



101 Creative Date Ideas

Working on building friendship and fun in your marriage isn't difficult. It just takes some intentional focus and the choice to make dating your spouse a priority in your schedule. Dates can be elaborate (and costly) or simple (and inexpensive). The choice is yours. The important thing is to plan dates that you and your spouse both find enjoyable, or are at least willing to try. Here are 101 creative dating ideas.

\$ denotes an inexpensive date idea

Outdoor/Active Dates

1. **Ride Bikes.** *A fun date and good exercise too! Be sure to stay close-by while riding together. Remember, it's a date, not the Tour de France.*
2. **\$ Go to the beach or a lake.** *Walk, sun, swim, relax. Great choice for a quick getaway if you have a beach or lake nearby.*
3. **Ice skate.** *Cold ice and hot chocolate equals warm hearts.*
4. **Go canoeing or kayaking.** *Peaceful way to hang out together. Get some instruction and guidance first!*
5. **Play tennis.** *Who says you are too old to keep "courting"?*
6. **Play racquetball, handball, or squash.** *Good aerobic exercise. Talk between points...if you can.*
7. **\$ Go hiking.** *Nature and romance—what's not to like?*
8. **Go sailing.** *Wind and water for two.*
9. **Go dancing.** *Show off your moves and take advantage of the slow songs!*
10. **Play miniature golf.** *No skills required.*
11. **Play croquet.** *Easy to set up at home, school, or a park. Great way to enjoy a sunny day together.*
12. **Go bowling.** *You can't break the ball or the pins, and you'll find a bowling alley almost anywhere you live.*
13. **Hit golf balls at a driving range.** *For more romance, snuggle up to help your spouse with his or her swing.*
14. **\$ Gardening.** *Gardening at home can turn into a date when you work together.*
15. **\$ Jog.** *Enjoy a run while being with each other. Take time to talk as you cool down.*
16. **Snowboard.** *Find out how cozy a half-pipe can be.*
17. **\$ Explore an unfamiliar nearby town.** *Adventure awaits as you try visiting someplace new together.*
18. **Do-It-Yourself.** *Tackle a new craft or home improvement project with your spouse.*

19. **\$ Watch a sunset.** *Isn't dating your spouse why God made sunsets in the first place?*
20. **Go geocaching.** *Find a hidden treasure using your phone's GPS capability. Check online for geocaching opportunities in your area.*
21. **\$ Build a snowman.** *Yes, this is difficult in Florida, but it's a time-honored winter tradition for lovers who live in cold weather climates.*
22. **Take a fun class together.** *Agree on taking a class where you can both learn something new and enjoy being study partners together.*
23. **\$ Toss a Frisbee.** *An old stand-by but oh, so easy to do.*
24. **Take an exercise class together.** *Keep in shape together.*
25. **\$ Star-gaze.** *A blanket and stars...who could ask for more?*
26. **Go camping.** *Get into the great outdoors. A great opportunity for extended conversation, away from the everyday pressures of technology.*
27. **\$ Go on a picnic.** *Find a picturesque, quiet spot together. Watch out for ants!*
28. **\$ Take a walk near your home.** *Always a good option for some exercise and conversation.*
29. **\$ Pillow fight.** *When was the last time you tried this? Intended for fun, not for relieving frustrations with your spouse.*
30. **Inline skating.** *Covers more territory than walking and provides more exercise too.*
31. **\$ Go swimming.** *Cool off and get some exercise. Skinny dipping optional where permitted by law.*
32. **Play badminton.** *Who says this is a game for the timid and non-athletic. Play nice!*
33. **Go horseback riding.** *A fun way to get outdoors without too much activity required.*
34. **Go rock climbing.** *For those of you who like to push the envelope with your spouse, this could be just the thing.*
35. **\$ Fly kites.** *All you need is a little wind, some string, a kite, and you're all set—relaxation and romance all in one.*
36. **Go Fishing.** *Never thought this was romantic? Snuggle up and try teaching your spouse to cast.*
37. **Go golfing.** *The great outdoors, a lot of walking, plenty of time for talking (just not on your spouse's backswing.)*
38. **Go waterskiing.** *A great way to impress your spouse, or have quite a laugh. It's your choice.*
39. **Hit baseballs at a batting cage.** *"Play ball!"*
40. **Play ping-pong.** *A little competition never hurt anyone. Remember, we use the word, "little."*
41. **Ride a ferry.** *Enjoy the sights together out on the open water.*

- 42. Snow ski / X-Country ski/ Snowshoe.** *Enjoy a day in the snow and an evening by the fire afterward.*
- 43. \$ Go for a drive.** *Map? Who needs a map!*
- 44. \$ Campout in your own backyard.** *All the fun of camping in the comfort and safety of your own home.*
- 45. Refinish furniture.** *Spend time together while adding new life to old furnishings.*
- 46. \$ Watch a sunrise.** *Sunrises can be just as romantic as sunsets. Don't forget the coffee.*
- 47. \$ Catch fire flies at dusk.** *Relive those childhood memories.*
- 48. \$ Go tubing on a nearby river.** *Economy water adventure for two! Observe safety information for your nearby river.*
- 49. Ride motorcycles.** *The open road, the wind in your helmet, and your spouse by your side.*
- 50. \$ Wash your cars.** *Water fights are fair game!*
- 51. \$ Snowball fight.** *Play fair. Snuggle up together to get warm afterward.*
- 52. \$ Feed the ducks.** *A good use for those uneaten leftover end pieces from the loaf of bread.*
- 53. Visit a wildlife sanctuary.** *A refresher course on the birds and the bees.*
- 54. \$ Go fruit or berry picking.** *Relaxing! Just don't eat all of your hard work as you go!*

Spectator Dates

- 55. Attend a play or musical.** *Debrief with coffee or dessert afterward.*
- 56. Go to the movies.** *Perhaps the number one classic date of all time.*
- 57. \$ Enjoy a party with friends.** *A chance to hang out with friends and your spouse too.*
- 58. Go to a sporting event.** *Good excuse to sit together for a few hours.*
- 59. \$ Watch hang gliders.** *Bring some reclining lawn chairs for this one - sore necks are not romantic.*
- 60. \$ Go bird-watching.** *See how many different birds you can identify.*
- 61. Go to a concert.** *Get out of the house, spend time with your spouse, and enjoy some music. Not bad for one date!*
- 62. Go to a lecture.** *Learn something new together. Stop for coffee or dinner afterward to debrief.*
- 63. \$ People-watch at a shopping mall.** *Catch up on all of the latest fashions (or lack thereof.)*
- 64. Watch surfing, windsurfing.** *Enjoy the cool ocean breezes while you're at it!*

Food-Focused Dates

- 65. Go out for dinner.** *It doesn't have to be expensive to enjoy a meal with your spouse.*
- 66. \$ Go out for dessert.** *Give up counting calories for a few hours.*
- 67. Meet for lunch.** *Often overlooked, this can be a fun way to connect with your spouse midday.*
- 68. \$ Cook a special meal together.** *Change up some of your traditional roles and enjoy the prep, the meal, and the clean up together.*
- 69. Go out for breakfast.** *A great way to start the day together!*
- 70. \$ Go out for ice cream / frozen yogurt.** *Affordable and oh so good!*
- 71. \$ Go to a coffee shop.** *Easy and great way to get away and talk.*
- 72. \$ Bake cookies.** *No experience required. Enjoy the fruits of your labor together afterward.*
- 73. \$ Cook dinner for your parents.** *Score points with the parents and experience the fun of team-cooking.*
- 74. \$ Barbecue.** *An old, time tested stand-by. Try grilling something new.*

Indoors Dates

- 75. \$ Put together a jigsaw puzzle.** *A good excuse for spending an evening together with the television off.*
- 76. \$ Play backgammon.** *Easy to learn and fun to play with plenty of opportunities to talk.*
- 77. \$ Listen to music.** *Kick back, relax and enjoy some tunes together.*
- 78. \$ Attend church functions.** *Social gatherings, special events, and potluck dinners can set the stage for a fun date night. (Take turns guessing what those mystery casseroles are made from.)*
- 79. \$ Go shopping together.** *Buying is optional. Trying on unusual clothing and modeling for your spouse can be a lot of fun.*
- 80. \$ Play board games.** *Learn a new game or take a trip down memory lane with the board games you played as kids.*
- 81. \$ Play card games.** *Another old, but time tested way to spend some time together.*
- 82. \$ Attend a Bible Study.** *A great opportunity to build spiritual intimacy with one another.*
- 83. \$ Creative Writing (poems, short stories).** *Try writing love poems to each other. Read them aloud to one another. What you do after the poetry reading is your choice.*
- 84. \$ Give each other massages.** *Do your spouse a favor and help get the stress out!*

“Places to Go” Dates

- 85. Mountains.** *There truly is nothing like the smell of evergreen trees and the scenic views.*
- 86. Museums.** *There is much to discover, learn, and appreciate when visiting a museum.*
- 87. The circus.** *A lot of fun under the big top.*
- 88. County fairs.** *Food, music, crafts, and the largest pumpkin you’ll ever see. What’s not to like about a fair?*
- 89. Aquarium.** *It’s always reassuring to have that glass between you and the sharks.*
- 90. \$ Shopping Mall.** *Whether you are buying or just people watching, the mall is a fascinating place.*
- 91. Overnight or weekend away.** *Always a winner! “Kids? What kids? We have kids?”*
- 92. \$ Garage / Yard / Estate sales.** *One person’s junk is another’s treasure.*
- 93. \$ Factory tours.** *Do they let you take those hats home?*
- 94. Historical sites, tours, walking tours.** *Get in touch with the past as you talk about the future with your spouse.*
- 95. The zoo.** *Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!*
- 96. An Observatory.** *What more romantic than looking into the stars with someone who sends you into orbit?*
- 97. \$ Parks.** *Larger than your backyard and filled with lots of options for fun.*
- 98. Art gallery.** *Plenty of art to ponder, appreciate, critique, and discuss.*
- 99. \$ Public garden.** *A slow stroll through the flowers can do wonders for your romance.*
- 100. \$ Swap meet / flea market.** *Is there anything you cannot find at a swap meet / flea market?*
- 101. Auctions.** *We don’t recommend trying to find out how much money you can get for your spouse.*