



creative
Date Ideas



One of the joys of dating is that you have the perfect excuse to plan interesting outings.

True, the dinner-and-a-movie option is a classic, but sitting silently in a theatre cuts down on the chance to get to know one another on a deeper level. And for more established couples, the "same old, same old" can get stale fast.

So to spice things up, add these inspired ideas to your dating repertoire.

1. Op Shop Date

- ↳ Go to a local op shop, and allot a small amount of money for each of you to spend. Then split up, being sure to avoid each other, and find something to buy for each other with the money you have. It could be something silly, meaningful, or something you think the other person would really like. When you are finished shopping, exchange your gifts somewhere else.

Some fun alternatives:

- ↳ Try to find something that describes a memory you have together
- ↳ Search for something silly your partner has to wear in a public place for the rest of the date.

2. Volunteer together

- ↳ Contributing to a project together affords great bonding time, and you'll have a lot to talk about afterwards. Check your local newspaper or council websites for a list of volunteering opportunities in your area.

- Do homework together.
- Build a tree house, or something else that's fun to make.
- Go out to dinner, whether casual or fancy, food is always good (you could take a game or project with you to enjoy while you wait for your food).
- Cook dinner for your parents or flatmates.
- Bake cookies.
- Visit an auction, garage sale or local market.
- Watch wind-surfers, surfers and para-gliders strut their stuff at the local beach.
- Visit an observatory.
- Go to local school galas and fairs, play all the games and see how many prizes you get!
- Meet somewhere with a few of your favourite poems / songs and discuss them.
- Have a swim at the community pool - make sure to use both the spa and the slides (alternating is the best way!)
- Take a walking tour (self-guided) of some of the nicest neighbourhoods in your town, or explore a street in a safe part of town you don't know too well.
- Go to an open-home of a really expensive house on the market.

Some Additional Great Date Ideas:

- Read a newspaper together, discuss your thoughts on local topics of interest.
- Read a good book together (perhaps a chapter a week and then discuss what you think).
- Wash your car or have a water fight.
- Go ice-skating for an afternoon.
- Go canoeing or kayaking.
- Go horse-riding.
- Go Ten Pin bowling
- Play a round of miniature golf.
- Write a short story or skit together.
- Play card games - and perhaps even enter into some light betting.
- Ride a ferry.
- Attend a Bible Study.
- Go for a drive.
- Play in the snow, wherever you can find it. Substitute with autumn leaves if need be.
- Jog together.
- Go on a scavenger hunt or treasure hunt.

3. Mad Lib Movie Night

- ↳ If you can't seem to find a good movie to watch, do not despair, there's still fun to be had! Find a movie you've both seen a billion times, pop it in, then hit the mute button. Take turns speaking for the characters in the movie, making up your own story line. Have fun, and be creative. This can get pretty hilarious!!

4. Coin Flip Date

- ↳ Go to a part of town you haven't been before, or into the city where there are lots of little shops. Start on a corner and flip a coin. "Heads" walk right, "tails" walk left. Go wherever the coin leads, with no plan at all. Have fun window shopping and sight-seeing. Learn more about each other by the types of stores and places that interest your date.

5. Follow Them Date

- ↳ Go to a busy public place. Pick one person to follow, and go wherever they go (be careful not to freak them out though!). Once you can't follow that person anymore, pick another person to follow. You're sure to have lots of laughs trying to be discreet while keeping up with your random guides!

6. Play Together

- ↳ Playing a sport together is good exercise, and lots of fun (just don't get too competitive!) Fun ideas: tennis, soccer, basketball, frisbee, kicking around a rugby ball. If you don't own any sports equipment, see if you can borrow from somebody.

7. Kids Play

- ↳ Just because you are adults now doesn't mean that you can't have fun together at the park. Race each other down the slide or play tag. See who can swing the highest, or jump off the farthest. Laugh, and talk about what you liked to do when you were little kids. This is a great way to get to know more about each other.

8. Enjoy Nature

- ↳ Spend time in the bush, hiking, rock-climbing, splashing in a creek, or just exploring. If you live in the city, find a park track to walk together, or ride bikes. Or hit your nearest beach for a long walk, a swim, draw in the sand, or check out rock pools and hunt for seashells.

Suggestion: Go to the beach on a wild and stormy day - it's fun to play in the wind and rain!

9. Board Games

- ↳ Break out the dusty old games in your closet and play together. There are some fun two-player games out there, but for the higher-number games play with your families or a group of friends. This is a great way to get to know the people who are important in your date's life.

10. Climb A Building

- ↳ Go to the top of a building in the city on a clear night and look out at all the beautiful lights.

Suggestion: If you're feeling particularly brave, go to a tall hotel and see if you can find a way out onto the roof.

29. Twenty Questions Night

- ↳ As a couple, or separately, create a list of questions for you both to answer. They can be as silly or thoughtful as you like. Go somewhere quiet - a park, a coffee shop - and ask away! The idea here is to create questions that will stimulate conversation as well as get to know each other better.

30. Local Band Night

- ↳ Many bars and clubs have open mic nights or featured artists on the weekends. This is a chance to expose yourself to some music you may not be usually accustomed to.

25. Eat on the Move

- ↳ Instead of staying at one restaurant the whole night, plan a progressive dinner: have appetizers at one place, then dinner at another, and dessert at a third place. Just be sure to scout out for spots that aren't too far from one another - you don't want to feel like you spent most of the night in the car. If your stops are within walking distance of each other even better!

26. People-watching Dates

- ↳ Public places such as train stations, airports, harbours and malls offer great people-watching opportunities, along with coffee or eateries nearby. Take a seat and have fun making up stories for the people who pass by.

27. Go Back to School

- ↳ Whether your last foray into the classroom was months or years ago, give it a try on your next date. Check the Community Education department at a local school for classes on just about everything. You and your date can partake in a one-day workshop, or perhaps even a several-session course.

28. Go Out For a Game

- ↳ See if you can get tickets for a local rugby test or netball game, or if your budget doesn't extend to this, check out your local club's games. Cheer for a particular player and let him figure out how he knows you!

11. Fishing

- ↳ If you're near the beach and have access to fishing rods, go cast a line or two off rocks or a wharf. See who can catch the biggest fish or the weirdest creature.

12. Roasting Marshmallows

- ↳ Use a fire-ring in your backyard and roast marshmallows or hotdogs. If you don't have a fire-ring, try using your inside wood-burner, or a candle if you're desperate.

Note: Make sure you stay fire-wise!

13. Free Local Events

- ↳ Look in your local paper's entertainment section or on your local council website for free events to attend. In the summer especially there is a lot going on.

14. Be Strangers

- ↳ Show up separately to a public place. Pretend that you've never met. At first go your own ways, then start to notice each other, flirt a little and end up taking some time to acquaint yourselves over coffee or an ice cream. Act as if you were first meeting. You'll have a blast!

15. Plan A Surprise

- ↳ Kidnap your date for a day - blindfold them and don't tell them what they're in for until you get there. It could be a treasure hunt, picnic in the park, or even something like surf lessons. Creating surprises for each other keeps life fun and unexpected!

Alternative: You can also have fun planning a surprise together for a friend or family member.

16. Bookstore Date

- ↳ If you love to read, this is a great date for you! Peruse books together. Sit down and read comic books or look at pictures from around the world. There are some pretty crazy books to be found out there!

17. University Events

- ↳ Often universities have free events you can attend such as lectures, music recitals, art exhibits, and even plays. Take advantage.

18. Letter Hunt

- ↳ For your date, take a camera with you. Go into town, or somewhere where there is a lot of architectural interest. Try to find architectural features that look like letters. See how many pictures of different letters you can take. You can try to find letters to spell out a specific word or your names, or see what letters you can find then try make a word out of them. This project may take a few dates to find lots of letters. When you have taken all the pictures you want, get them developed in black and white, and frame them spelling out your word as a reminder of the great time you had together.

19. Memory Album

- ↳ Go on an adventure, and take crazy pictures together at random places throughout the day. Get the pictures developed at a 1 hr photo place, and go home to make a memory album / collage of the day.

20. River/Lake Date

- ↳ Find a river and have a contest skipping rocks. See who can go the farthest and who can get the most number of skips. Or if there's a lake nearby (or even a stream or creek) go feed the ducks.

21. Visit a Museum

- ↳ Sometimes museums have specials where they offer low cost or free admissions. Some are entry by donation. Check out your local museum's website, or give them a call, to see what they have to offer.

22. Arcade Date

- ↳ Give yourselves a few dollars to blow on arcade games. You'll have lots of fun, and \$10 may last longer than you think!

Alternative: Go to a pool place and play a few games together.

23. Ice-Cream Date

- ↳ Go out together for an ice-cream. Share a sundae, go for a wander with cones, or buy some bulk-bin lollies beforehand and see who can make the best-decorated soft-serve.

24. Golfing Dates

- ↳ Golf may sound boring to some, but head to your local driving range and buy a bucket of balls and a driver. You'll have a blast hitting into the distance and cheering each other on - and laughing at the shocker hits that are bound to happen.

Suggestion: Go in the evening to play in the dark, then get a hot chocolate afterwards.