

Ready-to-go Dates

The cure for Dinner and a Movie

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Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
THE DATES.....	3
BOWLING.....	5
MINI GOLF.....	6
SKATING.....	7
PROGRESSIVE DINNER.....	8
PICNIC.....	9
DUCKY DATE.....	10
CAFFEINATED CONVERSATION.....	11
CHEFS-IN-TRAINING.....	12
CAMPING IN.....	13
BOOKSTORE EXPLORATION.....	14
SWEET TREATS.....	15
DESSERT DINING.....	16
PHOTO OPS.....	17
BOARD NO MORE.....	18
GAME PLAY.....	19
ARTSY FARTSY.....	20
KIDS AGAIN.....	21
SUNRISE/SUNSET.....	22
WINE TASTING.....	23
WINERY.....	24
DINNER & A MOVIE TIPS.....	25
DATES IN ACTION.....	26
LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR.....	27
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	28

Introduction

It can be hard to come up with ideas for dates. You know what works and what doesn't, and it's easy to fall back on tried-and-true dates, especially when you don't have a lot of time to plan something out. This is why the classic “dinner and a movie” is so popular: it's easy to plan and simple to execute. Unfortunately, movies don't make for great dates.

The point of going on a date is to spend time with your date, interacting and conversing. This focused time strengthens your relationship, as you continue to learn more about each other and grow closer. It's hard to interact during a movie; fellow movie-goers tend to dislike you interrupting their \$8+ entertainment with your conversation.

The best dates provide the opportunity to focus on each other, learning more about each other and thus growing even closer.

To keep from falling into a rut, this guide contains 20 date ideas that only require a few minutes of preparation, which will consist mostly of looking up directions. I have tried to include only dates that can be done by anyone just about anywhere, and have provided variations that you can try in order to make the date better fit your personal tastes. Each of these dates provides the chance to focus on each other with few to no distractions.

Sometimes, though, you do just want to go out for “dinner and a movie.” So you will find some variations of this dating staple after the end of the other date ideas. Maybe you'll find something that you like better than what you're doing now, or at least something that will help you change up your weekend routine.

THE DATES

Not all dates are created equal. Some dates are expensive while others are free. Occasionally a lot of travel is required while others can be done in your own home. Not all dates include food, though others have it as their focus. This guide has tried to include a few ideas from each of these various categories so that no matter what mood you might be in there will be something that appeals to you.

The date ideas are listed in only the barest of orders. More “traditional” dates have been listed first. These are activities that most people have thought of but which are frequently over-looked when trying to think of something to do. Don't dismiss them as something for children if you haven't tried them in a few years. When approached with a focus on spending time together and having fun these are quite entertaining activities.

After the first three “traditional” dates, the remaining ideas are in no specific order. Feel free to flip through them and try out whatever catches your fancy.

CHOOSING YOUR DATE ACTIVITY

Be sure to try *all* of the date ideas. Until you've given it a chance you will never know if you truly enjoy the activity or not, no matter how goofy you may think it sounds. You can simply work through the dates in order, or scan through the ideas and try whichever one happens to catch your attention at the moment.

ADD YOUR OWN SPICE

You will have access to different resources, depending on where you happen to live. It can be hard to find a coffee shop or book store if you reside in a rural area, while a quiet pond can be challenging to discover in an urban setting.

When reading through these date ideas, don't immediately dismiss them because you don't think it's possible where you live. Maybe you don't have a coffee shop in your small town, but there is probably a restaurant of some sort. Go there and order some coffee or tea (see *Caffeinated Conversation*, pg 11). Town too small for a restaurant? Try the daily brew, slushy, or soda at the gas station.

Live in the city and can't find a mini golf course nearby? Head to the toy aisle and pick up a toy golf set. You can then head to a park and put up your own course or play in your home (who needs a windmill when you have to make it through the dining table and chair legs?)

No bookstore close to you? Check out the public library instead. While they might not be open as long, their prices more than make up for it! (see *Bookstore Exploration*, pg 14).

Perhaps one of the date ideas interferes with a personal preference instead of being limited by available resources. A few simple adjustments are all you need to make.

Do you choose not to imbibe? (*Wine Tasting and Winery*, pgs 23-24). Simply substitute your favorite drink for the adult beverage, whether that is a home-made soda, fruit juice, or just cold water.

If there are any dates that you don't know how to adapt to your situation, don't hesitate to contact me at Dates@Adventure-Some.com for some more specific advice. I'm more than happy to help.

And now, without further ado, let's get to the dates!

BOWLING

The first of the “traditional” dates, bowling is a great activity to do together. It provides the opportunity to play a game that everyone already knows the rules of, looks goofy while playing, is played at your own speed, and that gives you plenty of opportunity to sit around and chat with each other. You can even have snacks and drinks while playing! What else could you ask for on a date?

Preparation:

Getting ready for this date is a simple matter of knowing where you're going and remembering to have a pair of socks for each of the participants. (I don't care how powerful the cleaning stuff they use on those shoes is, I'm not going to put my feet in there without socks on!)

Don't know where the closest bowling alley is? Google to the rescue! Just search for “your-city bowling” and you'll quickly find something. Don't know where your socks are? Beyond suggesting swinging by the nearest discount store on the way to the bowling alley, I'm afraid any more assistance is beyond the scope of this guide.

Suggestions:

Why not try something new and grab some food from the bowling alley's snack counter? If they don't have anything that appeals to you it will be easy enough to stop somewhere after you're done playing.

Make it more fun by putting each others' nicknames on the scorecard.

While you're at the bowling alley (or when you're looking it up online) be sure to look into their specials. Maybe it's cheaper to play earlier in the day, or they have glow-in-the-dark bowling on certain nights. Who doesn't love bowling in the dark?

MINI GOLF

This date is another one of the “traditional” classics. Like bowling, everyone already knows the rules and is generally bad at. Fortunately, the worse you do the more fun you can have!

Preparation:

Do you know where the mini golf course is? Then you're ready to go. Everything you need will be provided once you get there. (If not, a quick Google search will show you where to go.)

Suggestions:

While it might be a bit of a challenge to eat while you're playing (you'd have to carry your food around with you, after all), it should be no trouble to eat either before or after the game. If the course has a nice setting, or some convenient picnic tables, you may want to consider taking some food with you. This has the added advantage that if there is a line, you will be able to occupy yourselves as you wait.

SKATING

The final of the “traditional” standbys, skating can take a variety of forms: ice, roller, or even roller blading. This date provides the perfect opportunity to hold hands as you support one another. It also allows you to have fun as you try to dance, limbo, or play along with the other games that the rink might offer. Most people look awkward as they skate, so don't let that hold you back. Get out there and have a good time!

Preparation:

Like bowling, you need nothing more than directions and shoes to go on this date. For the ladies, I would recommend against wearing a skirt or dress, unless you are confident in your ability to stay up on your feet.

If you decide to try ice skating, consider wearing long pants and sleeves. Even in the middle of the summer, ice needs to be kept cool to remain solid.

Suggestions:

Opportunities for challenging your date arise in the rink. See who can skate backwards the best, balance on one foot the longest, stop most gracefully, or simply race each other. Winner gets a kiss!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Who says you must eat your entire meal in one restaurant? No one! A progressive dinner is one where you eat each individual course at a different location. Start at one restaurant for appetizers, head off to a second one for entrees, and finish off at a third for dessert. It's a traveling meal!

This dinner date provides the opportunity to enjoy your favorite menu items at your favorite restaurants. Perhaps your favorite appetizer is at one place, while another makes the most divine desserts! That's perfect! This date also helps to combat the tendency we have to rush through the meal; the travel time in between courses affords extra opportunities to chat during the date.

Preparation:

If you have the time, you could pick out which restaurants you want to visit before you head out the door, but this isn't completely necessary. It can be great fun to eat one course, head out the door, and then head where ever sounds good at the moment.

Suggestions:

It may be tempting to have more than one item at each location, but don't succumb! Stay strong in your decision to head to a new location for each course.

Take this opportunity to try something new. Order that soup you've always been curious about, just to see what it's like. Don't forget to sample each other's food!

PICNIC

Picnics can be as plain or fancy as you have time for. It can be as simple as grabbing some take-out on your way to the park and eating at one of the provided picnic tables or as complicated as eating your 3-course home-cooked meal while sitting on a blanket overlooking a scenic view. One advantage of the picnic as a date is that it's not an everyday occurrence, so anything that you do will be special.

Preparation:

Determine what kind of food you plan on having. There is no such thing as “picnic food” so just about anything can be taken with you. If you prepare your own food, don't forget to take all of the accessories that you will use: condiments, napkins, silverware, and a corkscrew for the wine.

While it's definitely not necessary, a blanket or sheet of some sort is certainly adds a nice touch. Even if you don't sit on the ground, having a table-cloth adds a bit of romance.

Suggestions:

Having real dishes provide a touch of class for any meal, even fast food grabbed on the way. So gather your plates (bowls if you need them), a set of silverware, and some glasses. Layer place-mats between the dishes and wrap your glasses in napkins for protection. Having said this, it's the company that's important, not the accessories, so don't stress too much if you don't have these things.

It's always nice to have a surprise on the picnic, especially if your date helped prepare. Bring strawberries or a nice chocolate bar for dessert, or sneak a favorite drink in when they're not looking. Candles make an easy surprise and add nice ambiance. Simple tea candles will work well. Don't forget the matches!

DUCKY DATE

Parks just aren't complete without a bird-filled pond somewhere. Maybe not every park has such a feature, but at least one in your area does. And no matter where they're located, those birds love to be fed. What a great date!

Preparation:

If you don't know where birds of a feather flock together, [maps.Google.com](https://maps.google.com) should be able to help you. Type in your zip code and then start looking around. Green represents parks and blue shows where the water is. Your best bet is where those two are touching.

As entertaining as it can be to go bird watching, feeding them is much more fun. You'll need some sort of bread to feed with, however. It's easy enough to grab some slices from your stash before you head out the door. If you have a chance, call ahead to a sandwich shop and ask them to save you some pieces, explaining what you'll be doing with them.

Suggestions:

Even if you don't manage to feed the fowl this time around, treat the entire experience as an adventure. Enjoy the search and remember what you find. Maybe next time you'll have better luck with the birds.

Use the feeding as a starting point. Enjoy a stroll around the park, take in the views, and be sure to hold hands.

Don't forget to grab a water bottle or two. You may be grateful you have it after your stroll.

CAFFEINATED CONVERSATION

Head out to a local coffee or tea shop to enjoy some conversation, a game, or just some shared people-watching. This is a great date for any time of day. Shops come in all different shapes and sizes, with quite a range of atmospheres. If you already have a favorite shop, here's a perfect excuse to visit again. If you don't yet have a favorite, or even if you just want to try something new, head somewhere you've never been and see what they have to offer!

Preparation:

As always, you need to know where you're going. Google “your-city coffee shop” (or tea shop, if you prefer) to get some ideas, or just find the nearest Starbucks at www.starbuckslocations.com/.

If you want something to do besides just sit and talk, consider grabbing a board game or puzzle of some sort. Many places already have some, but you might consider taking a favorite game of your own.

Suggestions:

You don't have to order coffee just because you're in a coffee shop. Try one of their teas, an Italian Soda, smoothie, or even just a bottled soda. If you like coffee, maybe you just need to order something different. There's no telling what you might discover!

If they're not terribly busy, chat with the employees. Ask them how their day's going, see if they have any suggestions of something to do after you finish your drinks, or just see what drink they recommend.

Don't have a coffee shop? Fear not: you can go to many restaurants and get coffee. Just because they offer food doesn't mean you have to order any. No matter how small a town you might live outside of, there is bound to be a place to get a drink and sit around for a conversation.

CHEFS-IN-TRAINING

Spending time together in a kitchen can make some great memories! Whether or not you get to savor a delicious meal together, you'll be working together and have the chance to appreciate each other's skills and gently laugh at the mistakes you make together. Fortunately for many of us, cooking together doesn't mean that we have to create a five-star meal, unless you really want to. You can pick up kits for making pizza, tacos, pasta, and more! Even something like mac-n-cheese can be cooked together.

Preparation:

Pick your recipe. Part of the fun can be looking through cookbooks or online recipe guides and deciding what you want to try (www.allrecipes.com generally has quite a good selection.)

Now that you know what you will be cooking it's time to gather your supplies. This might mean raiding the pantry, or it could involve a trip to the grocery store. Go together! Shopping can be part of the fun.

Suggestions:

Be sure to check the times on your menu items. When you're hungry, it's no fun to realize that you will have to wait an hour for your meal to cook. Choose wisely and plan ahead a bit.

Too hungry to wait? Start with an appetizer or salad. Once the prep work is done, you can sit down and eat while the main course is doing its thing.

You don't both have to cook. One of you could be setting the table, helping with dishes, handing ingredients when needed, or just reading the recipe out loud. The important part is the time spent together.

CAMPING IN

The weather doesn't have to be nice to go camping. You can clear your living room floor and set up your tent right there. Spread out your sleeping bags and you're camping! Now the weather's perfect, there are no bugs to worry about, nice bathrooms are conveniently located nearby, and there's not a chance of rain. Sounds like a perfect camping trip.

Preparation:

You will need to make room for your tent. Don't have one? Go old-school and make one out of blankets over chairs (be sure and weigh the chairs down so it doesn't collapse on you). Once your tent is up, spread out the sleeping bags. Substitute blankets if necessary.

Suggestions:

Set the scene with a fire (only recommended if you have a fireplace of some sort).

You can still eat “traditional” camping food while camping in: hotdogs for supper and microwaved s'mores for dessert. Be sure to sit outside your tent while enjoying your meal.

Share your sleeping bag. Even if your two sleeping bags won't zip together, you can still spread them out and use them like blankets.

Don't forget the best part of any camping trip, the scary stories before heading to bed! Make sure all the lights are out, turn on your flashlights, and trade stories. If you get too scared you can always cuddle close together for comfort.

BOOKSTORE EXPLORATION

There are many opportunities to learn about your date while in a bookstore. Check out the store together, see what books catch their attention, share a laugh at the funny titles, or just learn about what interests your date. You could explore the world via the travel section and maybe pick a destination for a future trip. Your new favorite meal might be hiding in the cooking section, or the craft section might contain a new hobby that you could share.

Preparation:

Nothing more than heading to a local bookstore. If you've already checked out the big-box stores, check the Yellow Pages to find a mom-and-pop shop that might have a smaller selection but much more personality.

Suggestions:

Walk down memory lane together as you check out the children's section. You might be surprised by what your date has never heard of.

You could make the bookstore trip only the first stage of your date. Pick out a menu in a cookbook and then head to the grocery store to pick up the ingredients for supper. Buy a puzzle book and work through it together in a nearby coffee shop. Check out the crafts section and find something to make, then go get the materials to start working on it.

SWEET TREATS

Sometimes you just want something sweet. Nothing else will quite hit the spot. This is the perfect date for those times. Head out to your favorite sweets dealer and get your fix! Choose from donuts, frozen yogurt, ice cream, perhaps even a chocolate or cookie factory if you have one nearby

Preparation:

If you've already got a favorite, then all you need to do is jump in the car and head that way. Not sure what all is available? Check out the Yellow Pages or just go driving around and see what you can discover.

Suggestions:

You don't have to hit up a sweets store specifically, if that's not what you're in the mood for. Go and get a big pretzel from a store in the mall if that's what your taste-buds are screaming for.

Explore your options. You can get a slice of pie from the local bakery or a cake from the grocery-store.

Check out somewhere that you wouldn't normally visit to get your snack-food fix. Maybe there is a snack shack next to the nearest sporting venue or at the park. Go and see what they have!

Can't decide what you want? Head to the candy store in the mall and get a little bit of everything! It's like Halloween, except without all of the walking around. Win, win!

If the mall is too far away or yours doesn't have a candy store, head to the candy aisle of the nearest grocery store.

DESSERT DINING

This date provides a few different options to choose from, a surprise, and a sweet ending! Your date chooses one of three envelopes and sees what is inside. The slip of paper contained therein lists a destination and possibly a dessert item. Now you head to the written destination and it's time to share a dessert!

Preparation:

You'll have to take a few moments to write down three places to get dessert. If you know what they offer, write down a favorite, but feel free to leave it blank if you're not sure.

Suggestions:

Any restaurant or grocery store can provide an opportunity for fun. You don't have to limit yourself to a restaurant. Check out a bakery, see what coffee shops have to offer, or just try the grocery store's offerings.

For best results, put recipe cards in the envelopes instead, and after the envelope is chosen head to the store and get the ingredients. Head home and make it together.

PHOTO OPS

There's just something about having a camera along that makes an everyday occurrence seem more fun and exciting. For this date we're going to fill a new photo album with memories of our fun excursion.

Preparation:

This date requires nothing more than something to take pictures with. So grab your film/digital/video camera or cell phone and head out.

Suggestions:

There are any number of places you can go to take pictures: a park, downtown, or a nearby college campus. For the most fun park your car and spend time walking.

Don't limit yourself to "standard" photos. Interact with your environment, don't be afraid to strike goofy poses, and generally just have a good time!

Take a prop of some sort with you. Anything would work: a stuffed animal, a bouquet of flowers, or a set of matching water bottles. Whatever you can think of!

Ask passers-by for assistance. Whether it's having them take a picture of you and your date, or being part of the picture themselves, don't be afraid to interact with those around you.

BOARD NO MORE

You don't necessarily have to leave the house to have an exciting time. In fact, you are likely to already have everything that you need for a fantastic evening at home! Peruse your closets for board games, or dust off those cards for some entertainment tonight. You might be surprised to realize how much you still enjoy some of your old favorites.

Preparation:

See what your options are and decide what game to play. Don't have any board games? Part of the fun can be perusing the toy section to find a new one, just for the two of you. There is no reason to avoid the toy store: you never know what you might find.

Not a board game person? Pull out the cards and check out www.pagat.com (or go straight to their list of [2-player games](#)) to see what to play on this date.

Suggestions:

Not really competitive? There's nothing wrong with that. Just relax and enjoy yourself.

As fun as video games are, you lose that face-to-face interaction, no matter how close you sit to each other. At least for tonight, keep the digital stuff turned off so you can focus on one another.

Have snacks readily available. Finger foods go great with games so that you can munch as you contemplate your next move. Just don't forget to have napkins ready!

You can keep score and have an on-going competition. Same fun place next week?

GAME PLAY

If you're in the mood for more active game play than the previous date suggests, you can head out to play a physical game somewhere else. Whether you decide to play basketball, tennis, lasertag, or paintball, you are only limited to what equipment you have access to.

Preparation:

Get whatever equipment you need and head out to the closest court. Most parks have basketball and tennis courts. If you're not sure, just search online for your nearest park to see what they offer.

Suggestions:

You can try handball, volleyball, or racquetball. If those don't sound appealing at the moment, you could just play Frisbee or catch in your yard.

Re-live some childhood fun with the games you enjoyed when you were younger. Bring back the excitement of tag, hide-and-seek, or whatever your favorite game was.

Don't limit yourself to common games. Make up one of your own. Find some new combination of tag, hide-and-seek, and basketball that works for the two of you.

ARTSY FARTSY

You don't have to be an artist to have a good time making things. All you need is a willingness to have fun and see what you can come up with. While this date can take place somewhere like a library or coffee shop, you just might have more fun at home. For this date you will be drawing or painting each other. Once you are both finished, you can proudly frame your work for the whole world to see (or just tuck it safely into your scrap book).

Preparation:

Fortunately, you don't need a lot of expensive materials to have a good time. Grab some paper from the printer and use your favorite pencil or pen. Want more options than black and white? See what you currently have: any colored pencils, crayons, or paint in your house? If not, a quick trip to the store might be in order. You don't need the best materials, so just get whatever happens to catch your eye. Paint (whether watercolor or acrylic), a brush, and maybe a canvas or heavy art paper will get you started. You can cover a plate with aluminum foil to mix your paint on, and a plastic cup to rinse your brushes out in.

Suggestions:

Be sure to wear clothes that you don't mind getting messy in, as it's going to happen.

Think you might literally paint each other? You might want to stop at the hardware section of the store and get a plastic drop cloth to catch any drips before they hit the floor.

Afraid you can't draw/paint well? Check out some of [Picasso's work](#). This guy was a master!

Your model might appreciate an adult beverage to help them relax. (And remember, you're next!)

KIDS AGAIN

When was the last time you went and let loose on a playground? If it's been awhile, then this date might be perfect. It's time to get out there and hit up the playground for some old-school fun.

Preparation:

Change into some clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, grab a water bottle, and head to the nearest park to start your flashback.

Suggestions:

As you play together you have an excellent opportunity to learn more about each other's childhood. Ask about favorite parks growing up, what school was like, who their friends were, etc.

Be sure to help each other out: push each other on the swings, teeter-totter together, and push the merry-go-round as the other rides it.

If the playground is full, you still have the option of taking a stroll around the park. Or you could head to the store and grab some sidewalk chalk and then proceed to decorate the parking lot. Can't think of what to draw? Outline each other in chalk, make a hop scotch board, or just write both of your initials inside of a heart.

And, as always, be sure to share with the other kids and play nice.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Why not share one of the most romantic times of the day with your special someone? There's just something amazing about taking a few minutes out of your day and watching the sunrise or sunset together.

Preparation:

Check out www.SunriseSunset.com to find your local sunrise/sunset times. Figure out where a good place to watch the sun might be and plan to be there at least 20 minutes before the time.

Suggestions:

Can't find the perfect spot? Then chase one down. As the time draws near, keep driving around and look for a better vantage point. (That's the good thing about this, if it doesn't work out today, you can try again tomorrow!)

Looking over a body of water might be the ideal, but there are plenty of places that you can try, over a park, from the top floor (or roof, if you can access one) of a tall building, from a church courtyard (silhouetting the steeple), from one end of a park, or just on the rise of a hill.

Enjoy each other's company and some still, quiet time together. Even if the sunrise/sunset isn't absolutely spectacular, you still got to view it with one another.

Prepare for the circumstances. If it's cold, bring some coffee/hot chocolate and a blanket (and snuggle close!) If it's a hot summer day then a refreshing, cool beverage would be appreciated.

WINE TASTING

You don't have to go to a winery or restaurant to sample wine. You can choose your own setting when you take your own to a beautiful outdoor location to try with your date. Since you can take as long as you like, you can certainly bring along a picnic if you are in the mood for an even more relaxed outing.

Preparation:

You don't need much: a couple of wine glasses, a bottle of wine (preferably chilled), and maybe some finger foods. Glasses can be picked up at an everything-for-\$1 store if you don't have any (they hold liquid quite well, and you aren't too concerned about chipping them).

It also helps to have a destination in mind. A state or national park works very well, especially if it overlooks water of some sort. However, any scenic landscape will work, and any place with a picnic setting will do.

Suggestions:

A picnic meal can be very simple and put together quickly. Just grab some meat, like a prosciutto or salami, some nice cheese, fresh fruit, and an appropriate chocolate to accompany the wine (the deeper and redder the wine, the darker and more bitter the chocolate should be).

I don't know what the laws are regarding open containers in public in your area. To be safe, keep the bottle out of sight, especially from children. Don't drink and drive. Be smart and safe!

WINERY

You don't have to like wine to visit a winery. Even if you do like wine, you don't have to taste any. Many wineries have interesting histories to learn about, beautifully manicured vineyards that you can tour, and wonderfully decorated gift shops full of non-wine items.

Preparation:

Once again, Google comes to the rescue in case you don't already know of a vineyard in your area. Search for “your-city winery” to discover your local options.

Suggestions:

As you're looking up wineries, you may wish to see what all they have to offer. Some actually have their own restaurants, while others only offer wine tastings. Perhaps you will discover a new favorite place to eat!

Be sure to take your time on this date. Enjoy the scenery, learn about the history of the business and the process of wine making, and stroll together through the vineyard.

This is an easy date to pair with a home-cooked meal. Pick out a wine that will go with whatever will be on the menu. Not sure what that would be? Be sure to ask the sales-person for a recommendation.

DINNER & A MOVIE TIPS

While dinner and a movie is not an ideal date as far as getting to know one another, there is nothing necessarily wrong with it. After all, sometimes you just want to go and see a movie! And you can learn about your date during the movie if you pay attention to what makes them laugh, cry, or respond in some way. Plus, there's always the opportunity to snuggle up close to each other. However, it's too easy to fall into the dinner and a movie rut every single weekend. So here are some tips to mix it up a little:

There is just something about seeing a movie at a drive-in theater that can't be matched. Whether you're an old pro at this or have never watched a movie from your car before, don't forget this option! Not sure if you have any drive-ins close by? You can search at www.drive-ins.com, note that it's still open before heading out. Be sure to try some of their food, at least once. That's part of the whole experience, after all.

You don't necessarily have to eat movie theater popcorn. Take a trip back to those days as a teenager when you used to sneak food into the theater and bring something different with you. You could have a whole meal for the price of a box of candy.

Don't feel like breaking the rules? Find your closest dine-in theater (Google "dine-in movie theater") and enjoy the theater experience, except with better chairs and restaurant food delivered to you.

Want the comfiest viewing option? Rent your favorite movie and watch it at home, with some home-made popcorn. Fortunately, popcorn's easy to make. All you need is the corn (available at any grocery store), some oil (peanut, canola, and vegetable all work), and a pot with a lid. Follow the directions on the bag. Once it's done just add melted butter and salt for that movie theater experience.

DATES IN ACTION

Now it's up to you. What will you do with the ideas presented here?

It's easy to read through this list of ideas, think "That sounds like a good idea, I'll have to remember to do it next weekend," and then forget about it completely. Dating can be hard work, and it requires preparation and planning. This guide tries to do as much of that for you as possible, by providing date ideas and preparation tips. Now it is up to you to put these ideas into action.

Here are a few last tips to help you do that:

Go ahead and schedule your dates. If you're in a long-term relationship it can be easy to let "life" get in the way of dating. To help compete with that you have to make dating the priority it should be. Go ahead and get your planner out and schedule in some dates. Right now. Once you get back the next tip will be waiting.

Set up reminders to schedule dates each month. Find a system that works for you: whether that is putting a reminder on the calendar for the first of each month, setting up an automatic email, or putting a sticky note on your bathroom mirror. Make your date planning automatic so that you can't forget.

Print this guide out and staple it together. Make notes in the margins. Keep track of the ideas that you really enjoyed, the ones that didn't quite work out for you, and any new ideas that you came up with. This way you will always have a physical reminder and something to look at whenever you're stuck for ideas.

Most importantly, go and date! Put these ideas to use, or come up with your own. Get out there with your date and have fun!

LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

Thanks so much for grabbing a copy of *Ready-to-go Dates*. I hope it helps your relationship grow stronger than ever. The advice it contains is simple, but highly effective when put into practice.

Dating helps you find your spouse and then helps you continue to grow closer to them over time. Its importance cannot be overstated. And time does not diminish that importance, though it does make it easier to lose sight of. So while these dates might be quick to put into practice, that only makes them even more valuable as we have less time available.

I do have one favor to ask. With your help, I want to make this even better. I would love to add more dates to this guide. More things to do, places to go, and options for the current dates. If you email me any further ideas that you come up with we can make this better, together. Once I have enough additional ideas I will release a new edition of this guide and send you a copy.

To help improve this guide, please email me at:
Dates@Adventure-Some.com

Here's to an always exciting dating life!

Matthew

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE AUTHOR

I am a minimalist who creates, rides motorcycles, and loves my wife. I have been happily coming up with date ideas for the two of us over the last six years, and I plan to continue doing so for many more years.

THE WIFE

My wife has patiently put up with my writing habits as I put together this book. Fortunately, she enjoys the research that makes it all possible and encourages me and continues to provide valuable feedback. We have tried out most of these ideas over the years and she helps me weed out the unsuccessful ones.

THE EDITOR

Ms. Brittany G. Hedges and I have worked together in the past so I immediately turned to her to help me polish this guide into its final form. Her editing skills have proven invaluable.

THE BLOGGERS

I could not share this guide alone, and I am very thankful to all of those who have helped me reach out to you, to share this valuable guide. For fear of leaving anyone out, I will simply say, “Thank you, marriage, sex, and relationship bloggers!”