

# Love & Libations: Valentine's Day Cocktails for February Date Nights



By [Yolanda Shoshana](#)

As soon as January 1st hit, the Valentine's Day decorations, chocolates, and teddy bears are out. Now that February is only a few weeks away, it's time to prep. February is known as the month of love. Besides Valentine's Day on the 14th, there are 27 other days to show love to your partner, friends, and, of course, yourself.

That being said, here are three libations to help you show love next month:

# Cocktails for February Date Nights

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Sparkling Wine for Holiday Date Nights](#)

## Gin & Dubonnet

Celebrate yourself and drink like a queen. Queen Elizabeth II has a Gin & Dubonnet every day at lunch. In fact, it's part of her four-cocktails-a-day routine. It's perfect to enjoy while having some "me time." There's a good chance that the Queen will sip on one of these at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's [celebrity wedding](#) reception!

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 oz. gin
- 3/4 oz. Dubonnet Rouge
- Lemon or orange twist for garnish

Directions:

Add all the ingredients to a glass and fill with ice. Stir. Garnish with a lemon or orange twist. Sip as you are wearing your favorite tiara.

## Chocolate Martini

A chocolate martini is an aphrodisiac in a glass. Believe it or not, two Hollywood legends created this cocktail: none other than Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. They invented it one evening when they lived across the street from each other while they filmed the movie, *Giant*.

The following recipe uses Sean "Diddy" Combs' Ciroc Vodka. Maybe he will make one for his long-time love Cassie – or she will make one for him. After all, it's the perfect cocktail for lovers on a February [date night](#).

## Ingredients:

- 1/2 oz. Ciroc Vodka
- Dash of Madagascar vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 oz. Godiva Chocolate Liqueur
- 2 1/2 oz. half-and-half
- 1 oz. Kahlua
- Ice
- Shaved chocolate and/or fresh strawberries for garnish if desired

## Directions:

Add all of the ingredients to a cocktail shaker and shake. Pour into a chilled cocktail glass that is rimmed with chocolate syrup. Garnish with dark chocolate and/or strawberries.

**Related Link:** [Love & Libations: Autumn Date Nights Inspired by Celebrity Red Wines](#)

## Flirtini

February would not be complete without a Flirtini. Most people remember the Cosmo being a big part of *Sex and The City*, but the Fliritini was also in the mix. All it takes is three ingredients. Enjoy with your girl squad while binging on the show.

## Ingredients:

- 1 oz. vodka
- 2 oz. champagne
- 2 oz. pineapple juice

## Directions:

Combine vodka, champagne, and pineapple juice in a highball or collins glass filled with ice. If you are making it for a viewing soiree, multiply the recipe by six, and mix it up in a

pitcher.

For more Love & Libations date night ideas and [celebrity couple](#) predictions from Yolanda Shoshana, click [here](#).

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## Date Idea: All's Fair in Love



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

Keep yourself from getting the end-of-the-summer blues by adding a little love to your life. Bring your partner to a local fair and spend the day walking around together and checking out the nifty booths. Or try some new drinks together at a wine-testing festival. After all, nothing says romance better than a glass of wine a cool summer evening. Cupid's

[date ideas](#) will keep you and your love busy all summer.

## All is fair in love, so enjoy this end-of-summer date idea!

Looking to end the warm season with a little more excitement? Go to an amusement park with your date and hop on a thrilling roller coaster ride. Get ready to scream together! Or find a water park in your area and take a ride down the lazy river—a great way to spend some peaceful alone time with your man. After venturing down a water slide, snuggle up for warmth with your love and utilize each other's body heat. Cupid's [love advice](#): this is a great time to be silent and just enjoy being with your partner.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Bloom in the Sun](#)

If you want a more low-key activity, let your boyfriend win you a prize at a local carnival. You'll certainly feel special while carrying a gigantic teddy bear around for the rest of the day. As you walk past the rides and games, hold hands and enjoy the cool breeze with one another. Challenge your partner to your favorite carnival game; a little competition is good for your relationship, right? Let loose a little: share a plate of fried dough and get messy together. Be sure to take a picture with your faces covered in powdered sugar—a fun moment to remember your wonderful [date night](#)!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Beach and Beyond](#)

**What do you do with your love for a fun day together at the end of summer? Share your experiences below.**

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# Date Idea: Take the Stage Together



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

This weekend, share the spotlight with your partner by performing on stage with one another. If you and your sweetheart have watched plays, comedy shows, and concerts and have always fantasized about acting or being up on stage, creating your own will make for a fun [date night](#)!

**Cupid's weekend [date idea](#) will get you and your partner on stage!**

Search your local newspaper for opportunities. Most papers

have an “entertainment” section that includes workshops, auditions, and open mic nights. Pick one that looks fun and spend the weekend acting out another character or enjoying the applause together.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Have an Oscar-Nominated Movie Night](#)

Start your date in a class or workshop. Practice playing different characters, like a quarreling couple or a meddlesome duo. For something different, check out a comedy class. You’ll learn to be comfortable with your body and your surroundings and find humor in every situation.

Take the skills you learned and audition for a show. Your significant other can be your partner in a play or dance audition. He can even be your target during a stand-up audition.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Make Your Own Memorial](#)

Are you not the performing type? Try hitting up the karaoke bar instead. You can spend the night sipping on cocktails while you randomly select songs for each other to sing. Or you can have an entirely duet-based night, choosing songs meant for two like “Endless Love,” “I Got You Babe,” “Under Pressure” or “You’re the One that I Want.”

No matter what you decide, make sure you and your partner are putting on a show together. The excitement of performing will be a memory you’ll carry with you.

**Have a good performing date idea? Tell us in the comments.**

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# Vacation Destinations: Romantic Staycations for a Mid-Week Valentine's Day



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

Those of us who are currently in a relationship want to have the most romantic date night with our loved one for Valentine's Day. From year to year, V-Day is on the weekend 43% of the time, leaving a whopping 57% chance that the romantic [date night](#) you were planning falls on a weekday night, killing the mood. So you may not be able to go out or have a [romantic getaway](#), but these mid-week staycation [date ideas](#) are sure to keep the romance alive for your Valentine's Day celebrations.



# Try these vacation destinations in your hometown for a romantic Valentine's Day staycation!

**1. Sunset cruise:** Okay, this only works if you're near water. Even a river or lake will do! Most cities host sunset cruises with dinner included. It'll cost about as much as a romantic dinner out at the three-star restaurant you've been eyeing, with the added bonus of beautiful scenery.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Plan a City Scavenger Hunt](#)

**2. Hot air balloon:** The good news is that anywhere with clear air is likely to have a hot air balloon ride available! If you and your partner are feeling daring, enjoying V-Day dinner in a basket for two, literally, is incredibly romantic. If either of you is scared of heights, get ready for full-blown snuggles. Our suggestion: bring a bottle of wine or two to calm the nerves (if you're 21 and up!). Even the bravest of people will have a hard time grasping the idea that only a balloon is keeping you separated from the ground.

**3. Disposable camera:** Smartphones have made us take photography for granted. It's a lot more fun to grab a Polaroid or disposable camera and have a goofy photo shoot around town. Because you won't be able to delete any pictures taken, it'll be challenging to pose yourselves just right. Plus, the anticipation of seeing the photos developed will keep you excited and help you relive the fun of your date!

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Play All Day](#)

**4. DIY spa escape:** Make it a true staycation, and turn your home into an all-inclusive spa resort. Small touches in your bathroom, like white lines and pops of wood, recreate that spa environment. Don't forget to include candles, scents, luscious

pillows, and soft music. Take turns giving each other a full body massage, mani-pedis, and masks. Even if your S.O. seems a bit apprehensive about the spoilage, tell them how rewarding it feels to be pampered, and how much you want to express your love.

**5. Thrift shop photo shoot:** For a goofy and light-hearted date night, go to your local thrift shop and pick out outfits for each other. Put on a photo shoot, and end the night with a picnic or a home-cooked meal.

**How have you kept the romance of Valentine's Day alive when it falls mid-week, staycation style? Share your date ideas below!**

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## **Date Idea: Get Woodsy**





By [Rachel Sparks](#)

You've spent all summer trying to get fit with your partner. Maybe you've been talking about it and haven't made any progress with the gym, so you want to stay active in other ways. This weekend, you and your sweetheart can find a fun way to exercise and still have a fun and memorable date. Get woodsy with your love on a calming nature walk for a fun and fit [date idea](#)!

## **Date Idea: Get Fit & Get Out on a Woodsy Nature Walk**

Head to your closest state or national park for a day of hiking. Bring all the essentials for this outdoorsy date: water bottle, boots or sturdy sneakers, bug spray, sunscreen, a bag you can use for garbage, hiking snacks like Clif Bars, trail mix, or dried fruit, and, of course, a camera to capture your day. Some good just-in-case items to bring include a compass, matches or a lighter, a first-aid kit, a whistle, a flashlight, a rain jacket, and plastic bags to protect your

things from getting wet.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Enjoy the Great Outdoors with Your Other Half](#)

Don't forget to pack a lunch! Try packing a (light) picnic for you and your significant other. Include finger foods like sandwiches, grapes, berries, and chips. Just make sure it won't go bad being left in a backpack all day. You can also include a "sample-size" bottle of red wine (the kind you find at a wine tasting) for a [romantic getaway](#) just for the afternoon. When the two of you get to the top of the mountain, or any clearing you deem appropriate for a picnic, take the time to rest and appreciate each other and the beautiful scenery around you.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Take a Trip to the Park](#)

During your picnic, take out the camera and have some fun. Try to get some candid shots of your sweetheart stuffing their face or ask a passerby to take some photos of the two of you. Explore the area nearby without wandering too far off the path. Can you get some good nature shots? Make a photography scavenger hunt.

**Have you and your date gone on a hike together? What are some ways you've made it fun and romantic? Share your tips below!**

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**Celebrity Couple News:  
Kristen Bell & Dax Shepard**

# Rent a Roller Skating Rink for Date Night



By Jessica Gomez

In [celebrity news](#), [Kristen Bell](#) and her hubby Dax Shepard were looking cute as ever Saturday while roller skating with friends, according to [EOnline.com](#). Bell posted several photos on Instagram of the [celebrity couple](#) enjoying their time together at the Moonlight Rollerway rink in Glendale, north of Los Angeles. Bell and Shepard have been married for four years (since 2013) and have been together for 10 (since 2007). Adorbs!

# **This celebrity couple is super cute! What are some creative date night ideas, much like Kristen and Dax's rollerskating date?**

## **Cupid's Advice:**

Creating a bucket list is always a great idea because when in doubt, you can just randomly pick and have your date. Cupid has some [date ideas](#):

**1. Feeling adventurous? Go camping:** Time surrounded by the beauty of nature with your significant other is a bonding experience, and will of course make you bond with mother nature! You can also explore together with your cameras!

**Related Link:** [Famous Couple Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard Plan Date Nights Mathematically](#)

**2. Feeling hungry? Enroll in a cooking class for two, or conduct your own at home:** Yummy food combined with the experience of making it together – uh, awesome! If you want to have your own cooking session in private, look up a video online, shop for some ingredients – and poof, your own cooking class from the comfort of your own home!

**Related Link:** [Kourtney Kardashian & Younes Bendjima Getting Very Serious and Enjoy Date Night in L.A.](#)

**3. Feeling artsy? Join a pottery class or sign up for a paint-and-drink session at a bar:** Making art is fun on its own, and it gets even better when doing so while tipsy with your love. It might teach you something you didn't know about your significant other, too!

**Creative dates are what you make them – do things you haven't**

done before! What are some creative dates you've been on or want to try? Comment below!

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# Dessert Recipes for the Perfect Valentine's Date Night



By [Rachel Sparks](#)

Dinner and a movie is a classic [date night](#), but Cupid wants to help you spice things up. Whether you go out on the town and want to end things at the house or you're spending a casual night in, couples' desserts are the perfect [date idea](#). Celebrity chefs talk about aphrodisiacs, but whether or not you believe in the romantic powers of lobster or pomegranates, these celebrity chef recipes will up the romance between you and your S.O.

## These celebrity chef recipes will make your Valentine's date night that much sweeter!

What date night is complete without a little something sweet? These dessert recipes are easy for couples to make together, although we did include one decadent challenge. Keep the romance going with these unique desserts:

**1. [Boozy Clementines with Pound Cake:](#)** What's better than a little booze to keep the fun going? Don't worry, with desserts you can choose to bake out the alcohol for a buzz-free night still packed with flavor. If you choose to keep the booze at an appropriately adult level, These sticky sweet clementine slices pair well with the light flavors of a lemon pound cake.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: The 8 Best Budget-Friendly Valentine's Gifts](#)

**2. [Carrot Cake for Two:](#)** Carrot cake is the perfect light-weight dessert for couple's trying to mind their New Year's resolutions. The cake itself is fluffy, the cream cheese frosting delicate on the tongue, and you can justify this treat by telling you and your partner it's made from a vegetable. If you and your S.O. are worried about the extra



calories, check out our couple's [fitness tips](#).

**3. [Chocolate Mousse](#):** What dessert is complete without a little (or a lot) of chocolate? There's something incredibly irresistible about licking chocolate off of a spoon, so we've found the perfect dessert for just that. Surprisingly easy to make, this chocolate mousse recipe is rich in flavor without being too sticky or thick for your palette.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: How to Make this Valentine's Day Special for Your Loved One](#)

**4. [Cherry Trifle](#):** The Valentine's day classic, cherries are an aphrodisiac, and for good reason. Deep scarlet cherries are even more luscious when paired with the bitterness of dark chocolate. This recipe calls for soaking the cherries in brandy for an explosive experience in your mouth. Served with whipped cream cheese and almonds over lady fingers, this recipe has every aspect of a dessert you could possibly want.

**5. [Tiramisu](#):** There's nothing easy about this classic. Layered, boozy or not, this is a dessert that takes some time to make, but it's oh so worth it. While you're waiting for the lady fingers to finish baking, work up an appetite with your partner while you dance it out together. When you finally do slice into this Italian classic, you'll be proud of what you and your partner made together, the perfect symbol of your relationship and the best way to celebrate Valentine's day, a day meant for celebrating everything you and your love have accomplished together.

**What special desserts make your Valentine's Day memorable? Share your tips below!**

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# Marriage Advice: How to Keep the Spark Alive After Having Kids



By [Karley Kemble](#)

There's no denying that having a child changes the dynamic of your relationship. Even celebrities face this challenge after the birth of a [celebrity baby](#). Bringing a new child into the world doesn't mean your relationship has to suffer! Sure, things might be different between you and your partner, but you just have to adjust to a new lifestyle. There are plenty of ways to bring the magic back into your relationship;

sometimes you just have to get a little creative.

**If you and your partner are having a difficult time with keeping the spark alive in your marriage, Cupid has some [marriage advice](#) that'll help you and your partner get out of your funk!**

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

**1. Flirt like nobody's watching:** Post baby, it may feel weird to openly flirt in front of your kid. Don't worry; you're not alone. If you no longer feel comfortable with PDA, then leave your partner hidden love notes, or send them a cute text while they're out. Flirting should always be fun and harmless – so don't feel like you *can't* anymore now that you have a child.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: When Is the Old New Again?](#)

**2. Schedule those [date nights](#):** We know. Seeing “schedule” and “date night” in the same sentence feels so...old school. The reality of parenthood is that it can be hectic, but you and your partner still need a break every once and a while! Look at your calendar, find an evening that works, and call your mother-in-law or a good friend to see if they'll babysit. Date nights are essential to keeping you sane and giving you two an intimate time to touch base with each other.

**3. Try going tech-free:** If you and/or your partner find yourselves glued to your phones while the baby is sleeping, challenge each other to put the devices away. Instead of checking your social media accounts, use the rare moments of down-time at home to talk with each other or play a board

game! You'll find the little moments of quality time will help your relationship grow, especially without the distractions of the glowing screens.

**Related Link:** [Marriage Advice from Celebrity Couples Who Stay Together](#)

**4. Get touchy:** Physical contact is so important in any relationship! As humans, we are designed to desire contact with other people. Post-baby, it's normal for PDA to decrease. (Perhaps you haven't even realized that you and your partner don't get intimate as much – that's also common!) Make it a point to touch your partner whenever the opportunity arises. Hold hands whenever you can – just do whatever it takes to keep each other satisfied.

**5. Use your manners:** After having a baby, it's easy for you or your partner to feel forgotten. A little kindness goes a long way. If your partner did something as small as starting the full dishwasher, or as big as surprising you with breakfast in bed, thank them! Never underestimate the power of "thank you" – your partner will feel so appreciated.

**How have you kept the romance alive post-baby? Share below!**

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## Zayn Malik Opens Up About His Celebrity Relationship with Gigi Hadid





By [Ashleigh Underwood](#)

Being young and in love is never easy, especially for people in the public eye. [Celebrity couple](#) Zayn Malik and Gigi Hadid are no exception. In a recent interview with [UsMagazine.com](#), Malik opened up about his [celebrity relationship](#) with the model. When asked about how he and Hadid handle the public attention, he stated that the two of them try to ignore all the comments. Instead, they focus on each other and “do right” by one another. He also shared that since they both love to cook, many of their date nights are spent cooking for one another and trying out new meals.

**We can't get enough of this celebrity relationship! What are some other date night ideas for longtime couples?**

**Cupid's Advice:**

When you have been with someone for a long time, date nights can seem tedious: You cook the same meals, go to the same restaurants, and watch the same movies. If you want to spice it up, check out these fun date ideas:

**1. Get out of your comfort zone:** When things start to feel too comfortable in your relationship, do something daring! If you and your partner love to dance, go to a new club. If you end up loving it, you have a new go-to spot, and if it's not quite your thing, you have a fun new memory to share with each other. Or take a cue from this celebrity relationship and simply try out a new recipe – it's as easy as that!

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Couple News: Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik Love Each Others Clothes](#)

**2. Get intimate:** It is easy to get into a routine with your partner: You come home, eat dinner, watch television, and go to bed, only to repeat it all the next day. Often, we forget that intimacy matters in a relationship. To get back into that romantic zone, try getting a couples massage. This way, you will be able to relax from the stresses of your life and also feel closer to one another.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Take a Journey](#)

**3. Get competitive:** There is nothing more fun than beating your partner in a heated round of a board game. While this date idea may be simple, it is also extremely overlooked. Having a game night is the perfect way to show off both your competitive and flirty sides. You could even make it interesting and make bets. Winner gets to choose a romantic dinner destination!

**What are some fun date ideas you have tried? Comment below!**

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# Date Idea: Wine and Dine



By Sarah Ribeiro & [Melissa Lee](#)

Summer is just starting, and you and your sweetheart need to get ready for the new season. This weekend, go on a wine-tasting adventure to embrace the fresh warm weather. You and your love can find a new favorite wine while exploring a beautiful vineyard nearby.

**If you're looking for a romantic way to have some fun, this weekend**

# date idea is ideal for you and your love.

First, you and your sweetheart need to decide which wines you will be trying this weekend. Narrow down your wine preferences to a specific kind of wine you want to taste. Do you only like reds? Limit the weekend to cabernets, merlots and pinot noirs. Or spend the weekend comparing whites and reds. A “pinot-only” date will allow you to taste different pinot noirs and pinot gris that are made in your area.

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: A Day at Sea](#)

Next, search online for wineries or vineyards in the area that offer the wines you’ve picked and plan to travel to a couple of them throughout the day. You and your partner can even arrange a town car or limo to drive you around, so you don’t have to worry about limiting how much you drink. Plus, it’ll give you a sense of luxury and a chance to cuddle up on the ride.

**Related Link:** [Enjoy a Secret Sunset on Your Next Date Night](#)

At the vineyard, it’s important to keep sharing opinions with your significant other. You can pick a wine that the two of you are crazy about and buy two bottles to take home with you. The first bottle can be shared that night, and you can reserve the second for a future anniversary or romantic date.

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Play All Day](#)

After the wine-tasting fun is done, head back to your place and enjoy a romantic meal together. Skip out on the cooking for the night and indulge in a take-out meal from a nearby Italian restaurant. Make sure your wine suits your meal by using a wine pairing chart. The rule of thumb here is that darker meats belong with darker wines and lighter meats stick



with lighter wines. You can even try a wine-based dessert, like a strawberry and wine sorbet, that will cleanse your palate and provide the perfect ending to a perfect day.

**Have any great wine-based date ideas? Share them in the comments below.**

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## **Date Idea: Make Your Love a Masterpiece**



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#) & [Melissa Lee](#)

Get creative with your love this weekend: paint, sculpt, or throw some pottery and feel like an artist for the day. Make

something with your sweetheart that the two of you will proud to show off to your family and friends. Try this unique date to tap into your inner creative genius and create a work of art that you and your love can keep as a memento of your time together.

**If you're looking to get in touch with your creative side, this weekend date idea is perfect for you and your partner!**

First, pack up a picnic basket loaded with your favorite foods. Include finger foods that you can feed to each other, like berries, veggies or pretzels, as well as your honey's favorite meal. Bring a bottle of wine and two glasses as well, then head up to the most scenic spot in your area. Scope out a high hill, a look-out point or a state or national park. Enjoy the sounds of nature around you or bring your iPod with you to play a soothing painting playlist. Examples of great relaxing music to spark creativity include Yanni, Pearl Jam, Pink Floyd, Adele, Animal Collective or classical and instrumental music.

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

After you and your love have a romantic sunset picnic, set up an easel (or two) and try your hand at painting. Choose between painting your sweetheart or the landscape around you. Don't be afraid to experiment with color and style. Be silly with one another – you can even try painting a caricature! You don't have to be a great artist to enjoy being creative. Painting is a great way to unwind and relax on a quiet night with your love.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Run Outta Moonlight](#)

Another way to get artsy is to head to your local art supply store or studio and register for a class. Most studio-based art classes offer deals for couples who register for classes, sometimes providing Date Night specials which include complimentary champagne. Pick something you and your partner have never done before: shops like Color Me Mine let you paint your own ceramics, or you can try making ceramics yourself. Glassblowing is also becoming incredibly popular and is showing up in more studios. Plus, you'll get a professional product that you and your sweetheart can take home with you.

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

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## **Date Idea: Listen to the Music**





By [Sarah Ribeiro](#) & [Melissa Lee](#)

It's almost June, which means it's time to start doing summer activities. This weekend, start the new season off right by spending some time at outdoor performances with your love.

**If you and your sweetheart are huge music fans, this weekend date idea might be perfect for you two!**

Some of the most popular summer activities are outdoor fairs, concerts and music festivals. Not only are they fun, but they can be incredibly romantic too. Look up your local symphony orchestra; most of them hold open practices in the early summer, where you and your sweetheart can wrap yourselves in a blanket at the park and listen to classical music under the stars. For a more private experience, you and your love can stay in the parking lot, canoodling in the back seat of the car, high-school style, while you listen through the open windows.

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Karaoke Night](#)

Check your newspaper and community bulletin board to find more local outdoor concerts or music festivals where you can cuddle with your sweetheart. You can try something new, like a bluegrass festival: Bluegrasser has a database of national bluegrass events where you and your beau can get country. Most bluegrass festivals even feature farmer's markets, where you can buy local produce and other goods like handwoven blankets and handmade jewelry. Or check out a jazz festival, where you and your love can spend the day dancing in each other's arms, filling up on goodies from food vendors and exposing yourselves to rising musicians.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Binge Watch a New TV Show](#)

If you're more of an active couple, you can check out a bigger-scale music festival. Larger festivals are typically three days long, with tens to hundreds of mainstream acts playing on multiple stages. Some festivals that are traditionally held in late May and early June are Electric Daisy Carnival in New York, Sasquatch! Festival in George, Washington, and Bonnaroo in Manchester, Tennessee. In past years, these three festivals have featured acts such as Fatboy Slim, Avicii, Jack White, Bon Iver, Radiohead and Red Hot Chili Peppers. Find a festival that best suits you and your sweetheart's music tastes and plan a road trip with them. Spend the entire weekend listening to your favorite musicians, dancing and falling even more in love.

**What are some of your favorite musical dates? Share with us below.**

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# Date Idea: Meeting the Parents



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#) & [Melissa Lee](#)

Celebrate this Mother's Day by taking a trip home. Plan a weekend visiting each other's parents in the spirit of the holiday.

**Check out this weekend date idea if you're interested in introducing your partner to the family!**

If you live nearby, look at this weekend as a road trip with your beau. The two of you can pack snacks and create a

playlist with songs from your childhood to makes yourselves feel nostalgic. Some great 70's and 80's favorites include "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Livin' on a Prayer," "Vogue," "Dancing Queen," "Take on Me," and "Thriller." If your honey has never met your family, you can share stories about them on the ride to get him or her ready for their endearing eccentricities, like the fact that your father sings opera in the shower or that your mother will wake up at 5 a.m. to make you all breakfast. Make it a game to see who has the strangest family stories.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Say 'Ahhh' at the Spa](#)

Before you get to your parent's house, take a drive around your hometown. Show your sweetheart where you grew up: take them to your high school or grammar school, bring them to where you had your first date and show them your favorite hangouts when you were a kid. Pick out the best ice cream shop in town and buy a cone for your partner, telling them your favorite memories of going out for an after-dinner sweet treat with your parents.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Learn a New Sport Together](#)

After the nostalgia has worn out, head to the house and make a mother's day meal with your love. Try to replicate your favorite recipes that your parents used to make you and serve it to them on a fully set table with flowers and candles. Don't forget to bring a bottle of wine and dessert. You can harken back to your childhood with dessert: try something simple that you would make as a child, like brownies, ice cream sundaes or strawberries with whipped cream. It's a great chance for you and your love to work together and bond in the kitchen. Be sure to let your parents know how much you appreciate them – and don't forget to buy a Mother's Day gift!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Get Close with Nature](#)

After dinner, pull out your old photo albums. Let yourself be

humbled as your parents tell your partner all of your embarrassing childhood stories and show off your braces-filled middle school yearbook photo. Then spend the next day doing the same with your sweetheart's parents.

What's your favorite Mother's Day date? Tell us below.

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## Date Idea: Cuddle With a Furry Friend



By [Sarah Ribeiro](#) & [Melissa Lee](#)

Spend the weekend with your partner surrounded by each other's love and your love for animals. Getting a chance to cuddle up



with a gentle creature will put the two of you in a loving mood.

## **Looking for a fun way to spend the weekend with your significant other? This date night idea is perfect if you two love animals!**

Plan a zoo trip with your love – check out the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to find a local zoo that the two of you have never visited. While you're there, be sure to take photos not just of the animals, but of you and your sweetheart too. Be sure to let go of your inhibitions and let your inner child show; there's nothing more endearing than watching your partner get excited over seeing giraffes. Plus, it's a great photo (or video!) opportunity. At the end of the day, head to the souvenir shop and find something memorable to get each other. It can even be something humorous and tacky, like the typical gorilla stuffed animal holding a heart, so long as you two can make a loving memory out of the gift.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Embrace Your Inner Child](#)

If you're more of a community-centric couple, try your hand at volunteering. Call up your local animal shelter and see if you can set up a time for the two of you to help them out. Petfinder offers a directory of animal welfare groups where you can volunteer. This day is definitely another "photo op" for you two, as you may get the chance to play with or walk a homeless animal. Be prepared for dirty work, too: most shelters ask for help cleaning and sanitizing cages and kennels, but the work is well worth it. You may find an adorable cat or dog that the two of you are willing to foster or even adopt.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Take A Trip to the Park](#)

For those who already have enough animals in your life, take them on a date with you. Head to your nearest dog park with your honey. Let your pets play while you sit back and relax with your beau, holding hands and bonding over your love for your furry babies. Or keep them on the leash and take a walk – or even a hike – and take in the new spring weather. Tell each other stories about your first pets, why you love animals and what your favorite furry creature is and why. It's a great opportunity to get to know each other better and enforce why you love each other.

**Have an idea for a great animal-lover's date? Share it with us in the comments below.**

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**Date Idea: Make Sushi Together**





By Daniela Agurcia & Melissa Lee

Every girl loves to be wined and dined by her significant other. While restaurants are great, sometimes, you want a cozy night indoors when your partner surprises you with his best rib dish, a bottle of wine and a bouquet of red roses.

**In reality, we're not all top chefs and often end up making a mess in the kitchen when we even attempt to make something as simple as macaroni. In this situation, a sushi kit can save date night.**

You can find a sushi kit at a nearby grocery store for a reasonable cost. They're not as complicated as they sound and will walk you through the entire process, helping your date night to go as planned. Dress up and invite your beau over for a home-cooked meal. Greet him with a glass of Pinot Grigio,

and surprise him in the kitchen with the sushi materials all set-up for you to make your favorite rolls together. Sushi kits come with a cookbook, rice, nori for wrapping the sushi, ginger, spicy wasabi and soy sauce. A couple of simple rolls you can make include California Rolls, Tuna Rolls and Salmon Rolls. Put on your favorite playlist, and for the next 30 minutes, flip through the cookbook and create a 10-15 piece sushi set. Lay it all out on a big plate and fill a little bowl with soy sauce. You're ready to feast!

**Related Link:** [Tease Your Taste Buds on This Weekend Date Idea](#)

After you put your kit to good use, spend the rest of your time together enjoying your sushi and that bottle of wine. Catch up on what you've both done throughout the week, and sit back and enjoy each other's company. The best part about a sushi dinner is that you don't get that extremely full feeling you'd have if you ate something heavy like pasta or a burger. Sushi is the perfect meal to leave you feeling satisfied with some extra room for something sweet.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Stroll Through the Farmer's Market](#)

Go the extra mile and surprise your date with a fortune cookie for dessert...but customize it. Slip in a little note that reads "I love you" or "I'm happy I met you." It's an unexpected gesture that will make your date feel especially loved. Plus, it'll make this date night all the more memorable.

**What ideas do you have for dining in with your loved one? Share your ideas below.**

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# Date Idea: Workout Together



By [Daniela Agurcia](#) & Melissa Lee

April is here, with Summer just around the corner. Now is the time where everyone throws on their swimsuits and heads to tropical destinations like Cancun, Miami, and Hawaii to lay out in the white sand and soak up the beaming sun. It's the last chance for you to sculpt those legs and define those abs – and what better way to do it than with the one you love.

**After a great workout for this date idea, you'll feel stress-free and energized. Plus, it provokes**

# **happiness, which will benefit your relationship.**

Use this month to develop an exercise schedule together. Take advantage of all of your options, whether it's at your local gym or a nearby park. Sign up for a spinning class, something you can do at your own pace since your strength level will be different than your partner's. It doesn't even have to be a workout – dancing provides great exercise as well. Hit up the nearest salsa class for a curve-building calorie killer. Whether it's dancing or weight training, be there for each other and remember that it's about support – not competition!

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Become a Football Fanatic](#)

Don't want to waste a beautiful day indoors? Kill two birds with one stone by heading to the park. Run side-by-side for 30 minutes, and then help each other with a core workout on the grass. You can even go hiking or canoeing to put those legs and arms to work, all while engaging in conversation and enjoying each other's company.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Enjoy the Great Outdoors with Your Other Half](#)

Many people don't have time to fit in exercise between their jobs and their social lives. But you don't have to choose one over the other. Dating shouldn't derail your plans to get fit this summer. You both want to look good for each other, so what better way than getting fit with someone you love? With your new fitness regimen, you can accomplish this. Sounds too good to pass up. Give it a try!

**What fun workout plans do you and your man do together? Share your ideas with us below.**

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# Date Idea: Have a Colorful Day



By Ché Blackwood & [Melissa Lee](#)

Remember the fun of youth by creating a daytime date centered on coloring. With this [relationship advice](#), you'll be taking a trip down memory lane with the one you love. It'll you feeling rejuvenated and creative!

For this [date idea](#), invest in a box

**of crayons, grab a few coloring books, stock up on old sweet films and give yourself the play date of your childhood dreams!**

There are a variety of coloring books, allowing you to choose the best ones for your personality. If your honey likes baseball, pick up a workbook focused on the popular pastime. If you've still got a thing for princesses, purchase a Cinderella coloring book. If kid's books aren't your thing, head over to an adult store. Many of them carry adult themed coloring books, which will prevent your afternoon from staying G-rated.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Revisit Your Childhood](#)

Challenge your beau's artistic talents by judging each other's coloring. If you're really creative, grab a few colored pages from each book and make up a story together. Sketch to your hearts' content, but be sure to stop as soon as it loses its appeal. Some things are better in moderation.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Laugh Out Loud Fun](#)

Once the crayons have started to crumble, watch a favorite animation together. Whether a classic like *Beauty and the Beast* or a more grown up choice, like *Futurama*, savor the experience of watching cartoons together with popcorn and a cozy cuddle on the couch. The rare opportunity to forget your adult responsibilities will leave you feeling joyful and young at heart.

**How do you like to stay young with your partner? Tell us in the comments below!**



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# Weekend Date Idea: Celebrate Easter by Getting Crafty



By [Marissa Donovan](#)

With Easter right around the corner, it's easy to lose track of your relationship while getting caught up in family and social obligations. To properly balance a busy holiday schedule and a thriving love life, you need to be creative. Get crafty on Friday, Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

# Hop right into this [date idea](#) by doing Easter crafts with your sweetheart!

Whether you celebrate Easter for religious reasons or not, you'll have a blast taking part in the festivities with your partner. Visit a local grocery store and buy an egg-dying kit. With a variety of colors to choose from, you will be able to express your more artistic sides. Stickers can help the artistically challenged keep their eggs looking beautiful. Surprise your partner with a secret love note by purchasing a few white wax crayons. They are easily accessible and allow you to write invisible messages on shells, which won't show until after they've been dyed.

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: 5 Tips For Bunny Hopping Yourself Into Romance](#)

Feel like a kid again by arranging an old fashioned Easter egg hunt for your loved one. To add a new twist to this old game, write up a series of romantic hints for each other. Direct him to find a hint in a picture frame or cookie jar!

**Related Link:** [Dating Advice: Hunt for Love](#)

Afterward, arrange an Easter basket for your date. Fill it with candies and special trinkets that he'll love, like a favorite DVD or tickets to a concert. Ending one date by planning another is a great way to ensure you'll keep making memories together.

**What type of fun do you plan around Easter? Let us know in the comments below!**

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# Date Idea: Hunt & Thrift for Treasures



By [Marissa Donovan](#)

Rummaging through your grandmother's attic, or sifting through a garage sale can be a thrill when you find old treasures. This weekend, make a [date night](#) out of it by visiting thrift stores and flea markets with your special someone.

# Find excitement by treasure hunting as a couple!

Try sorting through forgotten artwork, jewelry and furniture to find the perfect addition to your life. Vintage clothing can be resold online if your findings don't match your own particular needs. Always check the latest [fashion trends](#) to see if you can still pull off the vintage look!

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

Driving through town and stopping at garage sales is another great way to hunt for used items! Garage sales have the added benefit of allowing you and your sweetheart to speak with an item's owner. This gives you the opportunity to discover the history of an object before purchasing it.

**Related Link:** [9 Frugal Dating Tips for Cost-Conscious Lovebirds](#)

Keep an eye out for neighbors replacing older furniture or preparing for a move! They are much more likely to bargain price since they need to get rid of their items quickly.

**What's the best thing you found with your partner at a thrift store or flea market? Let us know in the comments!**

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## **Date Idea: Spend a Day at the**

# Zoo



By Ché Blackwood and [Marissa Donovan](#)

Get close with your sweetheart by visiting a zoo! Watch the penguins swim and the tigers wrestle while spending an afternoon outside in the fresh air. See the variety of other creatures sharing our planet.

**Get wild with this [date idea](#) by going to the zoo with your loved one!**

If you want to get really close to Mother Nature, visit a petting zoo. While you may not spot any lions, you'll have the chance to touch gentle animals like sheep, pigs and goats.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Cuddle With a Furry Friend](#)

If sea creatures are more up your alley, visit an aquarium. Watching sharks glide through the water and jelly fish pulsate will leave you relaxed and in awe. Try quizzing each other with animal trivial while entering a new exhibit!

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Kinkajous, Horses, and Clown Fish – Oh My!](#)

Make sure to leave a donation before heading home to ensure zoos and other animal friendly organizations can continue their work. You can also go home and donate money to a organization that is currently helping your favorite species. Sometime an organization will give you a birth certificate for donating, which would be a great gift for your partner!

**Related Link:** [Matt Damon and Scarlett Johanssen Learn to Love in 'We Bought a Zoo'](#)

What animal do you love to visit at your local zoo? Tell us in the comments below!

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## **Date Idea: Couple Up with Game Night**





By Ché Blackwood & Melissa Lee

It may still be too chilly to throw a BBQ or spend an evening drinking with your lover on the patio, but that shouldn't stop you from double dating. This weekend, take the fun inside by hosting a couple's game night.

**Whether you're playing with your partner or against, healthy competition mixed with good company will guarantee an uproarious date night.**

Group games, like charades and Pictionary, involve everyone and foster a loud, exciting atmosphere. Keep score throughout the night to see which couple racks up the most points. To make a tradition out of it, create a small trophy for the winners to take home. Every month, plan a new game night and rotate the trophy accordingly.

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Game On](#)

Technology can help keep your game night interactive. Fire up your PS3 or Xbox and have a tournament. Let the console keep track of each team's points while playing games like Call of Duty or Wii Sports. There's nothing wrong with a little new age entertainment! If you have single friends, invite them over with a platonic teammate. Everyone can join in on game night.

**Related Link:** [Weekend Date Idea: Build a Fort](#)

At the end of the evening, you can wind down with pizza and a movie. Even if your other couple friends can't show, a night of first person shooters and Monopoly with your [sweetheart](#) will keep the memories coming as the hours fly by.

**What's your favorite game to play with your beau? Let us know in the comments below.**

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## **Date Idea: Feed Your Heart with a Sushi Sampling**







By Ché Blackwood and Melissa Lee

Sushi, a heart healthy meal served up in a variety of ways, is meant to please every taste bud. Since it's so versatile, this tiny treat is perfect for date night. With so many options, you and your sweetie would have to visit a Japanese restaurant every day for a year before trying them all.

**This weekend, take our date idea advice and put some serious work into your sushi habit with your lovely by searching out all the rolls your town has to offer.**

Map out two or three different spots you've wanted to visit and go on a taste test with your partner. Order two rolls to share at each place, comparing the taste with the restaurant's overall atmosphere. Share a small amount of their Saki as well, finding the perfect temperature and strength for your preferences.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Have a Night Abroad](#)

Because sushi is a smaller meal, you'll be able to try several dishes with your significant other. By the time you reach your doorstep, you'll know where to find the most decadent Crunchy Whitefish Roll.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Couples Barbecue](#)

If running from table to table doesn't sound appetizing, sampling items at home can be just as romantic. Grab a few menus and circle the most scrumptious sounding tempura, sashimi and veggie dishes.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Stroll Through the Farmer's Market](#)

If you're lucky, you'll even find a few joints that deliver. This way you can create a romantic setting. Set out a nice spread with wasabi, ginger and soy sauce. Throw out the menus to the restaurants you don't like and save ones you do. The next time you need a quick meal, you'll know who to call.

**What meal do you and your honey love to share? Let us know in the comments below.**

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## **Date Idea: Indulge In a Night of Laughter**





By [Marissa Donovan](#)

Need new [date ideas](#) because boredom is getting the best of you? Why not indulge in a night of laughter? Have a movie night with your sweetheart this weekend by grabbing your all-time favorite comedy. If you want to watch something new, head on over to the nearest theater to watch the latest movie releases. Check Youtube for comedy movie trailers that are being shown in a theatre near you.

**Enjoy giggling together as a couple during your next [date night](#)!**

Comedy clubs are also fun and will make your night. They feature many comedians who definitely won't let you down. Check out bars or other venues in your area to see when a comedian is performing. Websites like Ticketmaster and Eventbrite can help you locate the next show.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Can Humor Go Too Far?](#)

Do you enjoy watching *Jimmy Kimmel Live* or *The Tonight Show*

*Starring Jimmy Fallon?* Do you live in California or New York? If you plan on visiting those states, get tickets for their shows!

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: 5 Things to Know Before Dating a Funny Guy](#)

Have a laughing fit with your partner and remember all the jokes to retell to friends.

**Do you have any funny dating stories worth sharing? Leave you stories in the comments for our readers.**

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## **Date Idea: Keep It Exciting During New Venue Night**





By [Marissa Donovan](#)

Finding something new to do with your partner can be a challenge, but the key to an exciting night out is often found just around the corner. Comedy clubs, dance clubs, and seasonal fairs are constantly opening up all over the country. This is the opportunity to try something different and be spontaneous together.

**Keep it your [date night](#) exciting at a new venue!**

Learning about other cultures and the arts is a great way to start the evening. Attend a museum opening, traveling exhibit or art show. Educating yourself with your love by your side can be exhilarating. Afterward, try something out of the ordinary for dinner by hitting up a [romantic restaurant](#) with cuisine you've never sampled before.

**Related Link:** [Date Idea: Stroll Through a Museum](#)

When an emerging establishment opens, it is not uncommon for

them to hold a wine tasting, or special happy hour for locals. If this fits your idea of getting closer together, sites like Zagat.com and Groupon.com can help you find the best events and deals in your area.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: Wine Taste Your Way to An Intimate Date](#)

Whatever it is you chose to do, just make it something new!

**What new places do you like to visit with your special someone? Share the new venue with our readers in the comments.**