress suit, but give the pajamas a rest today. Get a projector and some yummy popcorn. Turn the lights off, get close and enjoy your at home movie. No LA Lakers arena needed!

Related: [Creative Dating on a Dime for Valentine's Day](#)

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux

This sweet couple decided to have a romantic dinner under the stars. The two were in Paris together and had a nice meal in the Eiffel Tower. Talk about a star-studded date!

DIY Version:

Have a late night picnic in your backyard. Cook something nice, dress up your backyard picnic table with a white table cloth, and light a few tikki torches and candles. Sit out in your backyard and watch the stars while you and your date enjoy a meal. Who needs Paris with a date like that?

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez (again)

This kid never takes a break from spending all that money. He took Selena Gomez to see a Demi Lovato concert. How sweet! Is it any wonder why girls all around the world go crazy for this teen sensation?

DIY Version:

We all know how much those concert tickets cost. The only seats that are well...sort of.. affordable are the ones all the way in the back. Binoculars anyone? Well instead of wasting money on a terrible date, go see a local band perform. The music is just as great with less crowds.

Related: [Date Idea: Dress Up](#)

Sophia Vergara and Nick Loeb

So this hot couple went to Mexico to see the ruins together. Vergara brought her whole family and ended up getting engaged on top of one of the ruins. The two got permission to climb one of the beautiful ruins where Loeb got down on one knee and proposed to Vergara.

DIY Version:

Here is a date idea with some history thrown in just like Vergara's rendezvous in Mexico but minus the proposal. Go to museum with your beau. Museums usually have one free day and some are even free everyday. How's that for a breathtaking price tag?

What are some ways you re-create celebrity dates? Comment below and let us know.

Date Idea: Warm Up With Winter Cocktails





By Deanna Atkins

You and your special someone can enjoy what's left of this chilly winter with warm cocktails that are perfect for this time of year. [Indulging](#) in a hot spiked apple cider or learning how to make a hot toddy will set you up for an intimate night that's different from just cracking open a couple of beers or sipping on a glass of wine.

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

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

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

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

What is your favorite winter cocktail? Share below.

Date Idea: Get Dorky Together





By Deanna Atkins

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

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

Another way you can get dorky (and impress your man) is by playing a few rounds of video games. Dabble in some Xbox Live so you can each talk to one other through the microphone in your headsets. It will be a fun way to connect, especially if you play Nazi Zombies in *Call of Duty*. Your goal will be to slay the living corpses using shotguns, molten cocktails and machine guns while simultaneously protecting one another. If

blood and gore isn't your style, dig out your retro Nintendo 64 to play some old-school *Mario Kart*. Racing each other head-to-head will be a friendly competition that could continue all night.

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

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

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

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

Giveaway: Datevitation: A Valentine's Day Gift That

Your Partner Will Never Forget



This post is sponsored by Datevitation.

By Whitney Baker

Whether you've been dating your man for a few weeks or a few years, planning a spontaneous and unique date is never easy. Not only do you have to think of something that you've never done before, but you have to find an activity that you'll both (hopefully) enjoy. And with holidays like Valentine's Day come an added pressure to please your partner.

[Datevitation](#) is here to help. Datevitation is the first and only fully customizable book of date coupons, allowing you to create a one-of-a-kind gift for your significant other. The

library is full of hundreds of date ideas, ranging from simple gestures of love (like stargazing and cuddling) to adventurous activities (including skydiving and scuba-diving) to ways to reignite the romance in your relationship (like recreating your first date or enjoying a couples massage). You can change the text of each coupon to include a silly inside joke or sweet reminder of your love. Plus, you can personalize your coupon book with a special cover and heartfelt message on the first page. Books start at \$20, which includes five date coupons.



Thanks to Datevitation, you'll never have to wonder about what to do on your next date night. Plus, your boyfriend or girlfriend will be touched by your thoughtfulness and excited for the dates to come! In honor of Valentine's Day, two lucky CupidsPulse.com readers will receive a code to create a Datevitation gift book worth \$50.

~~**GIVEAWAY ALERT:** To enter for a chance to win a Datevitation gift book, go to our Facebook page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winners via Facebook when the giveaway is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, February 20. Good luck!~~

Congratulations to Raz Kassam and Stacey Plapinger!

Giveaway: Spend Valentine's Day in a Champagne Bubble Battle



This post is sponsored by Wine Bottles.

By [Whitney Baker](#)

There isn't much time left before Valentine's Day, and if you're anything like the staff here at CupidsPulse.com, we are always looking for unique ideas to celebrate the holiday. Recently, we stumbled upon a very cool way to have a memorable night with your significant other or best girlfriends. It's

called [Wine Battles](#), and we have a feeling it's going to be a hit once more people hear about it.

Wine Battles is a tournament-style wine-tasting competition that provides you with the chance to taste amazing wines in the comfort of your own home while enjoying a great bonding experience. Every Battle is designed for a specific period of time, either three or seven weeks, and focuses on a specific varietal or theme. Each week during your Battle, you will receive two naturally contrasting wines as well as educational materials to help you improve upon your wine tasting skills and understand your individual palate. The wines are voted on each week until a winner is declared based on the popular vote of the tournament's battlers. This experience allows you to enjoy wines outside of your comfort zone and improve your wine-tasting skills. To make the battles even more fun, you can post your scores and notes online and also share on Facebook and Twitter. By the end of the tournament, you're sure to be a more knowledgeable wine enthusiast.

Just in time for the most romantic day of the year, Wine Battles is hosting what they call a [Champagne Bubble Battle](#), a special, one-night event featuring Laurent Perrier Brut L-P and Alfred Gratien Brut Classique. You and your lucky partner can sip the finest wines from the Champagne region of France as you enjoy spending time together. The Bubble Battle is packaged in a handcrafted, wooden wine box and includes an assortment of premium chocolates as well as your choice of Valentine's Day card. It also contains the Wine Battles Getting Started Guide and professional tasting notes for each of the competing vintages.

If the Bubble Battle sounds like just what you had in mind for February 14th, don't miss our giveaway! One CupidsPulse.com reader will win a Champagne Bubble Battle to enjoy on with their sweetheart! Now, this is a unique idea we really like!

~~GIVEAWAY ALERT: To enter for a chance to win a Champagne Bubble Battle, go to our [Facebook](#) page and click "like." Leave a comment under our giveaway post letting us know that you want to enter the contest. We will contact the winner via [Facebook](#) when the contest is over, and they will have three days to respond back with their contact information. The deadline to enter is 5:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 5th. Good luck!~~

Congratulations to Bari Rubin for winning a Champagne Bubble Battle!

Date Idea: Dress Up



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#)

Tired of being cooped up all winter? Refresh everything you learned in college acting class by pretending to be someone you're not. Dress up with your [honey](#) and have the time of your life revitalizing your imagination.

Search for nightclubs having costume parties and spend the night dancing in your babe's arms dressed as the king and queen of the ball. Many city nightclubs have themed nights, such as sci-fi, masquerade, 80's attire, 'Alice in Wonderland' or even 'Twilight.' Club Oberon in Boston has a weekly "Donkey Show": while their dance party rages on, a subtle re-enactment of Shakespeare's classic [romantic](#) comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is performed around the club. Additionally, Marquee in Manhattan throws a European party every Friday, celebrating the party cultures of different European nations.

Go to a cosplaying (costume playing) convention and tap into your inner nerd, dressing as your favorite comic book character and reaping the benefits of watching early film footage and trailers. Ohayohcon and Setsucon are two huge conventions that are traditionally held the last weekend in January in Columbus, Ohio, and at Penn State College respectively. Be sure to stick around once the convention ends: the after parties are usually at local nightclubs where you can party all night with your [sweetheart](#).

If you enjoy more ancient stories, visit a renaissance fair or even try out LARPing (live action role playing). You and your honey can dress as medieval royalty and play pretend in another century. Live out a fairy tale adventure together as your knight in shining armor saves you, a damsel in distress, from the hands of an evil dragon. You can act as your favorite 'Lord of the Rings' character or get into a more recent groove and dress up as someone from HBO's 'Game of Thrones.'

If you don't have the money to be hitting up the city (or

don't live near one), stay in for the night. During the day, head to your closest Goodwill store and get 20 dollars worth of old, strange clothing and accessories. Once you get back home, come up with the most ridiculous outfits that you and your [partner](#) can create. If you want, you can even put outfits together for each other. Make up scorecards and judge each other on creativity and hilarity.

At the end of the [date](#), the two of you can take a photo in your get-ups and frame it as a memento of the silly and imaginative time you had together.

What are your favorite dress up dates? Tell us below.

Date Idea: Get Off the Grid





By Sarah Ribeiro

Stay away from a boring date night this weekend and go on a spontaneous road trip with your partner by hopping in the car and driving with no plans in place.

Start off in your town, exploring neighborhoods you've never seen and finding restaurants, cafes or other niche spots for future dates together. Then, take it one step further: skip the highway and take a back road to somewhere random on the map, maybe a nearby town or a tourist attraction that you've been meaning to see. Don't forget to bring a camera so the two of you will always remember the places that you visited.

For added adventure, go out of the state. Take the highway as far as you dare and stop at the cutest bed and breakfast that fits within your budget. Find a famous landmark in a neighboring state or follow the signs to the most intriguing spot advertised on the highway. Some great – and somewhat strange – tourist spots include Ruby Falls in Tennessee, the Oz Museum in Kansas, Lizzie Borden's Bed and Breakfast in Massachusetts or the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. Look for more

unique tourist attractions at Roadside America and pick out your favorites.

Cash in on your significant other's interests and find somewhere that fits with his hobbies. Is he a gamer? Look for a retro arcade in a small town. Is he a wine or beer connoisseur? Visit a vineyard or brewery for some local flavor and be sure to take home some free samples.

You can check things off your bucket list during the trip too. Drive down to your local airfield and take your journey on a thrill-seeking twist by going skydiving or taking flying lessons. Enjoy a hot-air balloon ride or even get completely off the grid by going off-roading.

In the car, do your best to keep your man entertained. Play some old-fashioned car games, like Twenty Questions – a great way to get to know your sweetheart better – or the traditional License Plate Game, where you compete against each other to find license plates from each state (bonus points for international plates). Be sure to bring some healthy snacks with you too, like granola, trail mix or fresh fruit.

The most important thing to remember on this date is to not to plan a thing. Let the road carry you and your partner to a memorable weekend.

What are some of your best off-the-grid locations? Share them in the comments below.

Date Idea: Bring the Beach to

You



By Sarah Ribeiro

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

The first step for this amazing date weekend is to crank up the heat in your house. Forget about how chilly it is outside by keeping your thermostat set to summer temperatures. You and your sweetheart can pretend you're on the beach while lounging around in each other's arms, blasting Bob Marley and dreaming of the sunshine. To really relax, dim the lights and lead each other in a soothing yoga and meditation session.

For dinner, enjoy grilled pork and pineapple kebabs and picture yourself in paradise. To really set the mood, keep a

beach-themed film on in the background; 'Forgetting Sarah Marshall' is a great romantic comedy set in Hawaii. After you're finished eating, head back to the kitchen and have a friendly dessert-making competition with your partner: prepare the the most tropical dessert you can think of, like key lime pie, fried ice cream or chocolate-dipped coconut macaroons. For something a bit easier, keep a bowl of fruit handy and feed each other. Passion fruit is tropical and in season in January, and it tastes great cubed and frozen.

For some added fun, turn your bathtub into a Jacuzzi. You and your honey can soak in the tub, drinking pina coladas and margaritas. Perhaps you'll even be inspired to plan a real vacation together. Grab some travel brochures or pull up a travel website, pick out your favorite tropical locations and consider what activities you can do there: horseback riding in Hawaii, nightclubbing in Ibiza, hang gliding in Brazil. Figure out ways that you and your sweetheart can start saving up for your romantic getaway.

After a nice long soak, break out the coconut oil and give your love a tropical spa treatment: spread some beach towels on the bed and take turns giving each other massages. Find your favorite massage bar at lushusa.com – their Heavenilli bar is made specifically for the bedroom. If you want a challenge, create your own home spa treatments, like a simple seaweed wrap, or try a home-made facial with fresh fruit, olive oil or yogurt. No matter what, keep each other pampered in true vacation style.

Have any ideas for a faux beach getaway? Let us know in the comments.

Taylor Swift and Beau Harry Styles Kiss at Midnight for the New Year



By [Jennifer Ross](#)

It was definitely a “[rockin’](#)” night for Taylor Swift and Harry Styles on New Year’s Eve. The swooning duo celebrated the evening in Time Square with an official [kiss](#) that was captured by a [witness’](#) fuzzy photo, which has now gone viral. Swift, 23, was in New York City to perform “I Knew You Were Trouble” and “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” that Monday night on Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve with Ryan Seacrest. With millions of people watching that night, Swift and Styles’ New Year’s kiss was a romantic moment seen round the world.

What are some ways to welcome the New Year with your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

Who doesn't want to start a New Year perfectly by stealing a [kiss](#) from your beau at the stroke of midnight?! If standing for endless hours jam packed with thousands of strangers, waiting for the Big Apple's ball to drop, don't worry. Here are a few optional ways to celebrate the New Year with your partner:

1. Host a party: Just like you and your [mate](#), there are probably other couples that enjoy a great glass of champagne at midnight. If so, host a small party at home with great friends, hors d'oeuvres and plenty of bubbly to go around.

2. Make reservations: To take the party out on the town, make reservations for a [romantic dinner](#) for two at your favorite place. It doesn't have to be a fancy place; so be creative. Also, be sure to book months in advance.

3. Stay in: If Dick Clark is your idea of fun but can't be in Time Square that night, a great option is to stay in with your [partner](#). Watching the NYE countdown with a glass of champagne and sexy pajamas will surely be a night worth remembering.

How did you welcome the New Year with your partner? Tell us below.

Date Idea: Christmas Movie

Marathon



By Samantha Mucha

Getting cozy with your mate by the fire while watching ABC Family's '25 Days of Christmas' should be number one on your to-do date list this holiday season. Leave the freezing winter weather outside and kick back for an indoor weekend with your sweetheart.

Watching Christmas movies will not only put you and your lover in the holiday spirit, but the price is right – free. Throughout the month of December, there are a variety of holiday themed broadcasts on all of the national networks. The choice is yours, really. Of course, if you're lucky enough to own a DVR, you won't have to choose. You can load up "Miracle on 34th Street," "8 Crazy Nights," and "A Christmas Story" and

watch them whenever you please.

To make this into a romantic evening, pour some wine or brew up some hot cocoa. You can even go above and beyond by renting your man's favorite childhood Christmas films. If you are in the mood to get nostalgic, ask your partner's parents to share old home movies of your boyfriend on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Watching videos of him as a child can help spark good feelings and could be a Christmas tradition that you decide to continue in your relationship.

It's only getting colder. So, get the popcorn popping and throw on your best flannel pajamas. Cozy up with your holiday honey for the most relaxing moments you'll have for the entire holiday season.

What's your favorite Christmas movie? Share your top pick with our readers by commenting below.

5 Ways that You and Your Honey Can Give Back During the Holiday





By Courtney Allen

'Tis the season to be jolly, especially with the one you love. Take advantage of this year's exciting end with your significant other by spreading holiday cheer the best way possible: by giving back. Show thanks for everything in your life, including your sweetie, by bringing fortune into the lives of others. Here are five great ways for you and your honey to wrap up the year right:

1. Organize dinner at a soup kitchen: Go above and beyond this year by offering to plan, prepare and serve dinner to the less fortunate at your local soup kitchen. Get creative with your love as you plan a delicious three-course meal and put together a spirit-filled set-up.

2. Deliver Christmas presents: Join a church or work group to deliver Christmas presents to deserving families who cannot afford to buy gifts. Surprise them at their door with lots of love and holiday wishes. Let the spirit of giving fill up your heart with your sweetie by your side.

Related Link: [How to Ring in the New Year like a Celeb](#)

3. Help build a house: Pull out the nails and the hammers and go to work with Habitat for Humanity to build a new home for a family in your community. Provide a family the best Christmas gift you could ever give. Create a fulfilling experience with your darling that you will never forget.

4. Adopt a family: Commit to providing an unfortunate family with necessities, cooked meals and unconditional love for an entire weekend. Get to know the family by visiting with your man. Make the holidays worth more than any gift you could receive by bringing joy into someone else's life.

Related Link: [Create a New Years Resolution with your Partner](#)

5. Spend time at a nursing home: Spend a day visiting the elderly at a nursing home in your city. Help put a smile on the some of the sweetest faces in the world. Sing Christmas duets with your favorite guy as the residents enjoy your prepared egg nog and gingerbread cookies to bring just enough holiday cheer to their day.

How will you and your man give back during the holiday season? Share your stories with us.

**Date Idea: Wrap Gifts
Together**





By Samantha Mucha

The holiday season can be a stressful time with your partner, even though it should be full of joy and holiday cheer. To lessen your to-do list this December, and still have time for a date night, try something different with your sweetheart. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons, and tape. It's time to channel your inner Christmas Elf.

There's no doubt that wrapping gifts is a difficult task. It's an endeavor that should be left for the most skilled and nimble-fingered family members. Yet, nothing says "I support you, babe!" quite like helping out. Have your lover join you.

It may sound like you are just recruiting your man to do your chores while you sit back and relax, but that is not the case at all. It becomes less a of a task and more of a constructive activity when you two do it together. Have your significant other bring over their unwrapped gifts (but not yours, you don't want to ruin a good surprise) and the two of you can work together.

To make your Friday night even more entertaining turn gift-wrapping into a game. Maybe your relationship could use a little competitive edge. Try timing yourselves to see who can make the best looking package in the quickest amount of time. The winner has to bake cookies for the not-so-perfect wrapper.

Putting on some holiday music while sitting by a warm fire is a romantic conclusion to this date. After your gifts are piled neatly under the tree, sit back and relax with your beau. As the night of gift-wrapping fun comes to a close, catch a Christmas movie on TV and drift off to sleep cuddled up in each others arms.

What unique date ideas do you have during the holidays? Share your ideas below.

Date Idea: Ice Sculpting Festival





By Samantha Mucha

Do you and your sweetheart enjoy looking at art, or even making your own pieces? If so, take date night to the next level this winter by visiting an ice sculpting festival. These events typically happen near ski resorts or state parks. Look online to find out if there is one near you. If you and your significant other want to travel and have the budget, make a weekend out of it. It's a breathtaking experience that you will want to see at least once in your lifetime.

The art of ice sculpting is incredible; talented artists are able to turn a block of ice into castles and mystical creatures of every sort, as well as hundreds of other one-of-a-kind designs. Talk about a romantic winter wonderland. Spending the day walking around one of these festivals can be exciting as a couple. Get up close and check out the intricate details of the masterpieces. Make sure to take your video camera to capture the day for folks back home.

When you're done being in awe of the fantastic artwork, find a

cozy spot for dinner. Since you will most likely be traveling, try a local restaurant in the area. On your drive home share your favorite pieces with your mate and compare your thoughts. If you and your beau plan to tie the knot one day, maybe you will stumble upon a design that can be incorporated into your own wedding theme.

Have you ever been to an ice sculpting festival? Tell us where it was and what you thought by commenting below.

How To Have An Extraordinary Date At The Bookstore



By Alex Karpman

I hate to be Debbie Downer, but at the rate brick and mortar book stores are closing, I don't know how much longer this awesome date venue will be available. Doesn't it feel like just yesterday that there was all the uproar about how the mega-book stores were killing off the mom and pop book shops?

Remember the movie *You've Got Mail* and how disgusted you were when Joe Fox's (Tom Hanks) Fox Books forced Kathleen Kelly's (Meg Ryan) *Little Shop Around the Corner* out of business? And now Amazon and e-commerce is killing off the mega-book stores. My point is ... make sure to head over to your local book store ASAP while you still can to enjoy this awesome date. Check out the video below to see how Olga and I had a blast exploring the travel, architecture, joke and sexuality sections of the bookstore:

What's your take on this date idea? Share your thoughts below.

Datevitation.com is happy to offer free shipping on our books only to CupidsPulse.com readers. Just enter the code – cupid – at the checkout page, and you'll be discounted the \$3.50 that we normally charge for shipping. The free shipping code expires on Dec 15.

This is a guest post Alex Karpman, founder of Datevitation.com, the web's first custom love coupon platform where you can create a one-of-a-kind gift book full of fun things to do with your sweetie, or send electronic love coupons via email or facebook. Alex and his wife Olga also offer free step-by-step video guides to romantic tips and date ideas (similar to the video below) on the [Datevitation Blog](http://Datevitation.com).

Date Idea: Go Holiday Shopping Together



By Samantha Mucha

This holiday season get your shopping done early. Turn this chore into a date and take your sweetheart with you. Doing this tedious task will be exponentially more romantic if you accomplish it together.

Make a list for both of you and see what you can tackle as a team. Both of your mothers will love new pajama and slipper sets, and both of your fathers will both enjoy ties, all from the same department store. Map your route before you hit the mall to ensure you have the smoothest shopping experience. Keep the romance strong and keep the arguing to a minimum!

Since this will most likely be a full day event be sure to feed your man so that he doesn't become agitated and ruin the day. Make pit stops at Starbucks and the food court throughout the day. Don't worry about the calories because all of that walking and bag carrying will burn them off.

Try to get as much shopping done as possible. However, don't buy your partner's gift in front of him. Let it be a surprise. The plus side of shopping early together is seeing what catches your beau's eye. Stop by your significant other's favorite store and see what they drool over. At a later date sneak back to the mall and pick it up for them.

Don't let shopping all day become stressful. Take your lover by the hand, take on the mall while emptying your pockets for the sake of romance.

Date Idea: Rent a Cabin for the Weekend





By Samantha Mucha

Take advantage of the weekend and escape the chaos of holiday shopping by renting a nice, quiet, cozy, cabin in the middle of the woods. There's nothing more romantic than cozying up with your sweetheart as you sit alone by the fire in the wilderness?

Put the city noise and stress of the up-coming holidays behind you and escape. A cabin gives you the chance to live simply for a weekend and who better to enjoy the relaxation with than your lover.

If you do your research, you may be able to find a good deal. Remember more than just retail stores go on sale during the holidays. Better yet, ask your friends for advice and see if they know anyone who has a cabin that they won't be using for the weekend.

If it's too costly for this time of year, invite another couple to join in the festivities for an added dose of fun. Although it may not be as romantic as you originally planned

it's often more entertaining to share the experience with close friends, especially when you are alone in the woods with nobody else around. It will also help cut down on costs.

If you're with another couple, you can play games together or have a spooky story night by the fire while you're roasting marshmallows. Go back to simpler times and play cards, and do other things you did as a child, this will allow your significant other to reminisce about the childhood that they may not have been around to share with you.

Have fun doing next to nothing and be sure to keep your mind away from the stress of going back home. Enjoy the company of your partner and the silence of the woods.

Have you ever rented a cabin or went camping? What did you think about the experience?

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis Share a Romantic Night in Rome





By Jennifer Ross

A little rain doesn't stop these two from romancing the night away in Rome. On Sunday, Hollywood couple Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis was spotted dining at Rome's Antica Pesa Restaurant. The lovebirds ordered an array of mouth watering delights, such as Parma ham crudo and mozzarella, eggplant parmigiana and a salad with marinated anchovies. The pièce de résistance – a thousand layer pastry with cream and fresh berries. Kutcher and Kunis were also seen walking hand-in-hand in the center of Rome. Sharing their love for each other around the world, it's exciting to wonder where their next stop will be.

Where are three of the most romantic locations to visit with your partner?

Cupid's Advice:

When you are in love, you want to tell the entire world. As a result, many lovers take a romantic trip together, creating lasting memories. Whether you decide to shout your love from

the highest mountain or write “I love you” on a white sandy beach, here are a few destinations to get your journey started:

1. Aspen, Colorado: More than just a celebrity hot-spot, Aspen is a lover’s paradise all year-round. With miles of hiking/skiing trails and romantic carriage rides boasting stunning sceneries, you and your mate can adventure all day and curl up cozily by a fireplace at night.

2. Paris: Known as the city of lovers, Paris overflows with romance. Fall in love again with your partner through their beautiful public park. Share a lovely meal for two at a sidewalk café and walk hand-in-hand in their many museums.

3. Kauai, Hawaii: Kauai is nature’s perfect landscape for lovers. Everywhere you look, you and your partner are surrounded by beautiful beaches, poem inspiring sunsets, gorgeous tropical flowers and dramatic cliffs and canyons to set a romantic mood.

What romantic vacation did you have with your partner? Share your story below.

Three Steps to Stress-Free Holiday Dating





By Dr. Tranquility – Lydia Belton, PhD, Ct. H.A.

November is a great time to nail down all of your holiday plans, especially if you're in a newer relationship, like Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling. Will you spend these special days together? If so, where? If you have been together for a while, like Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell, will you be with family? If so, which one and on which holiday? These seem like very simple decisions, but they can make for some serious arguments if not addressed and handled properly. Before you get overwhelmed with too many questions, here are three easy ways to keep your [relationship](#) stress-free during the holidays:

Related Link: [Three's a Crowd: Four Perfect Couples Holidays](#)

Step 1: Meeting the family. Family can be stressful under the best of circumstances for all of us, especially during the holidays. One key to your relationship surviving is being respectful and supportive of each other while spending time with each other's family. Remember, you are potentially starting a life together. Thus, these people may remain in

your life for quite a long time. The good news is that holidays are technically only three days out of the year; so it's time to buck up, babes, and have fun!

Step 2: Healthy Boundaries. The holidays are a time to be social and celebrate, especially when it comes to New Year's Eve. Before entering this time together, it is a good idea to set up behavioral boundaries and be clear about what exactly that means. This time of year, more than any other, is when "champagne" tends to flow, making it easier for tempers to flare. Therefore, strong healthy boundaries and an open dialogue are vital for tranquility.

Related Link: [Date Idea: Document The Romance With A Flash](#)

Step 3: Bonding While Giving. The holidays are meant to be a time for meaningful bonding. Yet for some, they can also be a lonely and difficult time. A wonderful way to create unity is by volunteering your time as a couple. While you may not be like Lady Gaga, who generously donated a million dollars, or Rihanna, who kindly donated 1000 sleeping bags, but your time is equally as important and needed. With all of the recent disasters caused by Hurricane Sandy, volunteering together at food banks, senior citizen centers, homeless charities or at one of the many disaster locations allows you the opportunity to accomplish two things at once; 1) it is a way for you to connect to your community, and 2) strengthen your relationship. This Thanksgiving, why not truly stand in gratitude? In the end, you and your partner will feel better about doing so and have heartfelt memories to share in the future.

No matter what you and your mate decide for this holiday season, remember what is most important: your love for each other. Keeping this as the top priority will ensure that your relationship will survive well past the New Year. From my heart to yours, have a great Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season!

The holidays are a wonderful time of year. *Developed by Lydia Belton PhD, Ct.H.A. of DrTranquility.com, Date Therapy® is an effective protocol that helps people get in touch with their criteria for an ideal mate. DrTranquility's protocols® have been featured most recently on Forbes.com & Yahoo, ABCNEWS.com, ABC's the View, KISS FM, CupidsPulse.com, Metromix for the Chicago Tribune, British Glamour, REDBOOK, Cosmopolitan Magazine & promoted by Match.com.*

Date Idea: Go Black Friday Shopping



By Samantha Mucha

If you go out for this crazy, corporate holiday, then why not do it with your lover? This experience can be very frustrating when done alone, so why not take your favorite person along and make it a more enjoyable experience? Your partner could be the perfect addition and it will certainly be an interesting way to measure the strength of your relationship.

Black Friday begins a lot earlier than it ever used to in the past with merchants beginning on midnight or earlier on Thanksgiving eve. So, after your Thanksgiving dinner stay up and watch movies until it's time to go, and then hit the stores. End the early morning hours with breakfast and a nap.

Shopping with your partner allows you to test your relationship to see how well you two work as a team under the pressure of all the great deals. As well as, see how well you know each other. Find out if your partner cracks under sleep deprivation or if he knows your family well enough to help you select the perfect gifts for them.

To add more pressure to Black Friday, make a competition with your beau. Whoever completes the most shopping and gets the best deals for their purchases wins! The loser has to make breakfast, or doesn't get to nap until after they give the winner a foot massage.

Be sure to map out your route, and scan online to find the best deals before heading out at the crack of dawn. A smart game plan will give you an edge over your sweetheart (and everyone else standing in line to buy that new flat screen television for \$99.99) and of course it will make the whole experience run a lot smoother.

How do you spend Black Friday? Let us know below.

Date Idea: Document The Romance With A Flash



By Steven Zangrillo

Even for the strictest of mathematical minds, creating art is one of the most rewarding experiences. Making photo memories with your soul mate distinguishes you as a couple and supplies physical proof that you are meant to be together.

Pick a location for the shots, be it the nearest park, museum or beach. If there's a place of value to the both of you – the place where you met, a place you love to visit together – head there first. Start snapping away pictures, capturing images

and new memories one click at a time.

There are many easy-to-use photo-editing programs available online. You can download them through the Mac App Store, Amazon, or purchase them at your local Software store. Once you load you upload your photos, you and your partner can hang out and edit them together. There is even new social media, like Instagram and Hipstamatic, that let's you edit straight from your phone or tablet. You'll be learning a new skill as a couple. Learning together is an incredibly important component to growing closer with your mate.

So, start snapping away. Let your creative minds take care of the rest.

What has been the most unique and creative photo capturing location for you and your honey? Let us know below.

Celebrities Come Together at NBC Universal Benefit to Help Hurricane Sandy Victims





By Nic Baird

Hurricane Sandy's destruction of homes and power grids along the East Coast has prompted NBCUniversal to schedule a one-hour telethon special presented live from NBC's 30 Rock studios in New York on Friday at 8 p.m., according to [Hollywood Reporter](#). The emotional response includes musical performers Bruce Springsteen, Christina Aguilera, Billy Joel, Sting, and Jon Bon Jovi. They will take the stage with actors and media personalities like Brian Williams, Jimmy Fallon, Kevin Bacon, Tiny Fey, and John Stewart to promote hope for the victims. Many networks like HBO, NBCU, SyFy, Style, and others will feature the special to raise donations for The American Red Cross' Sandy relief.

How do you bond as a couple while giving back at the same time?

Cupid's Advice:

It's hard to balance your goals of contributing to the greater good, and growing stronger as a couple. But it's very easy to

manage if you take some cautious steps to make sure your joint venture into charity doesn't end in a worse disaster than the one you're fundraising.

1. Discuss your purpose: Before rolling up your sleeves, discuss with your partner the reasons this contribution is important to you. Listen to your significant other's opinion and ideals regarding future charitable work. If you find a common purpose to share with your partner, then you've just hit two birds with one stone.

2. Work together: While dividing up the tasks is an effective way of completing work that is important to both of you, you won't get the same bonding effect as you will together. Laboring for your cause as a unit, and sacrificing together affirms you're both on the same team.

3. Review your achievements: After the work is done, it's time to debrief. You want to make sure you're both comfortable with the extent of your toils, and the good you've accomplished. Discuss the effects your contribution made, the challenges you faced, and ideas for future contributions as a couple.

What are some ways you've contributed to causes with your partner? Share your experiences below!

Date Idea: Take An Autumn Stroll





By Samantha Mucha

Now that the leaves have changed colors and the intense summer heat has died down, take a walk hand-in-hand with your lover. This Friday night head out together and chat about your tedious workweek. Relieve the stress and unwind as you stroll through your neighborhood park in the crisp autumn air. Romance doesn't have to be intense and fiery, so take this time to let go and let yourselves be present with one another.

Going for a leisurely walk has plenty of perks. You get to catch up with your sweetheart, swapping stories you didn't get a chance to share before your morning commute, or late dinner.

It's also the perfect way to squeeze in a little exercise that you may be skipping over now that it's getting chillier outside.

The best part about this date idea is that it's free! You and your partner can enjoy bike trails, paths, parks and walk along the waterfront for absolutely nothing. The bigger the park the better, the more free space you get to enjoy. If you

are in New York, Central Park may be exactly what you're looking for to leisurely get away. If your mind is set on something a little less crowded, then check out the High Line for a cozier, more scenic route.

If you are not near New York or any city in general, casually stroll through your neighborhood, or a hiking trail near your home. The walk you take doesn't have to be complicated; it's all about spending valuable time with your sweetheart and getting to know them even better.

The less of a plan you have the better. Start walking and talking and see where you end up, you just may find a new special spot. Throw on your jacket, grab your lover and head on out.

What date ideas do you have planned for November? Tell us below.