

Marriage Date-night Ideas

Dating your spouse is a very important part of keeping the home-fires burning! Keep the following in mind as you put together the perfect date night.

D-personality styles: Give them choices and let them decide what to do.

I-personality styles: Be spontaneous and explore new things together. They love surprises!

S-personality styles: Choose a date night that is laidback with plenty of connection time.

C-personality styles: Choose something that exhibits quality and value.

With these guidelines in mind, look at the following date night ideas and find one or two that will speak your spouse's temperament language. Change things up, if necessary, to really connect with your mate. Rekindle your love, relate more intimately and have fun!

Plan a date you know they'd love

Is there an activity that your spouse loves to do that you maybe love a little less? Put your spouse first by planning a date night all about them. They'll love the selflessness of your actions and you'll love seeing the look on their face.

Tech-free night

Commit to a "tech free" night. Turn off your cell phones, computer, the TV, and the lights. Use your imagination to see what's left to do without electricity -- make your own music!

Go on a progressive dinner

Mix up your dinner routine and patron three of your favorite restaurants in one night! Have appetizers at one restaurant, entrees at another and finish the night with dessert at a third. Feeling extra creative? Make it a multinational feast, beginning with sushi, then burritos and finishing with gelato.

Hello again

Remember the early days when you and your spouse were first dating? Recreate the excitement of your first encounter with a date pretending you don't know each other. For example, set a time and place with your date for your "chance" encounter. On the big night, dress to impress before you head out. When at your meeting location, keep an eye out for your love and be ready with some smooth (or corny) pick-up lines. Then, spend the evening flirting and getting to know each other all over again!

Follow the stars

On a clear night, take your love on a stargazing adventure. Start by picking a big, bright star, and follow it on foot while holding hands and talking. At any point, stop for ice cream or dessert, at a park, or anything you come across along the way. Follow your star until you can't follow it anymore, then

pick another star to follow. For a surprise, take your spouse to a different neighborhood or part of town, and use this activity to explore it together!

Encouragement via driftwood

Find a flat piece of scrap wood and use a permanent marker to write out your favorite Bible verses or encouraging quotes. Take it to a nearby beach, river or lake and toss it in the water. This may be of great encouragement to whoever finds it later on.

Drive-in movie night in your car

Pick a movie, charge your laptop or portable DVD player, pack some blankets and snacks and drive to a favorite park. Enjoy a movie night in the comfort of your own car. Or, bring lawn chairs to prop by your car and have a true outdoor movie-watching experience.

Five-dollar date

For a simple and economical date, take your spouse to a farmer's market, flea market or antique shop with only five dollars each. Together, scour the stalls for the perfect five-dollar gift for each other. Unusual or quirky items make good gifts, as do market foods, used CDs, jewelry, books, records and small antique items. And be sure to be sneaky and buy your gift when your mate isn't looking so you can unveil your treats for each other together.

At-home spa

Give your love some tender care by planning a relaxing massage date. To create your at-home spa, set up a quiet room with candles, flowers and light, classical music. Fill the room with a light scent, preferably an essential oil burning in an infuser. Then, have your spouse lie on the bed with fresh sheets, and begin with a head and neck rub, followed by a back massage. Be sure to take your time and ask your spouse what pressure they prefer and what spots need the most attention. If you want help with your massage skills, there are plenty of books available to give you tips. But don't worry! Whether you know how to give a perfect massage, giving a gift of loving touch is a surefire way to convey love and care to your mate.

Pretend you're a tourist

Look around your city and do the things a tourist might do – go to an overlook, a quaint neighborhood, the botanical gardens, a museum, whatever is special about your hometown. Gawk if you like; after all you're a tourist. Fun twist -- get as many people as you can to take a picture of the two of you kissing.

Backyard spa

Borrow or buy a cheap kiddie pool, fill it with bubble bath, light candles, put on some romantic music and have a spa night in the backyard. Call your mate throughout the day letting them know you have something special planned and tell them you love them!