



Merry Christmas! I'm so excited about giving you "12 Months of Dates" for Christmas! I know how much fun we all used to have in our younger years on dates so I thought I would create a few fun dates for you as we are often too busy with our families and jobs to plan or even go on regular dates. Now you don't have an excuse! I'm giving each of you a file folder box with 6 months of dates and the months that you are responsible for hosting your six dates. I promise that you can find one day out of 30 that will work for a date each month, and plan six (of the 12) dates in a year with all of ideas and extras that are included in your folder.

DATE NIGHT RULES

1. Don't ruin the surprise of each date by peeking in your spouse's date box!!! If your spouse is known to open up Christmas gifts in advance and rewrap them or search all over the house...make sure you hide your box!
2. When it is your month to plan the date do not ask your spouse for help. Make sure you plan your date from start to finish including setting up a sitter if you have younger children.
3. Try to surprise your spouse by planning and setting up your date in advance without their knowledge. Then on the morning of the date, leave an invite somewhere they will find it so they will have something fun to look forward to and dream about all day.
4. Always take a camera along on the date to get fun pictures! Remember when you were dating and you would hold the camera out in front of you to get a shot of the two of you? Try it again. Plus it's fun to take all types of pictures...fun, goofy or something to remember the date and location. You could even start a mini "date" scrapbook. Kind of like what Ellie did in the movie "Up". Or you could post them on facebook and make all of your friends jealous of the fun monthly dates you are going on. (hehe!)
5. Take your phone along if you have kids and need to stay in contact with them, but under no circumstances are you allowed to use your phone for other types of calls, texts or emails while you are on a date! Plan your date so that you can devote 100% of your time to each other and not worry with work or other distractions.
6. There are lots of ideas for each date included in each date idea sheet. You do not have to do all of the ideas in each sheet but you are also not limited to those ideas. Be creative and use your imagination to come up with additional things to do on each date.
7. Some of the dates are go out dates and some of the dates are stay in dates. For the stay in dates, don't worry if you have kids, you can have the date after the kiddos are in bed (if you have younger children) or when they are out with friends (if you have teenagers).
8. **There are also a few extra dates and things to do for your spouse in the additional pocket. Don't forget to look through it at the beginning of the year so you won't miss out on a few other fun ideas.**
9. Let me know how your dates go!!!
10. Once the year is over...continue the tradition of at least one date a month! If you need new ideas there are lots of great websites like www.thedatingdivas.com that have unique ideas and printables to match their wonderful date ideas.

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