

20 Creative Date Ideas for 2016

Many people associate February with love, or just red and pink chocolate candies covering some of your favorite stores. Although Valentine's Day is supposed to be a special day to show people that you love them, it's important to have set-aside time with your significant other throughout every month, and not just one day a year.

To help you spend more time with your boyfriend or girlfriend, here are twenty creative date ideas to make your relationship a little more fun and interesting. If you are married, you can use these same ideas for one of your next dates.

1. **Visit a bookstore.** Grab a coffee from your favorite shop and wander through a bookstore together.
2. **Wine tasting.** If you search for local vineyards or wine tastings you'll be surprised at how many you'll find nearby. And who doesn't love good wine?
3. **Go to the theater.** Not the movie theater, a real-life theater. It's a completely different experience and always feels just a little more special than a regular movie.
4. **Host a dinner party.** Not only will you have the experience of getting ready and cooking the dinner together, but it's a great opportunity to invite friends to your home.
5. **Paint your own pottery.** Okay yes, I did this as a little girl for birthday parties, but it's actually very relaxing and a lot of fun, even for adults.
6. **Try out a new restaurant.** You've probably had somewhere on your list for ages. Pick somewhere new and give it a try!
7. **Bowling.** Yes, it's a little old school, but it never gets old. Lace up those fancy shoes and enjoy one another's company.
8. **Get dressed up and go to nice open houses.** You may not be able to afford that house, but they don't have to know that. Explore beautiful homes or see somewhere in the neighborhood that you've always been curious about.
9. **Go to a trivia night at a bar.** Ditch the typical "drinks" date and add a little more fun and competition to the evening.
10. **Dance in the rain.** Have you ever gotten poured on and just stopped and let it happen? I love standing in the rain. Now imagine a romantic dance in the rain with your significant other.
11. **Visit a museum.** Wander around a museum hand in hand, or even look for a free night at a museum. Many offer these once a month.
12. **Explore a new neighborhood.** Many of us live in cities with tons of diverse neighborhoods. Drive somewhere new and go on a walk.
13. **Visit the zoo.** Do you have a local zoo, aviary, conservatory, or something similar? Bring out your youthful side and go for a visit.
14. **Go for a bike ride.** Rent some bikes at a local park or beach front and ride around enjoying the scenery.
15. **Volunteer together.** We all feel like we want to do more to give to those in need. Why not turn it into a date? You'll be surprised what you might learn about one another.
16. **Be a tourist.** Take a local tour in your own city and see it from a new point of view.
17. **Visit a farmers market.** The best farmers markets are the ones with lots of free samples. Grab a coffee and walk around, exploring and tasting what your local businesses have to offer.
18. **Dance lessons.** This can be a fun date, and give you a great skill for the next wedding you attend.
19. **Go on a hike.** Look up a local state park and take a morning hike, followed with a delicious brunch.

20. **Stay in with couples questions.** If you search Pinterest or Google for questions to ask on a date, you'll come up with a fun and interesting list, and you'll probably learn something you never knew about your partner.

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