



The Relationship Builder List

19 Ideas for a Fun Night Out with Friends + 6 Inexpensive Date Ideas

1. Go for a bike ride along a paved bike path. Feeling more adventurous? Find a mountain bike trail at a nearby state park. If you don't have your own bikes, borrow them from a friend.
2. Keep an eye on [Groupon](#) and [Living Social](#) for deals on local restaurants, movie tickets, bowling passes, etc.
3. Use cash back you earn from [Rakuten](#) to take friends out for coffee, a movie, or a treat from a local bakery.
4. Sign up for [Swagbucks](#) and earn gift cards to Starbucks, Chili's, Olive Garden, Panera Bread, T.G.I. Friday's, P.F. Chang's and many more restaurants.
5. Plan a relaxing movie night at home with a bottle of wine or a pot of decaf with unique flavorings. Watch something on your favorite streaming platform that you've been meaning to watch for a long time but have never gotten around to.

6. Pack a picnic brunch to eat on a lazy weekend morning at a park. Keep it simple - fruit, cheeses, crackers, hummus, nuts, etc, so that your basket is light and easy to pack.

7. Find a local community theater or university theater to attend a play or musical.

8. Find a local university or observatory that offers “star parties” and attend an event to observe the constellations. Or Google “upcoming meteor showers” and mark your calendar for a star date - it might require waking up in the middle of the night, but it’s a fun memory to make!

9. Invite a group of friends to your house for game night. You can also make it a potluck meal, or keep it simple and just have dessert together. You can play board games, cards, video games, karaoke, or whatever strikes your fancy.

10. Find a local art museum or science museum with free exhibits.

11. Take advantage of the calendar of events at your local library. They often offer book readings by authors and poets or performances by musicians. Our library has a free jazz series one Thursday a month throughout the summer each year, and it’s fantastic!

12. Visit the nearest state park and take a hike. Leave your phones in the car and just talk to each other!

13. Attend a minor league baseball or hockey game. Not only are the tickets cheaper than in the major leagues, but so are the food and drinks.

14. Go camping. Don’t have a bunch of gear? Find a cabin or yurt in a state park, or borrow gear from a friend.

15. Check out an arts festival or music festival in your town - or make it a day trip to visit one in another town.

16. Find a place (downtown area, mall, airport, wherever) that you can sit and people watch. Try to guess what people are talking about, what kind of job they have, what they had for breakfast that morning, etc.

17. Find a local brewery or winery that offers free tours - which often also means free samples.

18. Plan a build-your-own pizza night. You can buy pre-made crusts or make your own, then top your pizzas with fancy cheeses and other unique toppings that you don't normally get from the local delivery place. (You could also do build-your-own baked potatoes, taco salad, filled pancakes, etc.)

19. Build a fire in the backyard. Play the guitar and sing (or sing along to tunes on your phone), drink warm beverages, roast marshmallows and hot dogs, and tell stories around the fire.

6 Inexpensive Date Ideas

1. Revisit the site of your first date, your first kiss, your proposal, etc.

2. Visit your college or high school alma mater and give your significant other a guided tour - try to think of stories to share with them that they haven't already heard.

3. Plan a romantic dinner at home, complete with candlelight and a lovey-dovey Spotify playlist. If you're not up for cooking for your spouse/significant

other, enlist the help of a friend, or get a good deal on your spouse's favorite take-out - but be sure to serve it on your nicest dishes to make it special!

4. Go on a "double sunset date." Pack a picnic and head to a safe location where you can view the sunset. Bring a tall ladder with you. Be sure you are both watching the sunset when it hits the horizon. Once the sun "disappears," immediately climb the ladder and watch the sun set again. The double sunset only lasts a few seconds, but the memory will last a lifetime. Remember: Don't look directly into the sun.

5. Check out a book from the library to read aloud together.

6. Go on a "dream date." Find a quiet spot where you can dream together for a while - plan a fun vacation, write out a bucket list, design your dream home, etc. Make it a no-holds-barred time for the two of you - no idea or dream is too outlandish to discuss on this date!