

AT HOME DATE NIGHT IDEAS:

- Make a charcuterie board with meats, cheeses, and crackers from H-E-B and watch your favorite movie at home. For bonus points, put the kids to bed early (or send them to grandma's for the night), build a fire, and see what happens.
- A similar idea is to make some home-made pizza and cookies and watch your favorite reality TV show (We highly recommend The British Baking Show!).
- Make some fondu – try it with cheese, meat, or chocolate, or all the above!
- Get some *Conversation Cards* from *Defy Drift* (defydrift.com) and spend a date night at home asking each other intentional questions

DATE NIGHT CHALLENGES:

The following are some fun ideas or challenges for you and your significant other. Take turns planning dates, and try something new and novel!

- Plan a date night based on your spouse's initials. For example, if your spouse's initials are G.R.U., you could play mini golf at *Top Golf*, eat dinner at *Revival*, and then grab dessert at *Union Hall*.
- Another more challenging idea is to plan a date night according to your last name. For example, if your last name is THOMPSON, you can plan a date night with different elements of the date corresponding to each letter in your last name.
- Not really a challenge, but find another couple you look up to, invite them to dinner or coffee, and ask them intentional questions about their marriage (and make sure you pick up the bill).
- Target Date Night Shopping Challenge - The Mission: Purchase items that your spouse will enjoy for each provided category: Snack, Drink, Something of their favorite color, Something comfy/cozy, Game/Movie, Something from the dollar aisle. Shop separately and then surprise each other back home with your purchases.
- Find the best kolache in West, TX. Here are a few places you can check out: *Slovacek's*, *Gerik's*, *Czech Stop*, *Little Czech Bakery*, *Oak Street Bakery*, *Kolache House Baking Company*.
- Discover your spouse's love language (acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts) and plan a date night that speaks their love language. Check out 5lovelanguages.com to discover your love languages.
- Download your favorite movie on your iPad or laptop, and go park your car in a quiet spot. Get some food, have a picnic, and watch your favorite movie together. Bonus points if you have a mini-van and you lay down the seats and watch in the back of your swagger wagon.

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One of our goals and hopes for you is that you would enjoy married life! Too often we pursue each other well before marriage but then fall into ruts and routines and get bored in marriage. The Waco Date Guide is one small way to help give you some fun and intentional ideas on how to best continue to date and pursue each other long after you say, "I do."

Not every idea will be fun for you. And sometimes what's fun for you may not be fun for your spouse (what a great opportunity for each of you to live out Philippians 2:3-4). Some ideas may be out of your price range, but the Waco Date Guide includes a variety of ideas that are free, some that cost less than \$5, and some that can be costly. Our encouragement is to invest in your marriage—relationally, financially, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally—you will never regret it.

In the guide you will find fun activities (both indoor and outdoor) for you and your spouse. We recommend some great places to eat, coffee shops, and places to enjoy some dessert. We even include some fun challenges and out of town getaways.

PLACES TO EAT:

- *Helberg Barbecue*
- *Pivovar*
- Chef's dinner at *Olive Branch*
- *Revival*
- *La Bottega*
- *135 Prime*
- *Shorty's Pizza Shack* (Baylor Location & Hewitt Location)
- *Moroso's*
- *Diamondbacks*
- *Magnolia Table*
- *Harvest on 5th*
- *Hotel 1928 - Bertie's on the Rooftop or The Brasserie*
- *1424 Bistro*
- *Pignetti's* in Temple or Waco
- *Guess Family BBQ*
- Breakfast date at *Cafe Cappuccino*
- *DiCampli's*
- Food Trucks at either *Magnolia* or at the *Route 77 Food Trucks on La Salle*
- *Union Hall* or *Union Grove* - one spouse chooses the appetizer, the other orders the entree, then get two desserts to share.
- *Milo All Day*
- *Dead Fish Grill* – Belton. Good food, great views.
- *The Gin at Nolan Creek* – Belton.

FAVORITE COFFEE SHOPS:

- *Bitty & Beau's*
- *Nightlight Donuts & Coffee*
- *Common Grounds* (Waco & Woodway)
- *Pinewood Coffee*
- *Dichotomy Coffee*
- *Fabled Bookshop & Cafe*
- *For Keeps*
- *Magnolia Press*
- *Lighthouse*
- *Be Kind*
- Bonus Idea: Create a Waco Coffee Shop punch card and visit a different coffee shop until you try them all.

DESSERT IDEAS:

- Milk Bottle Cookies
- Crumbl Cookies
- Do a Frozen Custard tour – Freddy's, Katie's, and Andy's
- Heritage Creamery (Baylor campus and Woodway Locations)
- Splendid Oaks
- Pazookies at BJ's

FUN OUT OF TOWN GETAWAYS FOR 24-48 HOURS

- Rent a cabin in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.
- Spend the day and night in Clifton, TX. Walk the square, get dinner at *Olaf's*, and spend the night at a B&B in Clifton.
- Swim & play at *Tonkawa Falls* (Crawford, Texas)
- Swim & Play at the *Blue Hole Park* (Wimberley, Texas)
- *Sage Hill Inn* (Hill Country area)
- *Omni Barton Creek* (Austin area)
- *Hill Country Herb Garden* (Fredericksburg)
- *Hoffman Haus* (Fredericksburg)
- *The Vineyard* at Florence

FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO IN WACO/SURROUNDING AREAS

- *Waco Farmers Market* – Saturdays, 9a-1p
- *Waco Rage Room* – rageroomwaco.com
- Axe Throwing – *Waco Axe Company* or *Stumpy's Hatchet House*
- *Main Event* – Arcade, Bowling, Food, and much more
- *Black Oak Art* – Take a Wheel Throwing Pottery Class
- *Top Golf* – Golf, Mini Golf, Meal
- *Republic Gun Club* – Waco Indoor Shooting Range
- *Barnes & Noble* – Grab a cup of coffee and buy each other a book
- *Waco Library* – Get a library card and borrow some books or movies (the price is right!).
- *Cameron Park* – Hiking, Zoo, look at Christmas Lights
- Watch the sunset at *Lovers Leap* in *Cameron Park*
- Walk the shops on Austin Avenue
- Shop at *Spice Village*
- All things *Magnolia* – Walk around the *Silos*, get coffee at *Magnolia Press*, and grab lunch or breakfast at *Magnolia Table*
- Take a tour of our hometown with *Waco Tours* (or check out their River Tour)
- Kayak or paddleboard the Brazos River with *Waco Paddle Company*
- *Valley Mills Vineyard*
- Iconic Baylor Date: Go see the bears on campus, get a Half Gut Pack at *Vitek's*, followed by a shake at *Health Camp*
- Go see a concert at *Woodway Arboretum* (discoverwoodway.com)
- Enjoy a walk, jog, or bike ride on the Cotton Belt Trail
- *Heart of Texas (H.O.T.) Fair & Rodeo* (fall activity)
- Picnic by the lake in Woodway Park
- Date night at *Painting With a Twist* or *Board and Brush*
- Go see a movie or two at *The Last Drive-in Picture Show* in Gatesville
- "Dinner for Two" at *Waco Escape Room* (Note: You'll need a real meal after this date night!).
- Visit the *Leona General Store* on a Friday or Saturday night for what is rumored to be the best steak you will ever eat (<https://leonageneral.com>). Trust us on this one – too many have raved about it for it to not be true!
- Date with a purpose: Breakfast at *World Cup Cafe* to support *Mission Waco*. Get coffee at *Bitty & Beau's*. Shop for a pack of diapers and drop off at Care Net. Walk along the river and pick up trash.
- *Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum*
- *Dr. Pepper Museum* (Note: Visit your local library – you may be able to get free passes to some local attractions)
- Volunteer at one of Harris Creek's ministry partners and serve together as a couple. What a great way to be on mission together!
- Go to a park, set up some hammocks, and do exactly nothing together! Just chill, and enjoy each other's presence and God's beautiful creation.
- Start a new hobby together. Have you played pickleball yet?