

THE GREAT DATE DOZEN

Welcome To The Great Date Dozen! We all know that Date Nights are important. Every marriage expert has told us so, and they are right. The problem is one of the following: kids, family, work, schedules, never ending laundry, tiredness, responsibilities, endless yard work, etc... You get the idea, but this doesn't change the fact that Date Nights help you destress, have fun, and create connection. With that in mind, we want to help you with some Date Night Intentionality, and that is where The Great Date Dozen comes in.

YOUR MISSION, should you choose to accept it, is to go on 12 dates (1 per month) over the next year. To help, below are 12 great date ideas to tackle in the next 12 months. You can work through the dates in any order. Make sure to place The Great Date Dozen on your fridge as a reminder to date each other.

PICTURE THIS CHALLENGE: It wouldn't be a proper great date adventure unless you captured the moment with a photo together. Each date comes with a photo challenge. Make sure to complete the challenge, post your photo to social media, and/or make it your phone background until the next date.

Good luck on your dating adventures! We hope it is full of laughter, connection, memorable moments, and the occasional makeout along the way..

Restaurant Road Trip: Find a restaurant that is at least 30 miles away. Head out on a road trip and take advantage of the car ride together. Whoever isn't driving will act as the official DJ. Make sure you include some of your favorites and a few that remind you of your spouse. **Picture This: Take a photo together with the restaurant sign.**

Let There Be Lights: The most wonderful time of the year brings us Christmas lights! Plan a Christmas date night to do one of the following: drive around looking at Christmas lights, drive through the Lights Under Louisville, or walk through the Christmas Lights display in Charlestown, IN. All options should include Hot Chocolate & Cookies. **Picture This: Take a photo together with Christmas lights in the background.**

The Trifecta: Plan out a Date Night complete with an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. The catch, each has to be at a different dining establishment. **Picture This: Take a photo feeding each other something.**

Kicking It Old School: Head out with your spouse to grab a bite to eat and follow it up with a movie (both must agree on the film). **Picture This:** Take a photo together with a movie poster or display in the background.

Water Under the Bridge: Take a stroll along the Big 4 Bridge (holding hands is required). Stop at the middle of the bridge and show some love to your spouse with a kiss. **Picture This:** Take a photo together with the Ohio River in the background (bonus points if there is a boat).

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream: Plan out a Date Night to your favorite ice cream spot and grab a sweet treat. Ice Cream is cold, so snuggle up to each other as you eat it. **Picture This:** Take a photo while wearing spoons on your noses.

A Walk on the Wild Side: Spend time exploring and strolling through the Louisville Zoo. Using the animals you see, come up with new pet names for each other. You must use these the rest of the night. **Picture This:** Take a photo together with an animal in the background.

That New Restaurant Smell: It's time for a dining adventure. Find a restaurant that you have never been to before and try it out. Order at least one thing (appetizer, entree, or dessert) that one of you has not had before. **Picture This:** Take a photo together with your new food order.

Picnic in the Park: Pack a meal, grab a blanket, and head out to your favorite park. Set up your picnic and spend some time together. Feel free to substitute Take Out instead of packing a meal. Afterwards, take a stroll through the park together. **Picture This:** Take a photo together having some fun on a playground.

Time to Getaway: It's time to disengage and get away from it all. Plan an overnight stay in Louisville or a nearby city. While there, rest, refresh, and simply spend some uninterrupted time together. **Picture This:** Take a photo together doing something relaxing.

Fancy Like: Sometimes you need to take a break from sweatpants/jeans, and get dressed up. Choose a restaurant that matches your attire, and make sure to complement your spouse throughout the night. This date cannot be completed in connection with Valentine's Day or your Anniversary. **Picture This:** Have someone take your photo together (bonus points if you do a prom pose).

The Great Date Road Map: What if you had access to pre-planned date nights that told you where to go and what to discuss along the way. There are several pre planned date nights available to download at www.mynorthside.com under marriage. Look through the options, download/print, and go on a date night adventure. **Picture This:** If your road map doesn't prompt you to take a photo, snap one doing an activity from the date.