

Love and Marriage
The Gay and Lesbian Guide to Dating and Romance

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Introduction

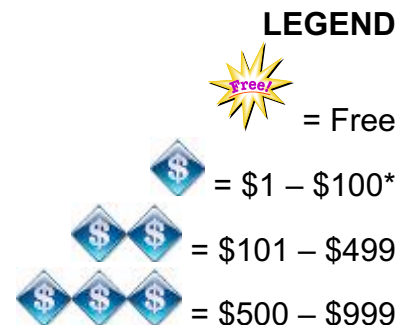
How to get the most out of this book

This book is organized in three sections: Getting to Know Each Other, Commitment, and Marriage. While the structure is as such, it is not imperative that you stay within the section that corresponds to your relationship. This book was not created to be a definitive “how-to” guide on dating and romance. Rather, it was created to be a medley of useful ideas, tips and suggestions that stimulate your creativity and encourage you to explore new ways to have fun in your relationship. You can read this book straight through and check off ideas that you like best and/or review random pages and selecting an idea.


Here are a few suggestions on how to make the best use of this book:

1. Once you’ve reviewed the ideas, make them your own. Don’t just copy them, adapt them to your personality so that they are truly unique.
2. Remember that in order to truly nurture a relationship it takes daily effort. It doesn’t always have to require a lot of time or money. The key to building and maintaining a healthy relationship is to do something that fosters its growth *every day*. Small moments mean a lot too.
3. Be careful not to frontload your relationship or, in other words, be careful to not do too many things too fast. You will find that the longer you are with your partner the trickier it gets to be creative. Take your time and space out the big gifts and gestures. Fill in the gaps with smaller, thoughtful ones.
4. For really special occasions be sure to plan ahead and combine several of the ideas into one.


I hope that you find meaningful tips and ideas to help propel your relationship forward and enrich it with many fun and loving moments.



 = \$1,000 – \$4,999

 = Over \$5,000

 = Outdoors/Athletic

 = Fun/Games

 = Arts/Culture

 = Entertainment/Nightlife

 = Love/Romance




 = Gift Idea











*All funds noted are estimates only and are in USD. Costs may vary depending on where you live and/or if you already own some of the equipment needed to complete suggested activities.


























Also note that in the Internet age links don't always stay active forever. I have tested every link in this book at the time of publication, but if one isn't working at the time of your purchase please try a general search on the topic you're interested in.

Getting to Know Each Other

Girl meets girl, boy meets boy, now what? We all try to be fun and interesting when we're getting to know someone new and often times the idea of the traditional "dinner and a movie" date is just not appealing. It's cliché. The good news is that early dates *can* be much more unique if you put some thought into your date's personality (and yours). Are either or both of you more likely to enjoy an outdoor date with a packed lunch vs. dinner? Or do you want to keep it traditional but add your own flair? In the Getting to Know Each Other section I've offered 73 different ideas that I hope will inspire you to try something new.

1.    Rent a chauffeured Rolls Royce or Maybach etc. for an evening of fine dining and a ballet performance. If you want to impress your date and ride luxuriously for the evening, this might be for you. Do a web search for "exotic car rental + (your city)."

2.  Go to a free lecture or concert series at your local library.
3.  Go for an airboat ride through the marsh. Dress comfortably, bring insect repellent and secure your camera around your neck. This can be an interesting, non-typical date. Embrace the outdoors!
4.  Have a romantic dinner on a yacht with a private chef. A good concierge service can assist you with this. Check out LGBT owned and operated, www.savvyplanners.com, a full-service concierge firm and wedding planner.
5.  Go to a drag queen show and tip the performers! Search <http://www.dragpalace.com/> to find your local drag queen performance venue. This can be an evening that's loaded with over-the-top fun!
6.  Have dinner in a castle or chateau. Both venue types are all over the world. Do a web search to find one near you that is open to the public for dining. If your date appreciates historic architecture and an old-world feel, he or she will appreciate dining in this type of setting over a chain restaurant.
7.  Take a hot air balloon ride. The views are sure to be breathtaking. Check out <http://www.hotairballooning.com/> for more information on a location near you.
8.  Go rollerblading or skating. Do a web search for “gay skating + (your city name)” to find out what venues have designated nights for Gay Skating Parties. What could be more fun than gays on wheels? This date can also double as a workout.
9.  Go to a sporting event (major or minor league). Also, there are gay and lesbian identified sporting teams across the United States. Do a web search to see if one is playing a game near you. Support our athletes!
10.  Billiards. Play a couple games of pool together.
11.  Go to the nearest Native American reservation and support their performances and crafts. This is a nice gesture from one minority group to another and it's an awesome way to learn more about Native American history.

12.   Go horseback riding. This activity can be educational, romantic or more athletic. Choose an option that best suits you and your date, but be prepared to experience a little soreness the next day.
13.   Go rock or ice climbing. If you're up for a workout and enjoy being outdoors, this is a great option for a date. If you'd rather not deal with extreme temperatures but don't mind the physical exertion, try finding an indoor rock-climbing facility.
14.   Go bowling. Check out your local gay bowling league for a tournament night. You and your date can also meet other members of the community on these designated nights. If there isn't a designated LGBT evening, look into midnight bowling, which is also fun.
15.     Take a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. Don't forget to bring your camera!
16.   Go skydiving. If you're not up for jumping out of a real plane, try indoor skydiving. This is a really fun and exhilarating activity. Fly!
17.   Go to a bar/lounge on karaoke night. Grab the microphone and sing your hearts out! This is a cheap date that can be tons of fun if you're not too shy to try it out.
18.   Go to a car show and take a look at antique, modern or futuristic cars. Check <http://www.carshownews.com/> to find a show near you. The tickets are usually less than \$20!
19.   Go river tubing. This is a great way to have a full, inexpensive day of fun and relaxation.
20.    Play a round of golf or mini golf. This can be a relaxing date, one on which you can get close to each other in a fun, casual way.
21.   Go to a fashion show and check out modern or eccentric styles. Afterwards, grab a bite to eat and talk about what you liked or didn't like.
22.   Go to a museum. There are so many museums you could do this once a month and still not see them all. Some subject areas are science, art, wax, bodies, insects, etc. This can make for a great intellectual date.