

CHEAP DATES DURING A PANDEMIC

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I don't know about you, but for me, the pandemic has drained my bank account and left me with a hole in my heart. My fiancé and I have been struggling to come up with new date ideas. You can only have so many movie nights and cooking dates before you get sick of them. We've spent the last year trying to be innovative, but putting safety first.

The weather is getting better, and vaccinations are widely available, so we can finally go outside! I've been trying to think of new date ideas that don't cost an arm and a leg, and have either an artistic or outdoor element to them! So, here's 10 dates that you can go on to get you through the pandemic that are safe and cost effective.

1. Cake Picnic Date

Picnics can actually be incredibly expensive. Making a charcuterie board and getting a picnic basket can be a lot of work, and cost a decent amount of money. Here's a cost efficient alternative. Grab a cake! You can grab a cheap one for fifteen dollars, or a cake mix for under ten dollars. Grab two forks and your water bottle, and find a cute isolated spot in a park! It's romantic, a little bit different, and a lot cheaper. Plus, dessert always puts me in a better mood.

2. Target Date

This is a super cute date idea, and you can do it completely on your budget! Pick a number you both agree on, it can be five dollars or twenty dollars! Then, each of you grab one gift for the other within that price range. It can be a snack, a cute memorable gift, or a gag gift! Adding some competition is a lot of fun, and it's a date that you can do over and over again, with different rules.

3. Paint and Sip

Paint and Sips can be expensive, and not all of them are Covid safe and open right now! Here's a great alternative. Grab two canvases and some paint, and watch an episode of Bob Ross! They're available on Hulu! Don't have Hulu? There are tons of painting tutorials on YouTube for free! If you want, grab a bottle of wine to go with it! At the end, you have a great painting and a great memory. Plus, you can buy five canvases at Michaels for twenty dollars!

4. Drive in Movies

Drive in movies are making a comeback, and are a super safe and affordable date night! Grab some blankets, and set up a little bed in the trunk of your car! Usually you only have to pay for one car, so it's a safe and romantic way to get out for an out of the house movie night!

5. Go For A Bike Ride!

I think we're all craving some outdoor activities, and the ability to be physically active again! Biking is great for you, and pretty safe way to get back out there! There are so many places you can rent a bike for the day or a few hours if you don't have one. Pick a fun location, and bike with your sweetheart!

6. Watch the Sunrise (or Sunset)

Making an event out of something that happens every day makes it feel a lot more special. Getting up and getting some coffee to watch the sunrise can feel like an entire event. It's safe, it's cheap, and no two sunrises are ever the same. You can even nap after together, or have a lazy breakfast.

7. Go Kayaking !

I have never come across a town that doesn't have a kayaking rental nearby. This is super safe, and there are so many different locations! It's something a little different, and being on the water is the perfect way to get back into summer. Plus, it forces you to work together, and gives you the opportunity to see if you're able to communicate well!

8. Make Smores!

The best way to make smores is over a campfire, so if you manage to have a fire pit, that's great! If not, there are other ways to make Smores! You can broil smores in the oven, or roast marshmallows over the stovetop fire! Figuring it out together will give you great memories, and you can't go wrong with marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers.

9. Lazy River

There are a surprising amount of lazy rivers. Rent a tube each, and spend the day talking in the water. Its socially distanced, inexpensive, and on the water! I'm not going to lie to you, this is the date I'm the most excited for. Tubes, holding hands on the water, and some fun dips on the river. What more could you want?

10. Create Chalk Art Murals

This is one of my favorite activities. Chalk is so cheap, and the world is your canvas! Grab some chalk, go out, and create a mural with your date! The best part is that if you have a great time, you can do it again and again!

I hope you try out some of these date ideas! I can't wait for things to get back to normal, but in the meantime, stay safe and have fun!