Date Idea: Romance at a Resort





By Sarah Batcheller and Mara Miller

It's time to escape your everyday burdens and have a romantic getaway with your beau. Pamper yourselves and enjoy time away from the office and with each other by venturing off to a resort. This weekend date idea will allow you to retreat to a relaxing place and rejuvenate your relationship and love for one another.

Find out how to indulge fully in a resort weekend with these date

ideas!

Heat things up in this cold weather! Why not head to a fun spot like the Hamptons or Montauk and spend the days and nights on the beach with the one who makes you happy? Check out sites like LivingSocial or Groupon for deals on weekend getaways. You *can* have a vacation that won't break the bank. If you literally want to heat things up, travel somewhere with a warmer climate, like The Keys, for this date idea.

Related Link: Valentine's Day Date Ideas

Once you arrive at your destination, make a bonfire on the beach, melt some s'mores, and snuggle up. Soak in all there is about where you are. One morning, be sure to order breakfast in bed – there's nothing better than being comfy with your boo while sipping your morning coffee and watching the sunrise from the sheets. Talk about a great start to the day! After all, the point of this <u>dating advice</u> is to do what you can't do when you're tied down with work and other responsibilities. Take some time to do nothing except appreciate the company of your significant other.

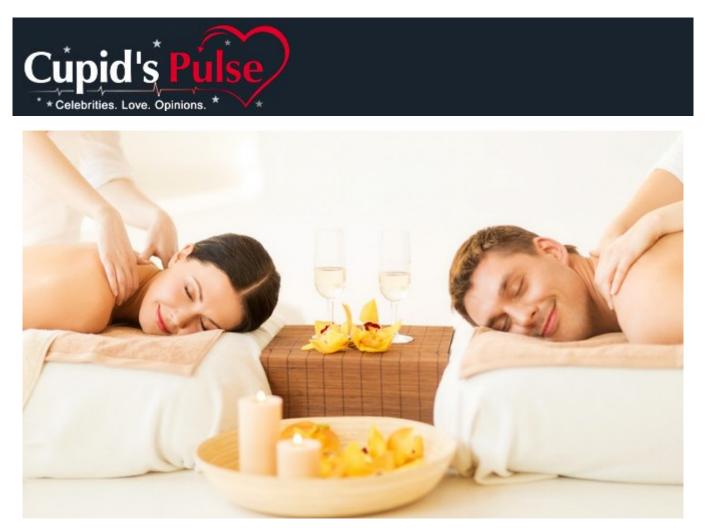
Many resort locations offer a variety of romantic activities for couples, like dance lessons, horseback riding, couples massages, or private yoga. Any of these will add some edge and spark to this weekend date idea. If you'd rather follow the trail of spontaneity, just explore your destination. If you prefer a laid-back day, head to the pool to soak up some rays. There's bound to be poolside service at any spa resort, so the two of you could comfortably spend all day basking in each other's arms.

Related Link: Take a Virtual Vacation

Afterward, have a candlelight dinner for two on your balcony. Talk about your trip so far and what you've enjoyed most about your time away. No matter where you go, having a romantic resort getaway is a great way to spend some quality time with the one you love.

Tell Cupid about your favorite resort spots in the comments below!

Date Idea: Embrace the Cold Weather



By <u>Mara Miller</u>

With your flip flops in storage and warm weather a distant memory, it's easy to spend your weekends under a warm

comforter, reading a book together or flipping through the channels for <u>date night</u>. Although binge-watching Orange Is the New Black and ordering a pepperoni pizza can be great at times, your love life shouldn't cool down just because the temperature is declining. Instead, use this <u>weekend date idea</u> to take advantage of the season by embracing winter activities that you can only enjoy once or twice a year.

Relationship Advice: Winter Activities for Your Next Date Idea

1. Try something new and go tubing: Whether you're a pro or haven't been on the mountain since you were a kid, it's one way to keep your pulse pumping with your partner. Most ski resorts offer this activity, and since you have the option to stay a few hours or an entire weekend, coasting down a hill just may turn into that surprising <u>romantic getaway</u> that you've been craving.

Related Link: Enjoy the Snow from Indoors

2. Create some fun in your own backyard: Get all bundled up, venture outside, and make snow angels or build snowmen with your cutie. Better yet, when your mate turns their back, you'll have the chance to start a snowball fight. A little activity and some healthy competition will keep your blood flowing even during the coldest of days. Being silly with your sweetheart is important, and playing in the snow is a great way to do it.

Related Link: Warm Up With Winter Cocktails

3. Warm up after your outdoor adventure: Heat up some good old-fashioned hot apple cider. If you're feeling frisky, spike it with some Fireball whiskey. A warm drink with the one you love is the perfect end to a day filled with fun winter

activities!

How do you and your beau keep busy during the colder months? Tell us in the comments below!

Date Idea: Spend an Intimate Night Indoors





By Sarah Batcheller and Ché Blackwood

If you're craving a romantic <u>date night</u> but don't want to spend a fortune or you're tired of the same-old restaurant scene, then get creative and bring the excitement of a night out into your own home! There's no reason you and your partner can't share an intimate evening dancing and dining together without breaking the bank. With this weekend <u>date idea</u>, your dining room can rival even the fanciest of dinners.

How to Plan a Date Idea at Home

Pick out something sexy to wear for your beau: Just because you're at home doesn't mean you shouldn't get dolled up. In fact, staying in means you can actually dress a little nicer than usual. This is one time when you can feel free to overdress (or under dress) for the occasion. No matter what, you want to feel beautiful and comfortable!

Related Link: Date Idea: Be a Cheap Date

Share a drink to kick the night off: Stop by your local winery or liquor store and ask the manager to choose a good bottle of red for the best value. When you buy wine directly from the store rather than at a restaurant, the prices are drastically reduced, leaving you with a higher-priced bottle for a lesser cost. If you really want to go all out, purchase a few different bottles and have your own wine tasting. Just pop the cork, swirl your glass, and pretend your kitchen table is the most coveted spot in the house.

Cupid's <u>dating advice</u>: take the night to the next level and plan a special menu to cook together. Choose a unique recipe to really test your culinary talents or remake the first meal the two of you ever shared together. Be sure that your dinner pairs well with your wine of choice. Red meat and pasta taste great with a full-bodied Merlot!

Related Link: Date Idea: Hometown Hotel

After you've wined and dined, relax: Fortunately, you don't have to go very far! Run a bubble bath for two if you really want to get the romance flowing, or curl up on the couch with popcorn and watch a movie with your sweetie. The comforts of being home mixed with the luxuries of a passionate date will leave you feeling refreshed and swept off your feet, without any looming stress over next month's credit card bill!

How do you like to spice up a night at home? Tell us in the comments below!

Date Idea: Relax and Reflect





By Sarah Batcheller and <u>Jessica DeRubbo</u>

This holiday weekend, wind down from all the excitement of the New Year and spend some time alone with your significant other. Instead of watching old films or picking up a new book, consider this <u>dating advice</u> to improve your relationship: Bond with your partner by snuggling up by the fire, cherishing old memories, celebrating how far you've come, and talking about where you'd like to be in the future.

Follow This Date Idea to Improve Your Relationship and Love in the New Year

For this relaxing <u>date idea</u>, find the place that helps you unwind the most. Perhaps it's by your fireplace, listening to the crackle of the logs and admiring the glow. Maybe it's on the swing overlooking the lake in your backyard. Once you've picked a spot, fill a picnic basket with some cheese, crackers, fresh fruit, and dark chocolate. Grab a bottle of your favorite wine (we suggest Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Pinot Noir to warm you— all perfect for the winter!) and settle in to talk with each other. Don't forget to bring a cozy blanket to keep you warm!

Related Link: <u>Rent a Cabin in the Snow</u>

Next, use your intimate time together to think critically about your past and future. Think of some professional goals that you've set and accomplished in previous years, and gather new ones that you want to achieve. Talk about why you chose these resolutions and why it's important for you to stick with them. When following this love advice, encourage each other to commit to your respective goals; discuss how your relationship can strengthen your goal setting and how achieving your objectives will better your partnership.

Related Link: Plan a Walk Around Town

Take advantage of this date idea and talk about your relationship too. Look at where you were last year as a couple and decide what you and your sweetheart want to work on for

the next twelve months. Set goals for events or activities that will better your relationship or even just add some spice to it! Discuss what you both want and think of ways to get there as a team. Plan to do yoga together twice a week or visit a new restaurant together every other Friday night. Even the small ideas will help you start off the year on the right foot — with intimacy, love, and a whole new set of plans!

What are some of your New Year's resolutions? Comment below and tell us.

Date Idea: Light Up Your Love





By Jessica Gomez and Kristin Mattern

The holiday season is one of the most beautiful times of the year – a time when people decorate their homes with twinkling lights, garlands, wreaths, menorahs, and even adorable penguins. Get into the spirit and spark some love this weekend by taking a romantic, moonlit drive with your sweetie as you cruise through your neighborhood checking out all of the Christmas and Hanukkah lights.

Rekindle the magic of the holidays with your babe and admire the beautiful displays with these dating tips for your upcoming <u>date</u> <u>night</u>:

Map your route: This is important, After all, not everyone decorates for the holidays. To get the most out of your night drive, scan the scene during the day before your date and find out what areas have really gone all out this year. This way, when you take your honey out for a spin, it will be through areas with the most decorations and stunning of displays. You can also conduct some brief research on Google. With a bit of planning, your date will be sure to delight!

If you live in or near New York City: Looking for something a little grander than your neighbor's twinkle lights and angle statues? Go to a professional public display instead. The Big Apple is a must see during this time, especially Rockefeller Center. New Yorkers and tourists alike go to see the tree and skate at the ice rink. Enjoy the time with your sweetheart as you swirl around in the rink and skate your way into each other's hearts beneath the huge Christmas tree.

Related Link: Date Idea: Keep It Exciting During New Venue Night If you live in or near Los Angeles: L.A. offers its own unique displays that are not to be missed. Take a cruise down Rodeo Drive or through Griffith Park. See some truly spectacular lights while you take in the palm trees and vignettes in the store fronts. You'll feel like an old school celebrity as you snuggle up to your significant other and drive with the windows down through decked-out Cali. Professional light shows are sure to take your cutie's breath away as the two of you view illuminating lights accompanied by heartwarming Christmas carols and holiday music.

Decorate your place/s together: If you're feeling inspired from viewing all of those pretty lights, get together with your partner and go for it. Have a blast trying to recreate some of your favorite pieces, or try to top them and come up with something even better! This will be nice bonding time. Go nuts and have fun!

Related Link: Date Idea: Plan a Party

Chill at home: Of course, not literally chill, but hangout and stay warm during this time! After enjoying the sights and sounds of the holiday spirit and décor, make some more memories by warming up inside with hot cocoa and dancing with your darling to your favorite Christmas or Hanukkah tunes. End the night by relaxing together in front of the fire and roasting some chestnuts while you enjoy a classic Christmas movie.

What will you be doing as a Christmas date night? Share below!

Date Idea: Deck the Halls





By Jessica Gomez and Kristin Mattern

Deck the halls with the one you love! With November dwindling, it's time to pack up the turkey-inspired décor and look towards the end of the year. Spend quality time with your honey this weekend by decorating the house and stirring up some holiday spirit. Wear ugly sweaters, put some holiday tunes on, and get the garlands out for this heart-warming date.

If you're prepping for Christmas: Put on Santa hats and get ready to rock around the Christmas tree as your sweetie and you put up ornaments from your childhood. You can also make homemade ornaments that celebrate your relationship and add them to the tree. Get creative and cut photographs of each other into snowflakes, or decorate ornaments with each others names as keepsakes. Place snowmen statues, reindeer decorations, and whimsical elf figures around the house. Get the dinning room looking festive with a red tablecloth and green runner. Place candlesticks with gold candles on the table and an evergreen centerpiece in the middle to top off this chic holiday spread.

Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

If Hanukkah is right around the corner: Place the menorah where everyone can see. If you and your significant other are artistic, buy blank wooden dreidels and decorate them yourselves using wood paint. The two of you are sure to have fun as you craft and reminisce about playing with dreidels as children. Place your homemade dreidels on your table as decoration, add a blue tablecloth and silver runner to amp up the elegance. You can use a silver menorah as a centerpiece.

Related Link: <u>Date Idea: Indulge In a Night of Laughter</u>

While decorating: Listen to your favorite holiday music. Take a dance break from decorating and sway along together to the music for an intimate moment. Or put on a classic holiday movie to watch while your partner and you deck the halls. The background music will add to the ambiance and get the two of you in the holiday mood. Feel free to make some holiday goodies in the oven as well.

Ever decorate for the holidays with your honey? Tell us about your holiday dates in the comments below!

Date Idea: Fall in Love with Falling Leaves





By Jessica Gomez Kristin Mattern

We bet you remember the sheer thrill of leaping into a pile of earthy leaves as a child, the joy of tossing the motley colors up into the sky over your head and watching them fall around you. Relive that magic this weekend with your sweetheart and rake your way to the perfect fall date.

Here are some <u>date ideas</u> that involve colorful, crispy leaves:

Offer to help your honey rake his or her yard...and then jump

in: See who can make the biggest pile or who can rake the fastest — making things into a competition get some couples going. Rate each other's leaf jumps: Who made the biggest mess? Who fell in the funniest or more gracious way? Use your phone to record the jumps so you can compare. Maybe even post some awesome action shots to Instagram or Facebook.

Related Link: Date Idea: Keep It Exciting During New Venue Night

Make a scrapbook with the leaves: Leaves are for more than just jumping in. Document the different leaves you and your significant other find along the way. Compare colors, shapes, and sizes. Take a moment to marvel at the wonders of nature. Create a scrapbook together where you add all the really beautiful leaves you find or add photographs of the beautiful views. If the leaves are supple enough, you can even make leaf rubbings together. Take a piece of paper, place it over the leaf, rub a naked crayon the long way against the paper over the leaf, and voila! You have a commemorative etching of your fall romp.

Related Link: <u>Date Idea: Best Shows to Binge-Watch With Your</u> <u>Partner</u>

Cuddle up and enjoy the gorgeous fall foliage: After all the leaves are raked, the pile jumping has ended and your apple pie has been consumed, you and your honey can cuddle up under a blanket or recline against a tree in the yard and take it all in. Check out your state's peak foliage <u>here</u>.

Now it's time to get out there and make some magic fall moments with your honey! If you want to spread some extra love, help your parents or elderly neighbors clean up their yards too. Build up some good Karma together — and hey, you never know, the person you helped out might just give you an apple pie or some hot cider when you're finished.

Have you shared some fun fall moments with your love? Share

Date Idea: A Day with Your Pumpkin





By Jessica Gomez and Shannon Seibert

Sure, picking and carving pumpkins is a fun date idea, but sometimes we want to change it up. Outdo yourselves and head to a pumpkin festival or to a fall fair. Really breathe in the autumn air and experience the season's spirit together. Participating in this unique weekend date idea can do wonders for your relationship because of the bonding.

We have a date idea for you and your "pumpkin" this season. Check it out:

Go to a fall fair as a date! Fairs are a great date spot because there is something new to discover around every corner. Whether you view the festivities from the heights of the Ferris Wheel or chow down on goodies, it's always eventful. Hop on a hayride together and listen to ghost stories with your bae. Chase each other through a corn maze and challenge each other to some carnival games.Fall head over heels for your boo thing as you're both whipped around on the fair rides. Classics such as "The Twister" and bumper cars will bring out your sense of adventure and have the both of you laughing and screaming with joy.

Related Link: Date Idea: Keep It Exciting During New Venue Night

After you play, check out some of the fair's shows. Usually, there are monster truck rallies, tightrope walkers, and even magic shows that will captivate you and your love. Be sure to get good seats because you're about to be amazed! At the end of your fair-a-polooza, have your partner pick out a winning pumpkin to take home. Together, carve out the insides and remove the seeds. Then, bring your pumpkin to life with creative designs.

Related Link: Date Idea: Indulge In a Night of Laughter

For a delicious snack, gather the seeds and wash off the pulp. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and place the seeds on some baking sheets. For a more classic snack, coat them in a light glaze of extra virgin olive oil and sprinkle them with salt. If your pumpkin is looking for a more tropical taste, glaze the seeds with coconut oil and a hint of pineapple juice. Heat the seeds for fifteen to twenty minutes or until golden. Yum!

Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

End this date idea by grabbing a quilted blanket and a cup of hot cocoa and heading to your couch. Munch on your pumpkin seed goods and pop in a Halloween movie. If your honey is a horror fan, you can never go wrong with old classics, such as *Friday the 13th* or *Halloween*. These films will give you an excuse (not that you need one) to hold on tight to your other half because the films will scare you senseless.

How do you and your sweetheart get into the fall spirit? Tell us in the comments below!

Date Idea: Haunt Your Honey





By <u>Jessica Gomez</u> and Kristin Mattern

Halloween is the perfect day to shake things up a bit and have a date that fits the holiday! Get into the spirit with your sweetie and dress up as a couple: go for goofy, serious, or sexy. However you switch it up for this haunted holiday, take advantage of the spooky atmosphere and do something different together.

Halloween is an exciting time of year, and we have some love and dating advice. Here are some <u>date</u> <u>ideas</u> for those of us who love feeling the spooky spirit:

Get scary and venture into a haunted house: Looking for the scariest haunted houses around? Check out <u>America Haunts</u> or <u>Haunt World</u> for the freakiest attractions across America. Hold tight to your honey as you walk through enchanted rooms and

possessed houses. Share some laughs over who screams first or loudest.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Out Of Your Comfort Zone

If fake horror isn't enough, find a real haunted property and check it out: Take photographs as you walk around – you never know when you might catch a ghost on film. However, remember to make sure you aren't trespassing. You can visit this <u>site</u> to find some real haunted houses to tour on Halloween. You can also opt to have a Halloween picnic at a nearby graveyard and enjoy the scary scenery; just remember to always be respectful.

Related Link: Date Idea: Indulge In a Night of Laughter

A romantic and scary movie date: If at home, curl up together on the couch and watch some horror classics or go for the recent and new. The choice is yours. If you want to do a real Halloweeny-flick, you should watch all three Halloween films by director John Carpenter. For more suspense and intrigue and less scare, put on The Twilight Zone. Discuss your favorite kinds of Halloween movies, and don't forget to bake some Halloween-themed snacks to enjoy. Feeling lazy? Buy the snacks. For more thrills and chills, make your way to your local theater. If you don't want to stay home, catch the latest horror flick or thriller at the movies, then sit back and prepare for the scare-a-thon as the cinematic magic takes you and your date on a roller coaster of gut-wrenching emotions.

Halloween is such an awesome holiday! Always remember to get a little wild and have a spooky good time with your sweetie!

Have you had a freaky date on Halloween? Share your chilling tales in the comments below!

Date Ideas: Be a Sweetheart





By Jessica Gomez and Shannon Seibert

The saying goes that the best way to a person's heart is through their stomach — and we agree! Take this weekend to satisfy your sweet tooth with some new recipes and fun in the kitchen. With these delicious date ideas, you and your significant other can indulge in sweet treats — and in each other. It's time to get sweet with one another! Get creative and bake something special. Surprise each other with samples of your favorite desserts and be sure to try them all. Remember all of those Pinterest recipes you've "pinned for later"? Well, now is the time to bust out your best Betty Crocker moves to impress your partner and add a new dimension to your relationship! Here are some yummy weekend date ideas:

If you need a little baking inspiration, you can never go wrong with chocolate: Brownies, cookies, cakes, or any other treat – chocolate is always the answer! You can bring a little extra something to your batch of brownies by putting crumbled Oreo pieces in the batter. You can also bury your honey's favorite candy bar in the cake batter for a sweet surprise. If you aren't a fan of chocolate, there are plenty of other sweet options on the web that you can whip up to satisfy that sweet tooth.

Related Link: Date Idea: Lift Your Love To New Heights

Play with your food: Consider this dating and <u>love advice</u>. Sure, you've always been told not to play with your food, but it's time to bend some rules. After all, we're adults! Make an assortment of yummy treats and blindfold your bae. Feed them one bite at a time and have them guess which one he's tasting or even the specific ingredients. If they get it right, then it's your turn to be blindfolded! If you're feeling a little adventurous on this weekend date idea, bring out your inner six-year-old and start a classic food fight. Flick a little flour their way, and before you know it, the both of you will resemble the inside of a mixing bowl. If you don't mind the mess, it's a fun way to pass the time while waiting for your goodies to bake.

Related Link: Date Idea: Stay Indoors

Decorate your tasty treats: After all, icing is just a step up from Crayons. Write your baby a sweet message on a decorative cake to show them you care. Something as simple as "glad you're mine" or the traditional "I love you" can make them smile. Afterwards, pair a glass of Sherry with your favorite dessert, and enjoy sweet conversation with each other.

Have any sweet secret recipes? Share with us in the comments below!

Date Ideas: Haunted History





By <u>Jessica Gomez</u> and Shannon Seibert

Black cats, haunted houses, and spooky ghosts — oh my! For those of us that love Halloween, these words excite us! Embrace the aura of that holiday with your love and dive into that Halloween spirit that brings you joy. Every town has their creepy histories, so discover your local haunts with your sweetheart for creative, fun weekend date ideas. Bond over scary and chilling stories out there or at home!

Here are spooky and fun date ideas for you and your partner outside and in the comfort of your own home:

Ghost stories have been around for generations to either scare or comfort the living. Research your town's history and immerse yourselves in its haunted mysteries. Some small towns have the best mysteries to tell. For example: Melbourne, Florida, has a haunted mansion on US Highway 1 that hosts a storytelling event at the edge of property each year. Rumor has it, Old Man Willis still hangs around the property and has made alleged appearances.

Check out local graveyards or town centers for ghost tales too: On Halloween, a lot of cities have public readings that tell the classic urban legends we all know and love. As the stories are shared aloud, hold hands — and hold on to your honey for extra protection from the spirits around you. *wink wink*

Related Link: Date Idea: Take In Some Cartoons

Together set up a spooky story sight of your own in the front yard: Dress up with your partner as a scary <u>famous couple</u>, like Morticia and Gomez Adams or Frankenstein's Monster and his bride, and read to the trick-or-treaters as they pass by. Not only is this date idea one you can enjoy with your partner, but you can enhance the night for the children too!

Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

If you're staying in for the night, follow this relationship advice: Pick out some ghost stories and legends to test out for yourselves. Show Bloody Mary who's boss and confront her in the mirror with your lover at your side (spooky... and romantic?). No matter how old you are, there's always a voice in the back of your head that gives you the heebie-jeebies! For a more intimate date idea, prop up some blankets and create a makeshift tent in the middle of your living room. Turn off all of the lights except for a flashlight that you both pass back and forth while telling each other tales. Embrace your inner child and get cozy!

And finally, bust out Halloween's best tradition: the candy! Feed your sweetheart the holiday sweets — give your honey sugar. You and your love will be laughing the night away as you trade ghost stories and exchange candy-flavored kisses. What other cool things do you do for Halloween? Tell us in the comments below!

Date Idea: Best Shows to Binge-Watch With Your Partner





By Karley Kemble

If you and your partner enjoy staying in, kicking back and watching shows together, then you've probably binge-watched a show (or five) together. Are you on the hunt for another one? Look no further. Check out these four <u>date ideas</u> that will have you hooked!

You'll love these show recommendations for your next <u>date</u> <u>night</u>!

1. Friday Night Lights: Regardless if you are a football fan or not, this show is a must-see. The five seasons follow a close-knit Texas football team and their community at-large, and also talks about topics surrounding contemporary American culture.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Out Of Your Comfort Zone

2. The Office: There's a reason "The Office" was a household name for nine seasons! Each episode perfectly captures the hilariousness of a normal 9-5 workday, and the characters are so unique and compelling. You and your partner are sure to laugh until your stomachs hurt.

Related Link: Date Idea: Indulge In a Night of Laughter

3. This is Us: If you've been wanting to tune into "This is Us" but don't want to feel lost during the current season, dive in on Hulu! This show takes you on an emotional journey within each 45 minute episode, following the lives of the Pearson family throughout the course of their lives.

4. Scrubs: "Scrubs" is another oldie but goodie, because it brings humor to a rather mundane place – the hospital. Nine seasons will definitely keep you and your partner busy for awhile, too.

What shows do you and your partner watch together? Share in the comment section!

Travel Destinations: Top 5 U.S. Spots for Spring Flowers





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

Spring is an exciting time of revival and rebirth. Our New Year's resolutions are underway and our workout routines are finally showing results. We can shed those chunky knit sweaters and go on road trips with the windows down. It's a time to discover our own personal beauty, but it's also a time when nature's beauty rivals anything we can create ourselves. These <u>travel destinations</u> make for a perfect <u>romantic getaway</u> or a <u>date night</u>!

These top 5 places in the U.S. should be at the top of your travel destinations list to see colorful buds this spring!

1. Washington, DC.: Have you ever heard of DC.'s Cherry Blossom Festival? If you haven't, this needs to be added to your US travel bucket list. The U.S.'s version of the traditional Japanese cherry blossom festival is a valiant rival. Starting as early as March 15, though traditionally early April, the district transforms into a pastel pink wonderland. The best places to see the blossoms: the shoreline of the East Potomac Park near the Tidal Basin. Beware, millions of tourists come to see this amazing sight.

Related Link: <u>Vacation Destinations: Top 5 Getaway Spots on</u> <u>the East Coast</u>

2. Mount Rainier National Park, WA: With it's plunging valleys and stark white-topped mountains, any bloom looks mystical against this dramatic backdrop. The entire national park ranges thousands of acres, but the two best places to see blooms are Sunrise and Paradise visitor centers for majestic meadows of dancing blooms. The park has trails specific to wildflower hunts. Can't wait to get started? The national park has a Flickr group dedicated to their wildflowers.

3. Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn, NY: Spanning 52-acres both indoor and outdoor, this massive botanic garden is rated one of the top five botanic gardens in the U.S. Seasonal exhibitions feature global wildlife, such as their Out of Africa special this year. What makes them special: their cherry blossoms are part of a traditionally staged Japanese garden. Walk over bridges and past soaring pagodas to feel like you've stepped into another world. In addition to cherry blossoms, magnolia's creamy petals and lilac's varying soft shades show a wide variety of the beauty of nature. At \$15 a ticket, it's a cheap weekend <u>date idea</u>!

Related Link: Top 5 Romantic Getaways in the Northeast U.S.

4. Dallas, TX: Get to Texas before the heat hits. Dallas hosts a six week long flower festival featuring tulips, daffodils, Dutch Irish, and hyacinth. Globally themed in 2018, the Dallas Arboretum will focus on a different country each week and include festivities specific to each culture along with its normal floral-themed festivities.

5. The Biltmore, Asheville, NC: Never heard of this gem? You're not alone. The Biltmore is the largest manor in the United States, owned and operated by the Vanderbilt family. In its prime, it took over 600 people to keep the manor fully operational. Even during winter when the gardens are nothing but dried twigs, the estate is worth visiting. If you come in spring, the gardens in full colorful bloom. With a fully functional farm, an inn, multiple five-start restaurants, it's well worth a weekend trip.

Where do you dream of visiting in the U.S. for spring flowers? Share you travel dreams below!

Date Idea: Batter Up





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

This weekend, celebrate America's favorite pastime with your love! Go to a baseball game, watch one on television, or even play together at a nearby park. No matter what, you'll both appreciate taking an interest in something new for this weekend date idea!

Spend this weekend enjoying a classic sport with your love!

Want to surprise your partner? Buy two tickets to the next local baseball game and head to the ballpark to cheer for your hometown team. For lunch, enjoy a stadium hot dog or some cheesy nachos and a cold beer. Your significant other will think it's romantic that you're spending the day doing something new and team-driven.

Go to the game a little early and watch the team warm up by the dugout. If you're lucky, you may even get to meet some of the players or score some autographs. Buy a jersey, hat, and foam finger to really get in the spirit. Be sure to bring your camera too – your new gear makes for a perfect photo opportunity to commemorate this <u>date night</u>. The baseball park may even offer professional shots.

Related Link: Date Idea: Take the Stage Together

Want to do something romantic for your partner? Pucker up for the kiss cam. Being on the screen will make you feel like a <u>celebrity couple</u>! Make the game more interesting by placing bets on which team you think is going to win. Rooting against each other will make the game even more fun. Loser has to buy the next round of beers or cook dinner that night.

After the game ends, toss around a baseball together before calling it a night. Teach each other your personal techniques - maybe your love has a special curveball that helped their high school team win the state championship, or maybe you're the sporty one and can create some friendly competition.

Related Link: Date Idea: Beach and Beyond

If the weather (or your wallet) is not on your side, catch the big game on television. Head to a nearby sports bar and watch the game with other excited fans. For a more low-key night, get out the fuzzy blanket and cozy up with your love. Mute the TV during commercial breaks and let your love tell you more about the teams, players and sport in general. Cupid's <u>relationship advice</u>: make your partner feel important and show you care by listening to them rave about their favorite pastime!

How do you like to watch baseball with your love? Share in the comments below.

Date Idea: Play All Day





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

While summer daylight is still stretching into the late hours of evening, make sure your grasping onto every last minute of it. Enjoy the warm sunshine and cool afternoon breezes while you still can! Head outdoors to a nearby playground with your love interest; swing, slide, and play the day away. Don't forget to stop by the ice cream truck to refuel! Who said you were too old for a day at the park?

This weekend <u>date idea</u> reignites the fun of childhood summer days!

When you were young, going to the playground was the highlight

of your day — and now, you get to relive the fun and share it with someone special. Take a trip down memory lane with your partner and show them where you used to play all of those silly games with your childhood friends. While you're there, race down the slide or swing on the swings together.

Get out your old baseball mitt and play some ball together. Have fun working up a sweat! Perfect your pitching and batting techniques while also getting close and cuddly. For a more free-spirited time, bring a Frisbee and fling it around with your love. Whatever you do, your love will appreciate the friendly competition and will impressed by your athletic talents while you both are getting in some fun <u>fitness trends</u>!

If your park is close to a lake, bring some bread and feed the ducks. After visiting the ducks, grab your bikes and ride along a trail. No need to go too fast; let your partner lead the way and just enjoy the beautiful scenery. After your busy day outdoors, unwind a bit before heading home. Find a cozy bench and wrap your arms around each other. Enjoy a light conversation and the calming breeze as you watch the sunset for a romantic end to your <u>date night</u>.

How do you and your partner feel like kids again? Share in the comments below.

Popular Restaurants: The Best Bars in NYC





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

New York City is the hub of every new exciting cultural event that could happen. Fashion experts thrive in the city that never sleeps. Entrepreneurs galore reside in its piercing towers. Best of all: the boozy hotspots are perfect for a weekend date night. New York City has five of the thirteen three-Michelin star restaurants in the United States, making it the mainstay for any foodie. What better way to follow up the ultimate dinner than with a trip to the best bars in NYC?

Check out these top five bars to discover for your next NYC romantic getaway!

1. 7B: Sometimes called Horseshoe Bar or Vasac's, or U, this grungy bar is located on the corner of Avenue B and East Seventh Street. It's namesake, the horseshoe shaped bar in the center, has often been featured in movies like *Godfather II*, *Jessica Jones*, and *Rent*. It's one of the last remaining relics of East Village. It's grunge, it's metal, it's history.

Related Link: Popular Restaurants: The Best Bakeries in NYC

2. Angel's Share: If you're looking for wicked concoctions

hidden behind an unmarked door, this is your spot. The hidden Japanese cocktail lounge is tucked into the back of restaurant Village Yokocho in East Village, a tip of the hat to oldfashioned speakeasies. This lounge has been around for twenty five years and excels at flashy drinks. Check out their Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, a bourbon-based cocktail that's delivered cloaked in smoke from burning cinnamon and cloves.

3. Barcade: Bar meets arcade in this craft brew brilliance. The business model of a large selection of craft brews paired with an even larger selection of retro arcade games has made this adult version of your favorite high-school hangout an extremely successful empire that's expanded across the Northeast. The original, founded right in NYC, feels like you're hanging out in someone's garage, the perfect escape from the hustling of city goers.

Related Link: Famous Restaurants: Hottest Happy Hours in NYC

4. King Cole Bar: If you're feeling like stepping out in <u>celebrity style</u>, King Cole Bar is the spot to be. Located in the St. Regis Hotel, it's the penultimate of luxury, one that many of us can only afford on the rare occasion. A cocktail starts at \$24 and to even get in requires "proper attire." It's worth a visit; this swanky bar is the original creator of the Bloody Mary and has six different versions on the menu. Bonus: the nuts are free.

5. PDT: Short for Please Don't Tell, PDT is the epitome of a speakeasy. Entered only through a phone booth inside a hot dog joint on St. Mark's Place. We recommend reservations as lines start forming at three pm every day. You can have cheesy tater tots or waffle fries snuggled in foil delivered right to the bar, paired with inventive remakes of Old Fashioneds or Sazeracs.

What do you look for in your favorite bars? Share your NYC bar-hopping secrets below!

Date Idea: Picnic with Pals





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

This Labor Day weekend, enjoy the last bit of hot weather by having an outdoor picnic with your loved ones. Create some summertime memories that will last you through the chilly winter. Spend the entire day outside with good friends and fun activities to celebrate the end of the season. This weekend <u>date idea</u> will get you and your friends feeling the summer vibes way past the end of summer.

This weekend date idea will be the summer picnic that you won't forget!

Make it a party and ask for a double or even triple date! Pack tons of great snack foods like grapes, cheese and crackers, and a vegetable tray. Don't forget some wine, chilled, of course. It's perfect for sipping on a hot afternoon. Grab a disposable camera and have fun taking pictures as a group for an end-of-summer photo album!

Related Link: Date Idea: Include the Pooch in Your Plans

Pack a deck of cards and play poker or spades, betting on your favorite candy. If you're feeling more active, partner up with your love and play some volleyball. Toss around a Frisbee for less competitive fun. If you're really into sports, bring a baseball and some mitts and batter up together. If there's a lake nearby, bring some fishing poles and catch your dinner. Step out of your comfort zone and try something new – your partner will appreciate your willingness to get a little dirty.

Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Journey

When the sun goes down, keep the fun going for your <u>date</u> <u>night</u>. Find a park in your area that has grills and turn your group picnic into a barbecue. Everybody will enjoy cooking their favorite foods and unwinding with their closest pals. Break out the hamburgers and hot dogs and pair them with potato salad, fruit salad, and homemade chocolate chip cookies. You can even treat yourself to some unique picnic cocktails, like mimosas in mason jars, white wine spritzers, fruit-filled sangria or even a vodka-filled watermelon. Be sure to bring extra ice to keep your drinks cold.

Maybe you invited a few single friends too. If so, now is the perfect time to introduce them! Give them cooking duties together or force them to be on the same volleyball team. Share <u>love advice</u> with them to help them get back into <u>dating</u>. They will get a chance to know one another in a no-pressure environment. Be sure to bring an extra blanket in case they want to cuddle up under the stars.

How will you celebrate Labor Day? Tell us in the comments below!

Date Idea: All's Fair in Love





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

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 <u>date ideas</u> 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 <u>love</u> <u>advice</u>: this is a great time to be silent and just enjoy being with your partner.

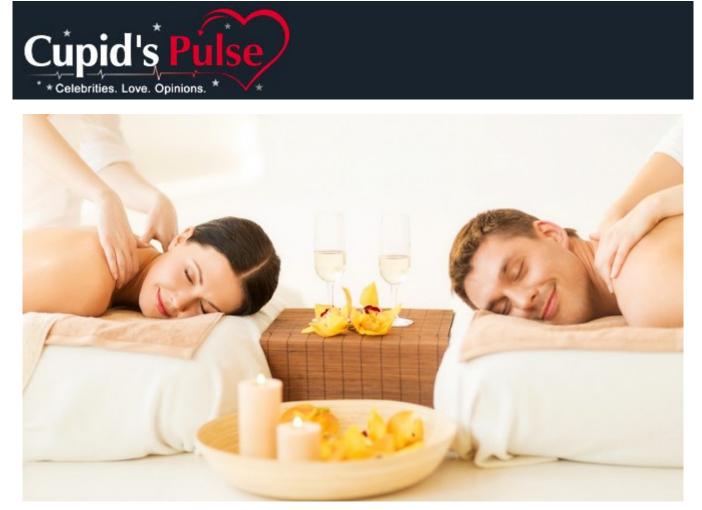
Related Link: Date Idea: Bloom in the Sun

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 <u>date night</u>!

Related Link: Date Idea: Beach and Beyond

What do you do with your love for a fun day together at the

Date Idea: Beach and Beyond



By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

You've been to the beach with your love about a hundred times this summer. It's time to look for new ways to enjoy the sun and sand. The days are long and the possibilities are endless. This weekend's <u>date idea</u> is all about trying new things in the sun!

This weekend's date idea is about fun in the sun together!

Search for beautiful shells and sand dollars in the sand. You'll have a great time showing off your finds to each other, and it'll help you break away from your usual routine of sunbathing and swimming. If you're feeling adventurous, look for crabs darting across the beach. Make a game out of it: if your partner finds more crabs than you, you have to cook him dinner for a romantic end to your <u>date night</u>!

Related Link: Date Idea: Ignite Sparks While Camping

If you really want to get serious about searching, bring a metal detector with you and see what random items are buried on the beach. You and your love will get excited whenever that buzzer goes off. The thrill of the treasure hunt will get you both excited.

Once you're done exploring, get messy in the sand together. Dig a hole and bury each other. You'll both feel like kids again, and you'll love creating new laughs together. Build sand castles. Have a contest to see whose creation comes out the best. Bury your legs and make a mermaid tail. End with a beach photoshoot <u>Reese Witherspoon</u> or <u>Gwen Stefani</u>-family style!

Related Link: Date Idea: Take a Journey

If you like learning new things, look into your beach's history. Pick up a brochure or check out their website; maybe there's an area further down from your usual spot that you never knew existed. Sharing some knowledge will spark both your curiosities and will give you something new to discuss.

How do you mix things up at the beach with your man? Tell us in the comments below.

Date Idea: Build Your Love





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

What better way to build your love than to actually build something together? Grab some blankets and pillows for a temporary fort or wood and nails for something more permanent and start planning your creation with your partner. You'll both challenge your creativity skills, grow your team working skills, and also learn something new — both about building and about each other with this amazing <u>date idea</u>!

This weekend's date idea is all about building something together!

Revert back to your childhood days and make a fort together for a fun <u>date night</u>!. Get some blankets and create a tent in the living room. Have a playful pillow fight, cuddle up, and share funny stories from when you were younger. If the weather is sunny and warm, go outside and build your fort on the lawn. Let the cool evening breeze and cozy tent ease both of your minds. Be sure to bring a childhood snack like popcorn, pudding, or a bag of Twizzlers. No matter what, you'll connect with your significant other in a fun and unique way.

Related Link: Date Idea: Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

If you're looking for a bigger project to tackle, build a tree house together. A good amount of time will be needed to develop and execute your plan, and your teamwork skills will certainly be tested. Be prepared to get your hands a little dirty too! Once you're finished, you'll have a new space to enjoy with your love and build new memories in.

Related Link: Date Idea: Early Morning Ideas

Whether you're relaxing in your blanket fort or newly-built treehouse, what you do together after building is important. Our <u>relationship advice</u> means spending quality time together. Dig out your old board games and challenge your love to a competition. Break out a deck of cards and let your S.O. teach you how to put on a poker face. Bring a radio to your new hangout and play your favorite tunes. Watch fireflies, the clouds, or each other for the perfect ending to a busy day of building.

Have you ever built something with your love? Tell us in the comments below.

Date Idea: Bloom in the Sun





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

You've spent the whole summer with your partner at the beach, playing in the sun, splashing around in the ocean, enjoying trail mix and sunflower seeds together. If you're running out of <u>date ideas</u>, Cupid's Pulse has them all. Have you ever given thought to where those sunflower seeds come from or how they grow? It's time to get back to the roots by creating your own love garden together. As the flowers grow, you'll be reminded of that <u>date night</u> when you first planted them. For fun, take bets on how long they will take to sprout.

Spend some quality time getting back to your roots with this summery date idea!

If neither of you have a green thumb, bring your man to a sunflower maze. To make things a bit more exciting, you can embrace your inner child and play hide-and-seek among the giant stems. Use both of these activities to bond with your man while fitting a little exercise into your afternoon. By the time you leave the maze, you'll be ready for a cold glass of wine and a delicious picnic dinner.

Related Link: Date Idea: Beat of the Music

When you get home, look up a recipe for sunflower ice cream and whip some up before you sit down to a nice healthy meal. The ice cream will be a unique summer treat and may even become a tradition for you to make as a couple. It'll take about four hours to freeze, so be patient. Prepare some easyto-make grilled chicken on the barbecue and pull together a tasty summer salad complete with cranberries and apples. Food always brings people closer together and cooking together can remind you of how much you love one another.

Related Link: Date Idea: Climb Every Mountain

Sunflower season is one of the hidden treasures of summer. Make sure that you take advantage of this beautiful time of year!

Have you ever planted your own garden or visited a sunflower maze? Share your experiences in the comments below.

Date Idea: Take the Stage Together





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

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 <u>date night</u>!

Cupid's weekend <u>date idea</u> 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.

Date Idea: List Your Love





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

We all express love in different ways. Sometimes, just being in the same room doing different things is all your partner needs to feel connected. There are times, though, that we may want to do a little extra in order to express our love. Writing out a list of all the things you love about your partner is a romantic <u>date idea</u>!

Reconnect with your partner with this romantic date idea!

1. Find a cozy environment: Cuddle up next to one another to set the mood. Plan a picnic outside if the weather is nice or

stay in during the winter, bundled under a blanket. Make sure to set the mood with candles, music, and a bottle of wine.

Related Link: Date Idea: Plan a Picnic with Your Love

2. List the physical: Are there things you physically love about each other? Does your heart flutter whenever your partner opens his eyes in the morning? Are you obsessed with his beard or the way her hair curls at the nape of her neck? By jotting down these things you notice about each other, you'll give one another a boost of confidence and strengthen the physical bond you share.

3. List the abstract: What quirks does your sweetheart have that make your day? Is their passion for work inspiring to you? Do they have an annoying habit that actually makes you smile, like talking to themself or singing in the shower? Pick the small, obscure attributes that you've never talked about before and let them know that you accept them unconditionally.

Related Link: Date Idea: Make the Perfect Playlist

4. List your relationship: Write down the things about your relationship that make you the happiest. Recite your favorite traditions: weekly date nights, pre-sleep cuddles or post-work wind-down sessions. Choose your commonalities and why they make you such a strong couple. Do you share a favorite movie? Explain why quoting it on a daily basis makes your relationship better. Do you both have type-A personalities? Tell your S.O. how you think your similarities and differences make you stronger together. Write down how you've grown from each other.

5. Share your list: Whether you go out for dinner for a romantic <u>date night</u>, stay in and watch a movie, or plan a <u>romantic getaway</u>, sharing these lists with each other will boost confidence, strengthen bonds, and reignite passion.

How do you tell your partner that you love him or her? Share

your story below!

Date Idea: Get Woodsy





By <u>Rachel Sparks</u>

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 <u>date idea</u>!

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: <u>Date Idea: Enjoy the Great Outdoors with Your</u> <u>Other Half</u>

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 <u>romantic getaway</u> 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: <u>Date Idea: Take a Trip to the Park</u>

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!