



38 COOL & CREATIVE FIRST DATES FOR DC SINGLES

by Janine Driver, Lyin' Tamer

Creative Date #1:

View the sights of our Nation's Capital aboard the nostalgic motorized trolley car.

Creative Date #2:

Lunch on the stairs of the U.S. Capitol.

Creative Date #3:

An after-work cocktail at the ESPN Zone.

Creative Date #4:

Lunch in Chinatown, then a stroll along the Mall.

Creative Date #5:

Check out the Spy Museum--it has a great restaurant!

Creative Date #6:

Visit the Ford Theatre this weekend, then take an evening stroll to the White House.

Creative Date #7:

Bagged lunch at the Lincoln! This is my favorite, especially in the spring!

Creative Date #8:

Dinner in Georgetown, then walk along the walking path on the Potomac.

Creative Date #9:

Weekend picnic in the beautiful gardens at the Washington National Cathedral. Another one of my favorites!

Creative Date #10:

Take an afternoon tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This is on my to-do list!

Creative Date #11:

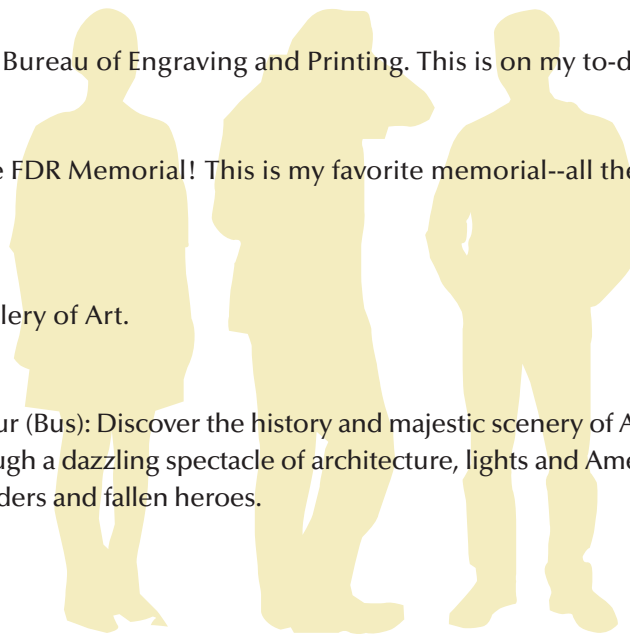
Make a PB & J and head to the FDR Memorial! This is my favorite memorial--all the water elements are truly beautiful!

Creative Date #12:

Lunch inside the National Gallery of Art.

Creative Date #13:

Washington, DC After Dark Tour (Bus): Discover the history and majestic scenery of America's capital. This luxury bus tour takes you through a dazzling spectacle of architecture, lights and America's past, and visit the nation's memorials to great leaders and fallen heroes.





Creative Date #14:

Colonial Williamsburg Historical Tour (Bus): Step back in time to experience the ideas and dreams of both great and everyday people on the eve of the American Revolution. With more than 500 restored and reconstructed buildings spread across 301 acres of land and a staff of 3500 archaeologists, researchers, historians and historical interpreters, Colonial Williamsburg truly is a different time and place. Spend the day exploring the 18th century and learn about Colonial America.

Creative Date #15:

Washington DC Capital Sites Bike Tour (Bicycle). This easy, 3-hour ride features all 3 branches of government, 3 war memorials, 3 presidential monuments and so much more! Duration: 3 hours

Creative Date #16:

Washington DC Dinner Cruise: Offers not only an all-you-can-eat buffet with a carving station, but also live entertainment with a colorful cast of performers, a DJ to play your favorite songs and lively narration of the endless stream of city sights, including the Washington Monument, the Potomac River and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Creative Date #17:

Washington DC Scenic Lunch Cruise: same as above, but in the daytime.

Creative Date #18:

Mount Vernon Excursion Tour (Cruise). Enjoy the only fun-filled cruise to George Washington's Estate & Gardens direct from Washington, DC on the Mount Vernon Excursion Tour. Enjoy a narrated tour of the Potomac River and its famous landmarks, including the Washington Monument, Jones Point Lighthouse and the home of the nation's first President - Mount Vernon.

Creative Date #19:

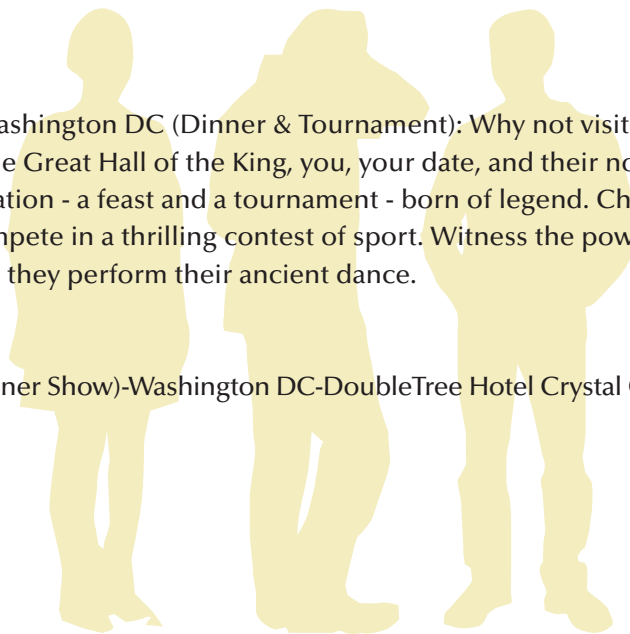
Washington DC Harley Davidson Rentals (Motorcycle): Pay your respects to America's leaders and heroes as you and your date cruise through Washington DC on your own Harley. Whether you're riding a Heritage Softail, a Fat Boy or even a Road King, you both will feel the power that only a Harley Davidson can deliver.

Creative Date #20:

Medieval Times Baltimore / Washington DC (Dinner & Tournament): Why not visit the Middle Ages? As you and your date gather in the Great Hall of the King, you, your date, and their noble guests, will be at the center of a great celebration - a feast and a tournament - born of legend. Cheer the arrival of the Knights and watch as they compete in a thrilling contest of sport. Witness the power and glory of the mighty Andalusian stallions as they perform their ancient dance.

Creative Date #21:

Mystery Dinner Playhouse (Dinner Show)-Washington DC-DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City @ National Airport.





Creative Date #22:

Visit the Kennedy Center tonight! DC's main cultural jewel, the Kennedy Center, is given most of the credit for transforming DC from a cultural backwater to an artistic contender in the late 20th century. The Millennium Stage has a series of daily free music and dance performances, runs annually, usually starting in spring. It's a perfect opportunity to see first-class performances for nada. Shows start at 6pm; check the website for a schedule. Some performances are also held at noon on the Capitol grounds.

Creative Date #23:

Football Fun! The Redskins are a populist religion in DC: whether they're winning or losing, 'Skins games empty the city, drawing streams of people into sports bars and living rooms to cheer the punting and the grunting. They play at Jack Kent Cook Stadium in Maryland. Tickets are impossible, unless you can schmooze your way up to a Congressman or local celebrity: the waiting list is thousands of names long. Absent friends in high places, check the Post classified ads for ticket resales (be prepared to pay through the nose), or go to Georgetown's Champions bar and watch the game from the comfort of a barstool.

Creative Date #24:

Basketball Fun! Michael Jordan recently became part owner of the Washington Wizards, lending a new aura of glamour and hope to a hapless team previously most noted for its cheerleaders' endearingly arrhythmic routines. His Airness hasn't alchemized them into a killer team, but they're still fun to watch at the MCI Center (Metro Gallery Place).

Creative Date #25:

Dribble on over to the MCI Center to watch DC's new women's basketball team, the Washington Mystics! also play here.

Creative Date #26:

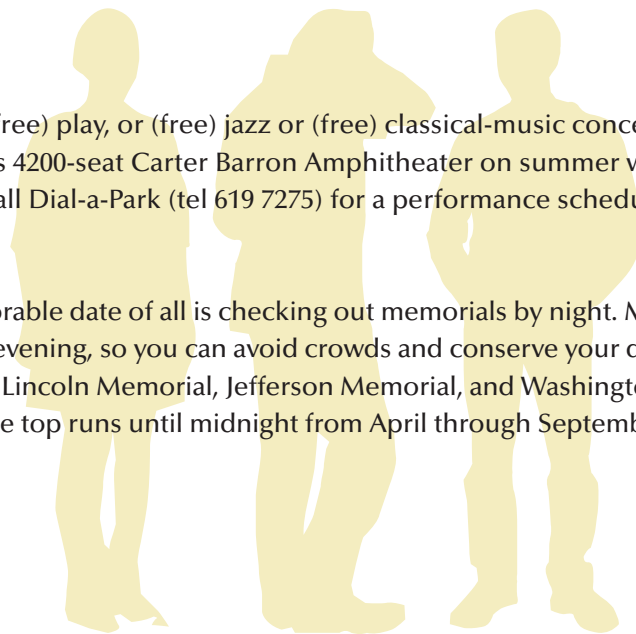
It's unnecessary to pay anything (other than a bunch of compliments to your mate) to entertain a date in DC. The Smithsonian, which is free all day long, also sponsors numerous evening lectures, films, concerts, and unusual performances from puppet shows to blue-grass jams, many of them free. Check out the Post's Weekend section, call Dial-a-Museum (tel 357 2020) for recorded listings, or pick up calendars at museum desks.

Creative Date #27:

Why not take your date to a (free) play, or (free) jazz or (free) classical-music concert? They are all held outdoors in Rock Creek Park's 4200-seat Carter Barron Amphitheater on summer weekends; it's near 16th and Colorado Sts NW. Call Dial-a-Park (tel 619 7275) for a performance schedule.

Creative Date #28:

The cheapest, but most memorable date of all is checking out memorials by night. Most major ones are beautifully illuminated in the evening, so you can avoid crowds and conserve your daytimes for museums by covering such sights as the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and Washington Monument at night (at the latter, the elevator to the top runs until midnight from April through September).





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Creative Date #29:

How about a drink with class? A lot of downtown's bar scene happens in its upscale restaurants. Many lobbyists' and lawyers' lunchtime playgrounds - DC Coast, Capital Grille, McCormick & Schmick's, Old Ebbitt Grill - do hefty after-work bar business, too. Folks are more likely to tuck into steak and gin than salads and sparkly water, but the clientele and type-A ambience remain the same.

Creative Date #30:

Two downtown bars offer elegant settings in which to imbibe. 701 Pennsylvania Avenue Bar & Restaurant (Tel 393 0701; Metro Archives), a 'caviar and champagne lounge,' has arabesque banquettes in its quietly lush room, plus DC's best vodka bar in the back.

Creative Date #31:

How about a little live Jazz this Thursday night? Just meet your date at Butlers Cigar Bar (Tel 637 4765, 1000 H St NW; Metro Center), in the Grand Hyatt, for a has large, costly martini, a prosperous yuppie crowd, an impressive humidor, marble tables, and LIVE JAZZ!

Creative Date #32:

Perhaps serene luxury's not for you and your date mate?! In that case, try ESPN Sports Bar (Tel 783 3776, 555 12th St NW; Metro Center), a three-floor, 200-TV emporium featuring a massive screening room with speakers in its chairs and a 16-foot TV that looks like a war-room missile monitor; the crowded Sports Grill; and the Sports Arena, packed with video and table games.

Creative Date #33:

Ahhhh, my favorite date place before I met my husband! How about you bring your friends and your date brings her friends to Fados (Tel 789 0066, 808 7th St NW; Metro Gallery Place), a stylish Irish pub, sticks out in Chinatown like James Joyce in Shanghai.

Creative Date #34:

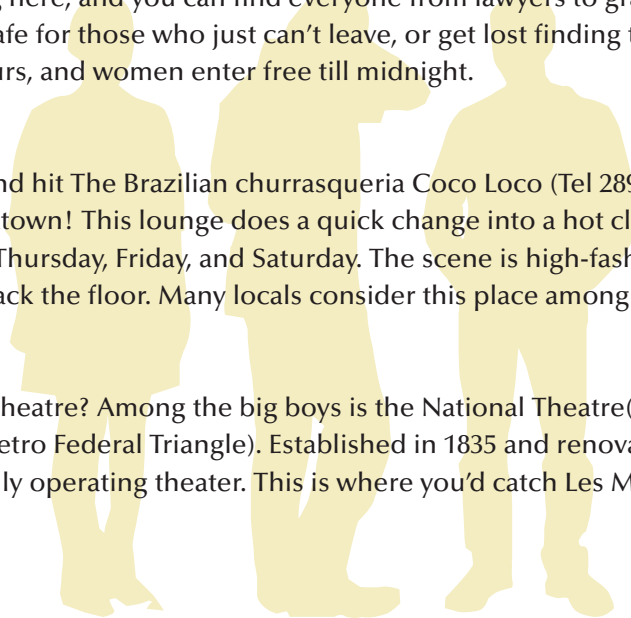
Up for a little dancing this weekend? Meet you man at The Spot (Tel 262 0321, 919 E St NW; Metro Gallery Place)! The Spot is DC's downtown's leading dance palace, a 10-bar, five-club emporium. Latin, retro, trance, reggae: it's all spinning here, and you can find everyone from lawyers to graffiti artists to dance with. It even has a breakfast cafe for those who just can't leave, or get lost finding the door. It's closed Tuesday, open till the wee hours, and women enter free till midnight.

Creative Date #35:

Get out your dancing shoes and hit The Brazilian churrasqueria Coco Loco (Tel 289 2626, 810 7th St NW; Metro Gallery Place), in Chinatown! This lounge does a quick change into a hot club where salsa and merengue pound after 11pm Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The scene is high-fashion and multiethnic, and cruising 30-somethings pack the floor. Many locals consider this place among DC's top Latin clubs.

Creative Date #36:

How about a night out at the theatre? Among the big boys is the National Theatre (Tel 800 447 7400, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave NW; Metro Federal Triangle). Established in 1835 and renovated in 1984, it's Washington's oldest continually operating theater. This is where you'd catch Les Miserables and Rent.





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Creative Date #37:

Ready to get all dolled up? If so, hit the Warner Theatre (Tel 783 4000, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave NW; Metro Federal Triangle) for a host of national runs of Broadway musicals. It's a beautifully restored 1924 Art Deco theater that stages headliner concerts, comedians, and shows like Riverdance.

Creative Date #38:

A night at the theatre is always a hit with the ladies! Check out the Ford's Theatre (Tel 347-4833, Address: 511 10th St NW).

