

A YEAR OF DATES, ONE CARD AT A TIME

dateidea.us

The 52-Date Deck - thirteen cards for every season, fifty-two weeks of plans you can actually run.

Cut along the dashed lines. Pull one new card a week, in any order - fifty-two dates, one full year.

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SEASON 1 OF 4

Winter

Weeks 1 to 13

Cozy indoor plans and a few good reasons to brave the cold.

WEEK 1

Greenhouse Hour

One warm room full of plants when it is freezing.

1. Find a conservatory or garden-center greenhouse and go on the coldest day.
2. Pick the plant you would be and the plant they would be, out loud.
3. Leave with one small pot you name together and keep alive on purpose.

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OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 2

Living Room Camp

Sleeping bags, microwave s'mores, one made-up ghost story.

1. Roll out sleeping bags in the living room and unplug the overhead lights.
2. Microwave s'mores and take turns adding one line to a ghost story.
3. Fall asleep to a rain-sounds playlist and call it a night under the roof.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY

WEEK 3

Ice Bar Splurge

Everything carved from ice, including the glass your drink arrives in.

1. Book a table at an ice bar or ice lounge for one full session.
2. Wear the coat they hand you and order the drink with the strangest name.
3. Take one photo before the cold sends you both back to a regular bar.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 4

Big Pot Sunday

One giant soup, all afternoon, zero rush.

1. Pick one big-pot recipe that takes hours and start it early.
2. Trade stirring shifts and use the downtime for a real talk, no screens.
3. Eat bowls on the couch and freeze the rest labeled with today's date.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY

WEEK 5

Rink Rookies

Hold hands or hold the wall,
your call.

1. Rent the skates and agree neither of you is secretly good at this.
2. One full lap holding hands before either is allowed to let go.
3. Warm up after with a shared hot chocolate and a count of the wipeouts.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 6

New Year Countdown Plan

Your own countdown, your
own resolutions, no crowd
required.

1. Write three resolutions each in secret before the night gets too loud.
2. Cook something a little fancy and open a bottle only for the countdown.
3. Read the resolutions aloud after midnight and seal them for next year.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY

WEEK 7

Winter Market Photo Walk

One camera, one market, a photo of the other in every stall.

1. Walk a winter market with one camera passed back and forth between you.
2. Take one photo of the other person at every stall you actually stop at.
3. Print the best five later and pick one for the fridge together.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 8

Puzzle and Playlist

One jigsaw, one shared playlist, no clock.

1. Start a 500-piece puzzle on the table and put one hour on nothing else.
2. Take turns adding three songs each to a playlist that has to flow.
3. Whoever places the last piece gets one wish granted, within reason.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 9

Snow Day Truce

First snow of the year, one truce, an all-out snowball war.

1. Wait for the first real snowfall and bundle up within the hour it starts.
2. Build two small forts a snowball's throw apart and declare the rules out loud.
3. Fight until someone surrenders, then build one snowman together as the peace treaty.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 10

Hot Toddy Taste Test

Three versions of the same drink, one blind vote for the best.

1. Make three hot toddies with small recipe changes between each batch.
2. Number the mugs and taste blind, writing one guess before any reveal.
3. Crown a house recipe and write it on an index card for next winter.

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AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 11

Frozen Lake Skate

A frozen pond, borrowed skates, and a hand to hold on the ice.

1. Find a public rink or a safely frozen pond with skate rentals nearby.
2. Hold hands for the first lap before either of you tries to show off.
3. Warm up after with something hot from the nearest stand or thermos.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 12

Cocoa Topping Build

Six toppings, two mugs, a hot cocoa spread better than any cafe's.

1. Set out six toppings, marshmallows to chili flakes, in small bowls on the counter.
2. Each build the other person's dream mug without asking what they actually want.
3. Trade mugs and rate the guess out of ten before making your own.

FREE

AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 13

Frost Window Portraits

Draw each other's face in the frost with one finger each.

1. Find a properly frosted window on a genuinely cold morning.
2. Each draw a quick portrait of the other person in the frost.
3. Photograph both before the sun melts the evidence away.

FREE

AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

SEASON 2 OF 4

Spring

Weeks 14 to 26

Everything wakes up outside - so do the plans.

WEEK 14

Blossom Loop

Chase whatever is blooming before it drops.

1. Find the street or park where the trees go loud in spring.
2. Walk it slow and each photograph the other under the best branch.
3. Pick a bench, split one pastry, and plan to return the same week next year.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 15

Seed Starting Sunday

A tray of dirt, two seed packets, a bet on who sprouts first.

1. Buy two seed packets, one each, and a shared tray of starter soil.
2. Plant your rows side by side and label them with your own names.
3. Check in weekly and bet a small stake on whose sprouts first.

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AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 16

Spring Cleaning Reward

Two hours of real cleaning,
one earned dinner neither
has to cook.

1. Set a timer and deep clean one room together, playlist loud, no shortcuts.
2. Donate one box of things neither of you has touched all winter.
3. Reward yourselves with a delivery order from the place you have been saving.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY

WEEK 17

Kite Festival Afternoon

Two kites, one field, a tangle
that is basically inevitable.

1. Find a kite festival or just an open field with steady spring wind.
2. Fly two kites and see whose stays up longest without a single crash.
3. Trade kites halfway through and admit whose was actually easier to fly.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 18

Herb Garden Start

Five small pots, five herbs, a windowsill about to get crowded.

1. Buy five herb starts and five small pots at a garden center.
2. Pot them together and label each with a small handwritten stake.
3. Cook one dish that week using only what you just planted.

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OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 19

May Basket Surprise

A basket of small things, hung and run from like it is a prank.

1. Fill a small basket with flowers, candy, and one handwritten note.
2. Hang it on the door, knock, and hide before it gets answered.
3. Reveal yourself once they find it and demand a proper thank-you.

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AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 20

Hot Air Balloon Splurge

One sunrise, one basket, a view most people only see from a plane.

1. Book a sunrise hot air balloon ride and confirm the weather the night before.
2. Arrive early to watch the balloon actually inflate before you climb in.
3. Bring a small thermos for the champagne toast tradition after landing.

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OUT

HALF DAY

WEEK 21

Mini-Golf Grudge

Eighteen holes, one running bet, zero mercy.

1. Set the stakes before hole one – loser owes a specific, funny forfeit.
2. Trash talk is allowed, moving the ball is not. Keep an honest scorecard.
3. Winner picks the ice cream stop; loser pays and picks the winner's flavor.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 22

Backyard String-Light Picnic

Your own grass, real lights, zero traffic to fight on the way home.

1. String lights across the yard or patio earlier in the day.
2. Lay out a real picnic at dusk once the lights click on.
3. Stay out until the bugs or the cold win, whichever comes first.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 23

Museum Lawn Picnic

Sculpture garden for a backdrop, sandwiches for the main event.

1. Pack a simple picnic and find the museum or gallery with outdoor grounds.
2. Eat first, then wander in and each pick the one piece worth a second look.
3. Sketch or photograph your favorite thing before you leave the grounds.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 24

Tie-Dye Night

Two plain shirts, five colors, permanent proof you did this.

1. Lay down a tarp outside or in the garage and prep two plain shirts.
2. Twist, rubber-band, and dye each other's shirt without showing the pattern first.
3. Reveal once dry and wear them on your next low-key date together.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 25

Ice Cream Flight Tasting

Four small scoops each, judged out loud like a real panel.

1. Order four small scoops each of flavors neither of you usually picks.
2. Score every scoop out of ten on a napkin, no consulting each other first.
3. Compare scorecards and argue the one flavor you disagreed on hardest.

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OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 26

Park Chess Match

Public chess tables, one real game, a crowd if you are lucky.

1. Find a park or plaza with public chess or checkers tables.
2. Play one real game at whatever pace you both actually know.
3. Whoever loses has to ask the other three questions before a rematch.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

SEASON 3 OF 4

Summer

Weeks 27 to 39

Long light, low pressure, easy yeses.

WEEK 27

Sunset Swim

Last swim of the day, towels warm and waiting.

1. Time it so you hit the water an hour before sundown.
2. Race to a marker and back, loser owes the winner a real compliment.
3. Dry off on the sand and name three colors the sky just did.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 28

Ice Pop Taste Test

Six flavors, two scorecards, a freezer suddenly worth raiding.

1. Buy or make six different ice pop flavors and freeze them overnight.
2. Taste each blind and score them on a shared scorecard before revealing.
3. Crown a house favorite and restock it for the rest of summer.

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AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 29

Night Market Stroll

String lights, food stalls, no plan beyond wandering together.

1. Find a summer night market or a Friday street fair nearby.
2. Split one dish from three different stalls and rate each other's pick.
3. Walk until the crowds thin out, then circle back for dessert.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 30

Backyard Movie Marathon

A sheet screen, a whole trilogy, snacks that migrate outside with you.

1. Hang a sheet in the yard and set up a projector once it is dark enough.
2. Queue an entire trilogy or series and commit to the whole runtime outside.
3. Move the couch cushions outside so nobody has to sit on the ground.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY

WEEK 31

Convertible Sunset Drive

Top down, no destination,
just chasing the last good
light.

1. Pick a scenic road with nowhere you actually need to be by dark.
2. Drive with the top down or windows open until the sky starts turning colors.
3. Pull over somewhere legal to watch the last five minutes properly.

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OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 32

Kayak Rental Afternoon

Two kayaks, one lake, a race
you will both claim to have
won.

1. Rent two kayaks at a lake or calm river with a rental dock.
2. Paddle to a landmark and back, keeping score of who arrives first.
3. Beach the kayaks and share a snack you packed dry in a bag.

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OUT

HALF DAY

WEEK 33

Watermelon Seed Contest

One watermelon, zero table manners, a distance record to beat.

1. Cut one watermelon into wedges and head to the yard or a park.
2. Take turns spitting seeds for distance, three attempts each, honest measuring.
3. Crown a champion and save the rind for a compost bin or the birds.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 34

Backseat Planetarium

Drive past the streetlights and let the sky show off.

1. Drive fifteen minutes past the last streetlight and kill the headlights.
2. Use one sky app to name three things, then make up myths for three more.
3. Trade the wish you would spend a shooting star on if one shows.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 35

Library Lawn Picnic

Two library books, two sandwiches, the grass out front.

1. Each check out one book the other should read and pack a simple lunch.
2. Eat on the library lawn or nearest patch of grass.
3. Read the first page of your new book out loud before you leave.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 36

Rooftop Jazz Sunset

Live jazz, a skyline view, a sunset that upstages the band a little.

1. Find a rooftop bar or lounge with live jazz starting before sunset.
2. Order one drink each and grab a rail seat facing the skyline.
3. Stay through the color change and at least one full set of music.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 37

Sidewalk Chalk Mural

One driveway, two boxes of chalk, a mural neither of you planned.

1. Buy two boxes of sidewalk chalk and claim a driveway or empty lot.
2. Each draw one section of a mural without discussing the theme first.
3. Step back together and name the accidental masterpiece before the rain gets it.

FREE

OUT

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 38

Farmers Market Brunch

Build brunch entirely from what looks good at the market that morning.

1. Walk the market early with no list, just what looks good today.
2. Buy enough for one shared brunch and find a bench or a patch of grass.
3. Assemble it together and name the best find before the first bite.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 39

Mural Hunt Walk

Find three murals, pose in
front of the strangest one.

1. Look up three murals or public art pieces within walking distance downtown.
2. Walk to each and take one photo in front, matching your pose to the art.
3. Vote on a favorite over coffee at the end of the route.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

SEASON 4 OF 4

Fall

Weeks 40 to 52

Sweaters, bonfires, and the last warm afternoons.

WEEK 40

Balcony Bistro

One dish, one candle, zero phones. Your smallest fancy restaurant.

1. Pick one dish you both rate but have never cooked. Shop for it together.
2. Set the smallest table you own by a window or balcony - cloth, candle, real glasses.
3. Phones go in a drawer at plating. Service ends when the candle does.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 41

Corn Maze Duel

Split up at the fork, first one out wins.

1. Enter a corn maze together, then split at the first real fork.
2. First one to the exit wins; getting lost on purpose is cheating and encouraged.
3. Loser buys the caramel apples and admits defeat in a full sentence.

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OUT

HALF DAY

WEEK 42

Cider Mill Afternoon

Fresh cider, warm donuts, a whole orchard smell you only get once a year.

1. Visit a cider mill or orchard press running fresh batches that day.
2. Buy one jug to share and a donut each straight from the fryer.
3. Ask what apple blend went into today's batch and remember it for next time.

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OUT

HALF DAY

WEEK 43

Pumpkin Carving Duel

Two pumpkins, two knives, one theme you both have to follow.

1. Buy two pumpkins and agree on one shared theme before carving starts.
2. Carve separately, no peeking, on newspaper spread across the table.
3. Reveal together and light both from inside to judge the winner.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 44

Haunted House Dare

One dare, one haunted house, a hand grabbed within the first hallway.

1. Pick a haunted house or hayride attraction neither of you has done.
2. Dare each other to go through without holding on, see who breaks first.
3. Compare who screamed louder over food somewhere well-lit right after.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 45

Farmhouse Floor Picnic

Harvest foods on a blanket on your own dining room floor.

1. Cook or buy a small harvest spread - bread, cheese, apples, something warm.
2. Move the dining table aside and lay a real blanket on the floor.
3. Eat low to the ground with the good playlist on and the chairs empty.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 46

Bonfire Ghost Stories

One fire, one flashlight under the chin, stories that escalate fast.

1. Build a small legal fire and bring one flashlight for dramatic effect.
2. Take turns telling a ghost story, each one required to top the last.
3. Vote on the scariest story and retell it again next year for tradition.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 47

Costume Swap Party

Raid each other's old costumes and wear the most embarrassing pick out.

1. Dig through old Halloween costumes or a thrift bin for options.
2. Each pick the other's costume from what you find, no vetoes allowed.
3. Wear them to a low-key dinner or a friend's party without changing back.

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AT HOME

1-3 HRS

WEEK 48

Scenic Overlook Picnic

One overlook, one basket,
the whole valley doing the
fall color thing.

1. Pack a simple picnic and drive to the best overlook you know.
2. Spread a blanket somewhere with the widest view of the color below.
3. Stay until the light gets low enough to change the whole scene.

FREE

OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 49

Blind Tea Tasting

Five mystery teas, one
shared pot, a winner named
by nose alone.

1. Brew five different teas in unmarked cups, numbered on the bottom only.
2. Smell and sip each in silence, writing one guess for what it is.
3. Reveal together and award the sharpest nose a real bragging title.

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AT HOME

UNDER 1 HR

WEEK 50

Picnic Field Games

Cornhole between courses.
Nobody eats until someone scores.

1. Pack a lawn game – cornhole, frisbee, a deck of cards – with the food.
2. Play one full round before anyone is allowed to open the basket.
3. Loser sets up the next round; winner picks the next snack to open.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 51

Haunted Hayride Night

A hay bale, a tractor, and a scare team hiding in the corn.

1. Book a haunted hayride running through a farm or corn field at night.
2. Sit close and agree neither of you will admit to jumping first.
3. Compare notes after on the scare that actually worked on both of you.

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OUT

1-3 HRS

WEEK 52

Slow Sunday Bread

One loaf, all afternoon,
nowhere else either of you
needs to be.

1. Start one bread recipe that needs real rise time and no shortcuts.
2. Use the waiting hours for a slow talk, a show, or doing nothing at all.
3. Eat the first warm slice standing at the counter before it is properly cool.

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AT HOME

HALF DAY