

Date Night ideas for self-isolating couples



If you're self-isolating with your partner, you might find that you're spending a lot of time together (lots and lots of time), but not necessarily 'quality' time. Here are some fun ideas for lockdown dates to help you feel closer to your partner in the right way.

Make cocktails. Maybe it's a special memory of your first date, or something you've both always fancied making at home; unleash your inner mixologist! Dig out that dusty bottle from your holiday and see what you can pair it with to make some exciting new combinations. 'Tom Cruise' eat your heart out!

Do a puzzle or board game. Dig out those games you normally only have time for over the Christmas holidays, and see if you can set a new high score on Scrabble, get in a tangle over Twister, or reveal the true extent of your artistic skills (or lack thereof!) with a game of Pictionary.

Go for a walk together. Take the time to explore your local area and go off the beaten track; you may find some lovely spots that you'd not been aware of before. Swap route suggestions with local friends and discover new places together; maybe they'll be places you'll come back to after lockdown, for picnics, some time together and a cost-free day out!

Breakfast in bed. Nowhere to go and nothing to do? Take the opportunity for a guilt-free lazy morning with a lie-in and breakfast in bed. Why not surprise your partner with their favourite breakfast dish and spend a cosy morning under the covers; just watch out for the crumbs!

Virtual gigs - music or comedy? Many artists are livestreaming music for fans during lockdown, or uploading archived footage or DJ sets. Check out Ticketmaster for some links and ideas: Our guide to finding the best live stream gigs. Many comedians are livestreaming too; either individually or as part of an event. Follow your favourites on social media for updates, or subscribe to their *YouTube* channels, and look out for comedy quizzes or charity events such as: 'Comedy at the Covid Arms' <http://www.comedyatthecovid.co.uk/> Streaming services such as Netflix and Prime also have stand-up shows by popular comedians, guaranteed to cheer you up and have you laughing together.

Exercise class. Maybe your usual exercise class is coming to you via Zoom, or maybe you're taking this opportunity to try out something new, that you didn't have time for pre lockdown! If you and your partner are at home together, why not try working out together; you can motivate and support each other, share the things you like doing, and there's nothing wrong with a little healthy competition!

Film night. Write up a list of all those films you've never got round to watching, grab the popcorn and start ticking them off with your own movie nights at home. Or, fall back on some much-loved classics for something easy and light to take your mind off current events: (*'Home Alone', anyone?!*)

Share your favourite books/magazines/podcasts. Why not take this time at home to expand your interests by taking a look at what your partner's interested in? You might find a whole new genre that you'd like to explore, and common areas of interest too.

Date night ideas for self-isolating couples (cont.)

Make a fort! It's up to you what you do inside the fort.....

Paint a room or do the garden together

If you're a couple living together and finding yourselves with time on your hands now that you're locked down, chances are you're looking round your home or garden thinking now would be a good time for spot of DIY and decorating! If you can get supplies delivered*, a home improvement project is a great way to create something together and make your home or garden - somewhere you're spending a lot of time at the minute - somewhere really special. **at the time of writing, Wickes, B&Q, and Homebase are all still delivering, although you should expect delays.*

Learn a new skill or take up a new hobby. If clashing schedules or commitments outside the home have always got in the way of you and your partner learning something together, you might find you have more scope to do this under lockdown. How about picking up the basics of a new language, using platforms such as *Duolingo* or *Babbel*, and get planning to put it into practise on a trip abroadin the future!

Spend time apart. Most couples are used to being apart for a lot of the day at work, college etc., so being locked down together 24/7 can be pretty intense. Sometimes the best thing you can do for each other and for your relationship is to give each other some space; whether it's going out for a walk alone or just spending time in different parts of the house, it can be good to spend some time alone for a while, and enjoy being pleased to see each other again afterwards.

Make a meal. With restaurant visits off the menu right now, cooking a special meal together at home can be a way of enjoying a delicious dinner, with the added advantage that you can spend time together creating it; why not go for something you've never cooked before so you can experiment together, or a fiddly dessert you've never had time for before!

Double date on video chat. Missing your friends? Get together with your respective partners on *Zoom* or *Houseparty* while everyone is available, and have that "night out...in" that you've been trying to arrange for ages. Bonus for any parents: no babysitter required!

Bake (if you can get hold of ingredients!). It seems the nation has gone wild for baking during lockdown! At the time of writing eggs seem to be available again, but it's still hard to get hold of flour; if you can access the ingredients you need, why don't you and your partner try baking something new together. Lots of ideas online for making some scrummy cakes and biscuits with minimal ingredients! We no longer need a special occasion to make cake ... or eat it! !

Paint some art together. There's lots of cool tutorials on YouTube if you're stuck for ideas. This can be fun if you're the next Picasso but it might be even more fun if you're more of a stick man connoisseur.

Learn a Tik Tok dance.

<https://www.tiktok.com/tag/dance>