

- DO A PROGRESSIVE DINNER Have appetizers at one spot, entrees at another, and drinks or dessert at the last! Share what you get at each place, so you can keep it under \$50! Depending on the city you live in, if you can't keep it under \$50, coordinate with three other couples and go from house to house instead of restaurant to restaurant! Then you will only be responsible for the meal at your house! To add another element, predetermine the topics for conversation at each location.
- 2. **BUILD A CAMPFIRE OR BONFIRE** In your yard, at the coast, or by the lake near where you live! Roast some mallows, bring some hot coco or cider and a book that you both love! Take turns reading to each other out loud. For us, that book is, "A Severe Mercy," by Sheldon Vanauken. Our all-time favorite and we read it every year.
- 3. TURN OFF YOUR PHONES FOR AN ENTIRE DAY Go for a drive and get lost. Have fun explore a new place undistracted and rely only on people to help navigate you to food, coffee, gas, and how to get home.
- 4. **DISCOVER YOUR ENNEAGRAM NUMBERS TOGETHER** We love the Enneagram and you can take the test <a href="here">here</a> for \$12! It will give you your top most likely numbers, and then from there go to the <a href="https://www.enneagraminstitute.com/">https://www.enneagraminstitute.com/</a> to read about your top 3 numbers to help you determine which you actually are. If you click the "learn" tab on the website, you can read about your relationship type combination based on your numbers!
- 5. ROAD-TRIP TO EXPLORE A NEW CITY take a road trip for the day to a city close to where you live, that both of you have never been to! Google the main attraction in that city before you go and hit it up if it's under 50 dollars. Try to get a random couple to go to coffee, lunch or drinks with you while you are there!
- 6. **RENT A TANDEM BIKE** ride tandem to the nearest body of water to take a dip, or event to dinner or dessert, or a movie!
- 7. ASK EACH OTHER THE "36 QUESTIONS THAT LEAD TO LOVE" https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/no-37-big-wedding-or-small.html? module=inline
- 8. WAKE UP AT SUNRISE AND GO FOR A HIKE pack breakfast with you and cook it on a camp stove at the top! Talk about your 5-year goals together!
- 9. GO ROLLERBLADING (OR ICE SKATING) rollerblade around your neighborhood, and then to your favorite ice cream shop! When you are burnt out and tired

- come home and watch a movie from this list of, "100 movies you must see before you die."
- 10. SET UP A SLACKLINE IN YOUR YARD OR PARK NEAR YOU take turns competing for distance against each other. Bring a Frisbee and some baseball mitts to play catch when you get tired (you can usually find cheap baseball mitts at goodwill or on Amazon!)
- 11. **SEARCH YOUR CITY'S HASHTAG ON INSTAGRAM** find something awesome to do and go do it! Then add your photo to the hashtag;)
- 12. **ESTATE/GARAGE SALE HUNT** search craigslist for estate sales, and garage sales happening in your area. Hit up as many as you can in one morning. Then go out to your favorite breakfast spot!
- 13. BUILD A FORT IN YOUR BEDROOM OR YARD pop popcorn and grab your favorite drinks, then climb into your fort in your pajamas, and watch an old movie. Note: the key to epic fort building is dozens of pillows and a lantern or twinkle lights to light the inside. Make sure you snap a photo. Have kids? Show your kiddos your fort the next day and do it again!
- 14. **URBAN HIKE** what's that you ask? Basically, it's a hike from your city to another city! This might even be a full day adventure. Time lapse it with a camera or strap a GoPro to your head and make a movie of your adventure walking the streets and back roads. Pack lots of snacks and leave your phones at home!!
- 15. COOK A MEAL TOGETHER cook something that both of you have never made before, so that way you can learn together! Maybe it's dinner, or maybe it's dessert, whatever it is, take photos of the process and put them in a "Family Recipes" book!
- 16. **RENT A CANOE AND GO FISHING** or, paddle across the lake or river to your own private beach spot! Pack a picnic, go swimming, make a fire or find a rope swing. Then paddle back at sunset.
- 17. GO TO THE LIBRARY OR LOCAL BOOKSTORE AND WRITE STICKY NOTES IN YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS write a bunch of notes and place them inside your favorite books for future customers to find when they buy the books!
- 18. START TRAINING FOR A RACE TOGETHER Run your first 5K,
- 19. **RUN (OR WALK) IN A LOCAL 5K RACE** your training will provide a regular date and you'll be accomplishing a major goal together. Register for a scenic race or sign up for a mud run. Then treat yourself to burgers and milkshakes after!
- 20. TAKE A RIDE ON A FERRIS WHEEL Countless romantic comedies feature couples falling in love at the top of the Ferris wheel, and with good reason. Plus, there's something nostalgic and wonderful about heading to a local fair or amusement park.
- 21. **TOUR OPEN HOUSES** or walk through houses being built in your area and have fun pretending to design different homes. Then go home and do one home improvement to your own home together.
- 22. GO ON A PICNIC come on everyone loves the idea of a good old fashioned picnic, but do you ever really go on one?! Or do you just talk about it... Hunt down the perfect picnic basket first, then make yourself a picnic dinner, grab your favorite bottle of wine, a few candles, a comfortable blanket or two, and

- bring a deck of cards to play games as the sun goes down. Worth the effort every time.
- 23. **HUNT DOWN A TRAMPOLINE FOR SALE ON CRAIGSLIST** sometimes you can find them at garage sales etc. Set it up in your backyard. Then sleep under the stars! If you can't find one, go to a trampoline park instead!
- 24. GO OUT TO THE NEW RESTAURANT IN TOWN THAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT BUT CHANGE THINGS UP A BIT pick out each other's outfits, order each other's dinners and desserts.
- 25. CREATE YOUR OWN SCAVENGER HUNT Create your own personalized scavenger hunt around town. Fill it with locations and clues based on your own personal love story. (note, your city might have one online for ideas)
- 26. **RECREATE YOUR FIRST DATE** Recreate the first date you ever had together If you went to a movie, rent the same movie. If you went out for dinner, go back to the same restaurant or make the dish that you ate at home.
- 27. **VOLUNTEER** Head anywhere from a soup kitchen to a home for the elderly to volunteer, while getting to know your date.
- 28. **HEAD TO THE DRIVE-IN** Now that the kitschy location is making a comeback, you can find locations at <u>driveinmovie.com</u>. Grab some popcorn, lean back, and enjoy.
- 29. **RENT A VESPA (OR BIRD)** rent a vespa or scooter and go for a ride. Try sightseeing in your own home town. Or rent your partner's "dream car" and go explorina.
- 30. GO BERRY OR FLOWER PICKING depending on the time of the year, head to a local u-pick farm and pick some berries, fruit, lavender, flowers, etc.
- 31. GO TO A TOURISTY PART OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD Decide to play tourist for the day in your hometown—going everywhere from the museum, to the major landmark, to the most famous restaurant in town.
- 32. **HIT THE FARMERS' MARKET** And then see what sort of fresh dinner you can make with those ingredients.
- 33. **STARGAZE -** Or, stay up late, download the Night Sky app, and check out the stars.
- 34. **BECOME AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS** Go exploring with your cameras. Jump in the car and find a great place to shoot. Head to a neighborhood you don't know well, find an abandoned train track or start exploring a nature trail snapping photos along the way.
- 35. DO SOMETHING NEITHER OF YOU HAVE DONE BEFORE Sometimes the best dates involve doing something that neither of you has done before—taking a pottery class, batting cages, axe throwing, Top Golf, riding in a helicopter, or even just trying a new restaurant.
- 36. **TAKE A WORKOUT CLASS -** Take a spin class, a rowing class, a dance class, or some other workout class!
- 37. TAKE A WEEKEND TRIP TO SOMEPLACE NEARBY You want to get away, but you don't have the time for a huge vacation. Pick a B&B in a town nearby or rent an Airbnb in the mountains or at the beach nearby. Maybe you'll discover some cool restaurants, art, shops, hiking trails, etc.

- 38. **LEARN TO DANCE -** Find a dance studio that offer sessions for first timers and couples. Looking to do something really special? Consider booking a private lesson to start. And once you've got a few moves down, GO DANCING! Country line dancing places usually teach dances
- 39. TAKE A DRIVE TO A SCENIC VIEWPOINT ask each other 20 questions
- 40. MASSAGES SPA NIGHT you can book couples massages at a spa, or just create your own spa experience at home for each other with a bath, massages, lots of candles, and a relaxing playlist.
- 41. **DATE NIGHT CHALLENGE** challenge each other to bring up certain words or phrases in conversation with waiters.
- 42. GO TO A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME dress in the team's colors, get concessions snacks, wait till after to tell one of the players "good game" and come home to watch a motivational sports movie together!
- 43. WRITE LOVE LETTERS TO EACH OTHER AND READ THEM TO EACH OTHER OUT LOUD.
- 44. GO TO THE LOCAL ROCK CLIMBING GYM.
- 45. **BREAK A RECORD TOGETHER** look at the guinness book of world records and see which record you two should attempt to break together! Even if you don't break the record, it would be a fun memory to try.
- 46. SURPRISE FRIENDS AND TAKE THEM OUT FOR A DOUBLE DATE prearrange a babysitter if applicable, and randomly show up to surprise your friends for a date night. Make this a game of "tag" so they are challenged to do the same thing for another couple!
- 47. MAKE A TIME CAPSULE TOGETHER hide or bury it in a meaningful location!

  Bonus points if you draw or paint pictures of each other to put in the capsule. If you're not artists, you'll be laughing for sure.
- 48. **DISPOSABLE CAMERA CHALLENGE** buy one of those disposable cameras and ask strangers to take photos of you until the film is all used up! It doesn't matter where you are or what you do, you could be on a walk, bowling, at the movies, or at a restaurant, you just have to use the whole roll of film before the night is over!
- 49. **GAME NIGHT** Make a Spotify playlist of your favorite songs together! Listen to it while you play your favorite board games. We love chess, sequence, and cards.
- 50. WORK ON A DIY PROJECT Look through Pinterest or pull out your "honey-do" list and work on the project together.
- 51. **READ THE BIBLE** Spending time reading the Bible together will bind you as a couple like nothing else. Take turns reading Scripture. Find a devotional or DVD study to spark discussion. And don't forget to pray together.
- 52. "BIGGER AND BETTER" start with a penny, and throughout your date night offer the penny in exchange for something better to someone. Then whatever they give you, offer that for something better to the next person. The nature of your date doesn't matter, but it's fun to see what you end up with at the end of the night!