Dayton.com Date Night Ideas:

**5/7/14**

Sometimes, the best date nights include dinner and a movie, with a few drinks afterwards.

This date starts by taking in a limited-release comedy at [The Neon](http://neonmovies.com/). ["The D Train"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PzB1Feeocw) stars Jack Black and James Marsden. Black plays Dan Landsman who has never been the cool guy, but is looking to change his luck if he can get Oliver Lawless (Marsden), the most popular guy from his high school who's now a spokesperson for a national Banana Boat ad campaign, to show up with him to their class reunion.

**SHOWTIMES: Fri & Sat (May 8 & 9)** 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, **Sun (May 10)** 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30

After the movie, head on over to [Wheat Penny Oven and Bar](http://www.wheatpennydayton.com/index.html) (only 1/2 mile from The Neon) and dine on California-style pizzas from 5-10 p.m.

Then, to cap off the night, take your pick from 20 draft beers, including recently released Tres Carnales from nearby [Warped Wing Brewery](http://www.warpedwing.com/).

**#2 Art Explosion**

The weather might be a little uncertain this weekend, but there's no shortage of live art exhibits, activities and gallery openings around Dayton.

[Friday's Art in the City](http://www.dayton.com/what-to-do/5-reasons-go-to-art-in-the-city/) includes a large group of events including [Pickin in the Park](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/riverscape-metropark-hosting-food-music-even/nmBRn/) on Friday, from 5-10 p.m. at Riverscape Metropark. There's live blues music, food trucks and craft beer aplenty at this event.

Sideshow X begins two nights of art, comedy, two stages of live music, food and more at the [Yellow Cab Building at 700 E. 4th St](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Yellow+Cab+Tavern/@39.758917,-84.181558,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x884083fc1ed18f3d:0x3342f88bfc7b2b24), beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday. Be sure to read up on the[5 reasons to check out Sideshow X](http://www.dayton.com/what-to-do/sideshow-x/) before you head over.

In addition to these events, there will be pop-up galleries, storm drain murals and the[Street Art Throwdown & Steam Punk Art Show](https://www.facebook.com/events/369380819915422/) going on at the same time.

**#3 Bounce and Brews**

If you're looking for more active date night plans, head on over to [Sky Zone](http://www.skyzone.com/dayton/Home.aspx) in Centerville. If you're unfamiliar with Sky Zone's concept, it's a massive indoor trampoline park that caters to both kids and adults.

Hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Ticket prices range from $12 for a 30-minute jump to $22 for a 120-minute jump.

It's important to note that Sky Zone limits its hourly capacity, so the company encourages bouncers to[buy their tickets online in advance](http://daytonstore.skyzone.com/) to secure their spot and time.

After you've literally bounced off the walls at Sky Zone, replenish your energy at [Pour Haus Tavern](http://pourhaus.com/). There's more than 25 beers on tap, including local and national brews.

**5/14/15**

**#1 Bike for a Bite**

Dayton's Link bike sharing program is in full swing, and if you haven't taken a ride, there's no better time than this weekend to take one of those iconic green bikes for a spin with that special someone of yours.

The best part is, it's an affordable and convient mode of transportation around downtown Dayton -- a 24-hour pass will only set you back $5!

[**>> 8 facts about Dayton's new bike share program**](http://www.dayton.com/news/news/local/8-facts-about-daytons-new-bike-share-program/nkzCf/)

All that riding around will probably make you hungry, so swing on over to one of many dining choices on Brown Street, including Dewey's Pizza, Fusian and Hickory Bar-B-Q for dinner.

Finish off the evening by heading south to Ben and Jerry's for the perfect end to an evening: ice cream.

**#2 Music and Art in the Park**

All-inclusive festivals are one of the many things Dayton does best and this Friday is no exception.

Big Brews and Blues will takeover Riverscape Metropark Friday, 6-9 p.m.

[**>> 4 reasons to go to Big Brews and Blues**](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/4-reasons-to-go-to-big-brews-and-blues/nmGBZ/)

[Tickets are $30 in advance](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/6th-annual-big-brews-blues-for-diabetes-tickets-15805167682) (you still have a little time, but you better hurry) and $40 at the gate.

Keep in mind, your ticket does more than get you into the festival. You'll get a commerative sampling glass that you can use to taste up 12 different brews.

And if you're looking for something to eat, you'll have five different food vendors to choose from.

Check out [BigBluesandBlues.com](http://www.bigbrewsandblues.com/) to purchase tickets and for more info.

**3.) Paint Your Palate - Friday, May 15**If there's an inner artist in you that enjoys sipping wine or a mixed drink while you color your canvas, we have the event for you!

Start by enjoying a plate of AMAZING barbeque at [City Barbeque](http://www.citybbq.com/) at 5 E Franklin St, in Centerville. We recommend the pulled pork or brisket, but it's hard to go wrong with anything on this menu.

After dinner, head over to [Raise Your Brush](http://raiseyourbrush.com/) (less than 1/2 mile away) for an evening of laid-back artsy fun. Friday's session is "Dayton Skyline" -- a starry, moonlit silhouette view of downtown Dayton. Tickets are $35 for the session and [must be purchased in advance](http://raiseyourbrush.com/product/dayton-skyline-51515/).

If you've never participated in a Raise Your Brush group painting session, you're in for a treat. Instructors guide you through the painting step-by-step. Aprons and supplies are included in the cost.

Still not sure what to expect? Here are [**5 emotions you'll experience at a Raise Your Brush event**](http://www.dayton.com/news/lifestyles/5-emotions-youll-experience-while-painting-raise-y/nkznL/)**.**

Though you're not allowed to BYOB, the bar is stocked with beers and wine, including pinot noir, cabernet, pinot grigio, chardonnay, riesling and moscato.

**5/21/15**

**1.) Have a heck of a time at Dayton Heritage Festival (Sunday, May 24, rain date Monday, May 25)**

Dayton festivals are a one-stop shop for food, drink and entertainment.

This weekend at Dayton History's Heritage Festival, a skydiving show, live music, a Kids Fun Zone, historical exhibits and of course, plenty of food and drink options will all be available at the event.

[**>> 5 reasons to go to Dayton History's Heritage Festival**](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/5-reasons-to-go-to-dayton-historys-heritage-festiv/nmHMd/)

The Heritage Festival is a fun way to get outdoors, learn about Dayton history and grab a bite to eat, all in one place.

Tickets are $8 for adults, $7 for seniors (55+), $5 for children (3-17), free to Dayton History members and children under age 3. $5 for All Active Military, Retirees, Veterans, and Reservists with valid I.D.

**2.) Soak in Dayton history (anytime)**

The Heritage Festival might be a once-a-year event, but you can learn about the Gem City's rich history throughout the year, as well.

Head over to Carillon Brewing Co. to experience a pint of history that dates back to the 1850s. The brewery has food service from 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. and draws from [an extensive menu](http://www.carillonbrewingco.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Menu.pdf) that offers soups, salads, entrees and of course beer and wine.

You can also tour the many buildings at Carillon Historical Park. Walk through the William Morris House, the gristmill, Lock 17 from the Miami and Erie Canal, the Barney and Smith Car 100 in the James F. Dickie Family Transportation Center and more.

**3.) Namaste (anytime)**

If you and your significant other are in the mood for something more low key, try a yoga class together.

[Practice Yoga](http://practiceyogadayton.com/web/), 504 E. 5th St. in Dayton’s Oregon Arts District, offers $13 one-time drop-in classes for non-members.

Yoga is an excellent way to improve your balance and flexibility, while meeting new people and remaining active.

After a good sweat, you'll be within walking distance to any number of Oregon District restaurants. For a healthier and locally-sourced option, try [Olive, an urban dive](http://www.olivedive.com/), from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. every day except Sunday.

**4.) Running of the Dogs (Saturday, May 23)**

A 5K Run or 1-mile walk are some of the best low-pressure ways to feed your competitive spirit, and a run/walk event that involves your canine friend is even better.

There is still time to register for the [24th annual Furry Skurry 5K walk/run](https://www.hsdayton.org/events/events-calendar/furry-skurry.html) on Saturday, May 23 at Eastwood MetroPark.

[**>> 10 reasons to go to Furry Skurry**](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/10-reasons-to-go-to-furry-skurry/nmK3R/)

There will be food trucks, awards for best costumes, a parade of adoptable animals, a 50/50 raffle and more.

You can register as individuals and with or without a dog, but obviously this event would be more fun with a furry friend alongside you.

**5/27**

**1. Gamer’s Grand Night Out (anytime)**  
Whether you’re a budding 20-something or were born during the days of Atari, you’re never too old for video games. And at [Scene 75](http://www.scene75.com/), you can be a kid all over again.

Scene 75 is a gamer’s heaven, featuring more 120 arcade games, laser tag, mini bowling, indoor go-karts, bumper cars, a 4-D motion theater and more.

And when your hunger or thirst strikes after running around shooting lasers or a back-and-forth round of air hockey, head over to [Scene 75 Bar & Grill](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fscene75.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2014%2F01%2FScene75-Bar-Grill-Menu.pdf) and sample from a menu of burgers, wraps, pizzas, appetizers and salads. Or cool off with a 22-ounce beer at [The Center Bar](https://www.beermenus.com/places/15147-scene75-bar-and-grill).

The mega entertainment complex is open Wednesday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.- 11 p.m., Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-1 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Oh, and be sure to check out [Dayton.com contributor Lauren Rinehart's blog about HER awesome Scene 75 date night](http://www.girlabouttowndayton.com/scene-75-date-night/)!

**2. Plan the Perfect Picnic (anytime)**  
Ohio's weather can be, in a word, unpredictable.

But on the days when the clouds clear and the sun shines, there's no better time than to head outdoors with a blanket and picnic basket in tow.

And the best part is a picnic doesn't need to be anything fancy. Just pack your favorite food, something cold to drink, a blanket to lay on and you're good to go!

We make picnics easy -- just check out our [handy guide for the best food to bring and best spots to go in Dayton](http://www.dayton.com/news/lifestyles/plan-the-perfect-picnic-in-dayton-where-to-go-what/nkxSp/).

**3. Make a Night of Mini Golf (anytime)**  
Though sports activities don't always translate to date night ideas, mini golf is a fun way to spend an evening. It's less about the score and more about avoiding those crazy water hazards or knocking your ball through a building or down a slide.

[The Englewood Fun Center](http://englewoodfuncenter.com/attractions/outdoor-miniature-golf) has a challening outdoor course that features lush, well-manicured greens. The course features a tropical theme, complete with glow in the dark palm trees, Hawaiian leis, a tiki-hut sales center, a cascading waterfall and two ponds. At $6 per person (12 years or older), it's a great bargain.

Afterwards, head over to [TJ Chumps](http://www.tjchumps.com/) (right next door) and share a basket of wings, or try one of their burger baskets, sandwiches or pizzas. (Hint: The Meaty Chump Pizza is where it's at!)

4. **You and Yours in Yellow Springs (anytime)**  
Yellow Springs is one of Ohio's most unique cities, and its natural landmarks make it a must-see destination for outdoor adventurists.

The Glen Helen nature preserve encompasses over 1,000 acres of woods, streams, trees, plants and wildlife and is the perfect place to spend an afternoon exploring the wilderness with your date.

Be sure to check the park's [events calendar](http://glen.antiochcollege.org/assets/files/glen_calendar/GlenHelen-Winter2014-15Calendar-Web.pdf) for special attractions or simply traverse the trails on your own. You also don't want to miss these [5 things you must do in Yellow Springs](http://www.dayton.com/what-to-do/must-do-yellow-springs/)**.**

After your hike, head into town and dine at one of the village's many restaurants. [Ha-Ha Pizza](http://www.hahapizza.com/) and [Winds Cafe](http://www.windscafe.com/) are two of the more well-known establishments, but be sure to check out [Peaches Bar and Grill](http://www.peachsgrill.com/) and [Ye Olde Trail Tavern](http://thetrailtavern.com/), too.

**6/4**

**1. A Strawberry Field Day (Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7)**

Of all the weekend festivals throughout the year in Dayton, the Troy Strawberry Festival might be the only one that will literally having you seeing red the entire time.

The best part of the Strawberry Festival is that even if you're not a huge fan of the popular fruit, there's more than two full days worth of food, entertainment and activities.

While there, you can browse high quality art and craft booths, sample from food booths that offer everything from strawberry salsa, chocolate covered strawberries, strawberry cheesecake, and of course the famous strawberry donuts!

[**>> 18 strawberry treats to try at Troy Strawberry Festival**](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/festivals/18-strawberry-treats-to-try-at-troy-strawberry-fes/nmS34/)

[**>> 4 reasons to visit Troy (other than the Strawberry Festival)**](http://www.dayton.com/news/places/4-reasons-visit-troy-other-strawberry-festival/nmSPM/)

The festival offers great family entertainment, two stages of free entertainment, free shuttle service and free admission.

A full list of activities and goings-on, including events schedule and a list of food vendors, can be found at the [Troy Strawberry Festival website](https://gostrawberries.com/event-vendor-forms/events/).

**2. A Bowl Full of Light and Sound (Fridays and Saturdays)**

There's standard bowling, then there's Cosmic Bowling.

Every weekend, Pla-Mor Lanes in Dayton takes the traditional 10-pin game we've all come to know and love and delivers an "unmatched cosmic bowling light, sound and audio spectacular" experience.

Cost for cosmic bowling is $12.95 per person on Fridays and $14.95 per person on Saturdays.

Whether sharing a lane with another couple or crushing pins as a lone pair, bowling is laid-back fun activity that's much more than an observational sport.

And if all the action of cosmic bowling makes you work up an appetite, head over to [Bob-O's Cafe](http://daytonbowling.com/PDF/PM-Food%20Menu%207.7.13.pdf) for sandwiches, pizzas, calzones and more.

Visit [**DaytonBowling.com**](http://daytonbowling.com/) for more info.

**3. Come for the Comedy, Stay for the Food and Drinks (anytime)**

If you love to laugh, indulge in delicious drinks and don't mind being publicly ridiculed for the sake of comedy, then the Dayton Funny Bone is place for you.

The comedy club always has a hilarious rotation of local and nationally-known acts taking the stage at The Greene Towne Center. And if you're looking for more than just standard bar fare to satisfy your palette throughout the evening, you'll have more than enough choices with the Funny Bone's menu.

Choose from salads, appetizers, burgers, sandwiches and full-size entrees, including salmon, steak and an excellent plate of cilantro shrimp tacos.

Don't forget about the drink menu either. The club has a long list of signature drinks, including the Red Dawn (rum, strawberry schnapps, amaretto, sour, Sprite and cranberry juice), the Mango Tango (Malibu Mango, White Rum, Pineapple and Amaretto) or the 3 Mile Island (a Long Island with melon-flavored liquer).

This week's act (June 4-7) is Tone Bell, who has made his name on such shows as the NBC multi-camera comedy "Whitney" as RJ, Alex's (Chris D'Elia) old high school friend who has moved back to Chicago to bartend after a recent divorce.

Tickets for this week's show cost $10 on Thursday and Sunday, $15 on Friday and Saturday and $40 on all four days for the dinner package.

To purchase tickets, call (937) 429-5233 or visit [Dayton Funny Bone's ticket page](https://www.standup-media.com/comedyreservation/fullprocessing/sectionselection.aspx?csid=6f69745e-085e-43b6-98d2-5f97e4c3410e&clubid=6aad56b0-c17b-4aaf-9135-bef9f42a2bdc).

A full schedule of upcoming is available at the [Dayton Funny Bone's website](http://www.funnybone.com/Venues/Dayton/).

**4. Finish Your Week at First Friday (Friday, June 5)**

First Fridays in downtown Dayton not only mark the beginning of a new month, but offer an exciting start to your weekend, and this Friday, it will be sprint to the finish.

Downtown Dayton Partnership continues its Summer in the City series this Friday with The Great Dayton Adventure, which sends teams all over the Gem City in a 5K scavenger hunt with cash prizes of $250, $150 or $100 going to the fastest hunters.

[**>> On your mark, get set...RACE downtown on June's First Friday**](http://www.dayton.com/news/places/on-your-mark-get-set-race-downtown-on-junes-first-/nmQ2T/)

But that's not all!

Downtown Dayton will be buzzing with activity all weekend. Take your pick from a slew of drink and food specials and plenty of live music, including Pickin' in the Park at Riverscape MetroPark.

So grab your date, a pair of comfortable running or athletic shoes and clothing, and get up to starting line.

**6/11**

1. **Treat Yourself to the Theater**

If you’re looking for an exclusive musical show or enthralling play to attend, the Schuster Performing Arts Center is your best bet.

Not only does the theater feature a lengthy list of award-winning entertainment, but there is a bevy of dining options nearby.

Before you find your seat at the Schuster Center, pull up a chair at UNO Pizzeria and Grill, only two minutes away.

Feast on deep-dish pizza, steak, chicken, burgers or seafood, or choose two dishes for $12 from the [menu](http://www.unos.com/?fullsite=yes)’s Pick and Choose options.

This week features the final days of Peter and the Starcatcher, a theatrical prequel to Peter Pan, that chronicles the adventures of an orphan soon to be called Peter Pan, and Molly, a girl charged to protect a parcel of stardust from falling into the wrong hands.

<http://youtu.be/OONAPqEf-2U>

Tickets cost $25-$97 and are on sale now for performances on Thursday, Friday and twice on Saturday and Sunday.

Visit [TicketCenterStage.com](https://www.ticketcenterstage.com/show.asp?shcode=2078) to secure your seats now.

And before the curtain goes up, enjoy a pre-show flight featuring Belle of Dayton’s Belle 1775 Colonial Reserve Rum in a variety of cocktails. Tickets to pre-show flights are sold separately and are $10 each. You must also have a ticket to that night’s performance.

**Call Ticket Center Stage at (937) 228-3630 or (888) 228-3630 to add a pre-show flight to your performance.**

**2. Headlock your hunger, then sit down for Saturday’s main event**

What’s a weekend without spending it a couple thousand of your closest friends surrounding a wrestling ring?

The Superstars of [World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)](http://www.wwe.com/) will invade the [Wright State Nutter Center](http://www.nuttercenter.com/default.aspx) Saturday, June 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m. for WWE Live.

Before the bell rings, grab a slice and a drink at [The Flying Pizza](http://www.theflyingpizza.com/fairborn/fairborn.html), across the street at 2640 Colonel Glenn Highway. All the ingredients and dough are hand-made right in the restaurant and pizza is served by the slice.

Later, watch WWE World Heavyweight Champion Seth Rollins defend his title against Randy Orton and Cincinnati native Dean Ambrose in a triple threat match. Roman Reigns will take on Big Show in a Steel Cage Match, and the Celtic Warrior Sheamus will do battle with “The Showoff” Dolph Ziggler.

Tickets range from $18-$108 and can be purchased through [Ticketmaster](http://www.ticketmaster.com/wwe-live-dayton-ohio-06-13-2015/event/16004E46DBF26EE6) and plenty of great seats are still available.

**3. Kings Island (adult style)**

Amusement parks are an excellent place to enjoy the rides and attractions as a family, but they can also be a lot of fun as a couples-only venture, too.

The park’s inaugural [Kings Island](https://www.visitkingsisland.com/) Banshee Brew Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13. A ticket to the June 12-13 event includes 15 5-ounce craft beer samples and two food tickets — each good for one of seven featured entrées — plus one souvenir mug.

[**>> Kings Island’s first beer festival this weekend**](http://www.dayton.com/news/events/kings-islands-first-beer-festival-this-weekend/nmYTg/)

Food choices include Chicago-style hot dogs, Mesquite grilled jumbo chicken and grilled Italian sausage.

Of course, your visit to the park wouldn’t be complete without taking a ride on all those gravity-defying roller coasters, including the newest attraction [The Banshee](https://www.visitkingsisland.com/rides/Thrill-Rides-12-14-11-44/Banshee).

**4. Guitar Heroes**

For the past several weeks, the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance has been holding Dayton Guitar Heroes, an online competition. The participants range in age from 16 to 62.

The winners selected from the Internet contest will compete in a live event at [Dayton Beer Company](http://thedaytonbeerco.com/), 41 Madison St., Dayton, at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 13, and the best news is the cost is free.

[**>> Local craft brewery gets regional distribution**](http://www.dayton.com/news/news/local/local-craft-brewery-gets-regional-distribution/nmTt3/)

The winners of the live finals will join the Dayton Philharmonic and Jeans ’n Classics for a special concert at the Schuster Center on July 10.

Visit [daytonperformingarts.org/daytonguitarheroessearch](http://daytonperformingarts.org/daytonguitarheroessearch) for more info.

And should your palette crave something to drink, an award-winning craft beer is within reach, with something to please everyone from the novice beer drinker, to the seasoned veteran.