

101 Ideas

for **Amazing First Dates** in Santa Barbara



Santa Barbara Matchmaking provides [matchmaking services](#) for commitment-minded singles in Santa Barbara, Central and Southern California. If you would like our advice on any other aspect of dating, we also provide [dating and relationship coaching](#). Santa Barbara is such a perfect town for dating it's hard to believe there could be any lack of ideas. Don't let first date jitters hold you back from meeting someone new with my list of 101 ideas for amazing first dates in Santa Barbara.

Outdoors and Nature Dates in Santa Barbara

1. [Swimming](#): Spend a lazy day sunning on the pristine sand, frolicking in the water, and getting to know each other.
2. [Boating](#): The Sailing Center offers sailing instruction, sailboat charters, whale watching, and boat rentals.
3. [Stand-Up Paddle Boats](#): The Sailing Center even built a launch pad from their dock so you can explore Santa Barbara harbor, Stearns Wharf, and East Beach.
4. [Segway Tour](#): Riding a Segway along the beach or down flower-lined streets might get your relationship rolling.
5. [Duck Boats](#): Climb aboard Santa Barbara's amphibious tour vehicle for a 90-minute land and sea tour adventure.
6. [Camping](#): Santa Barbara County offers two camping parks - Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach.
7. [Santa Barbara Jet Boats](#): Get your hearts racing as you enjoy viewing sea lions, dolphins and the beautiful Santa Barbara coastline.
8. [Deep Sea Fishing](#): Santa Barbara Sport Fishing Charters is the premier guide for the ultimate boating and fishing adventures.
9. [Whale Watching](#): Santa Barbara is the #1 whale watching destination in the world.
10. [Tandem Kayak](#): See how well you and your date work together by renting a tandem kayak and paddling it around Santa Barbara harbor!
11. [Surfing](#): Private surf lessons for you and your date with your own instructor.



12. [Santa Barbara Zoo](#): The Zoo cares for rare, beautiful and endangered animals including lions, giraffes, penguins, elephants, gorillas, California condors and many more.
13. [Santa Barbara Botanic Garden](#): Walk together along a meadow, through a canyon and redwood forest, and along ridge tops that offer sweeping views of the Channel Islands.
14. [Andree Clark Bird Refuge](#): Take the nature trail to see wintering ducks, herons, egrets, and sparrows.
15. [Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens](#): Features a large botanical collection of 75 tree and plant species.
16. [Picnic](#): Stop by C'est Cheese for all the fixings, and enjoy a quiet day in beautiful Santa Barbara.
17. [Douglas Family Preserve](#): Located on the mesa above Arroyo Burro Beach, with spectacular ocean and beach views.
18. [Lotusland](#): The remarkable collections of exotic plants are a personal expression of Madame Ganna Walska's penchant for the dramatic, the unexpected, and the whimsical.
19. [Helicopter Tour](#): See the Channel Islands region of California as it was meant to be seen, from a luxurious and fast helicopter!
20. [Nanco Aerial Tours](#): Offers four helicopter tours of Santa Barbara County, departing from the Municipal Airport in Goleta, California.
21. [Biking](#): The Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition has crafted several amazing bike rides for your enjoyment.
22. [Hiking](#): Some of the best hiking anywhere, and lots of it!
23. [Trolley Tour](#): Fully-narrated tours packed with anecdotes and historical information that will delight and entertain.
24. [Hummer Tour](#): Take a ride aboard an elite fleet of open air Hummers along the backroads.
25. [Balloon Ride](#): Soar to new heights with a stunning morning balloon ride over Santa Barbara!
26. [Scuba Diving](#): Dive excursions to the giant kelp forests and rocky reefs of the Channel Islands National Park.
27. [Farmers Market](#): Shop for fresh local produce and cook a meal together.
28. [Ty Warner Sea Center](#): Inspires a passion for the natural world...and maybe each other?
29. [Elings Park](#): The largest privately funded public park in America.
30. [Santa Barbara Orchid Estate](#): Home to one of the world's foremost collections of orchid species and hybrids.
31. [Walk Stearns Wharf](#): Browse shops for souvenirs and stop at some great seafood restaurants.
32. [Golf](#): Sandpiper is one of 2014's Top 40 Golf Courses in the State of California.
33. [More Golf](#): Glen Annie is a championship golf course with breathtaking panoramic views.
34. [Paragliding](#): Fly like an eagle and feel your hearts soar!
35. [Parma Park](#): Known for its history, habitat, and recreational uses.
36. [Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park](#): The walls of this small cave contain some of the finest remaining rock art created by Chumash Native Americans.
37. [Point Hueneme Lighthouse](#): Open to visitors on the third Saturday of each month from February through October.
38. [Scenic Drive](#): What's not scenic about Santa Barbara?

Wine and Dine Dates in Santa Barbara



39. [Santa Barbara Wine Tour](#): The drivers at Sammy's Limos and Tours are experts at making your wine tasting experience the best it can be.

40. [Wine and Chocolate Tasting](#): Grassini Winery teamed up with local Santa Barbara chocolatier, [Jessica Foster Confections](#), to create the perfect wine and truffle pairing.
41. [Wine Tasting at Deep Sea Tasting Room](#): The tasting room is on Stearns Wharf. Afterwards, stroll over to the [Santa Barbara Shellfish Company](#) for some fresh local catch seafood.
42. [Wine Tasting in The Funk Zone](#): Artists, winemakers, and up-and-coming chefs have taken up shop in aged warehouses and forgotten scuba shops.



Romantic Dining Options for First Dates in Santa Barbara

43. [Lunch at the Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club](#): A place where guests and members feel right at home.
44. [Tea at The Biltmore](#): The perfect place for a spot of tea after touring local wineries, surfing, or lazing on the beach.
45. [Opal Restaurant & Bar](#): A local favorite, opal restaurant infuses an eclectic California cuisine with creative world influences.
46. [Brunch at Piano Gastrolounge](#): Try their traditional savory buckwheat crepes, Parisian omelets, or crêpe Suzettes.
47. [Blush Restaurant and Lounge](#): Blush combines refined social dining with a contemporary atmosphere that transcends easily from day into night.
48. [Holdren's Steaks & Seafood Restaurant](#): Voted as the best steakhouse in Santa Barbara for seven straight years!
49. [Belmond El Encanto Hotel](#): Dine in the elegant dining room, or delight in a romantic dinner under the stars.
50. [Arigato Sushi](#): Locals line up early for their wildly creative combination rolls and other delectables.
51. [Ca'Dario Restaurant](#): Anything grilled is "divine" and the rest of the menu is "delectable" at this charming Italian restaurant.
52. [Zaytoon Restaurant](#): Lebanese and Middle Eastern fare with an outdoor fire pit and live entertainment.
53. [Boathouse at Hendry's Beach](#): After a stroll on the beach, stop at the Boathouse for exquisite dining and ocean views.
54. [Santa Barbara FisHouse](#): Locally owned and always fresh, this seafood restaurant provides the perfect spot for a first date dinner.
55. [Crocodile Restaurant & Bar at the Lemon Tree Inn](#): New cuisine features authentic Italian dishes which incorporate local produce, seafood and wines.
56. [Toma Restaurant & Bar](#): Santa Barbara's most romantic waterfront restaurant.
57. [Verde Restaurant](#): Located in a lovingly restored old-style Spanish building, Verde offers an impeccable menu of fine dining options.
58. [Arts & Letters Café at Sullivan Goss](#): Classic California cuisine with an emphasis on local seafood.
59. [Olio e Limone Ristorante](#): Creative, authentic Italian cuisine served in an inviting atmosphere.
60. [Wine Cask Restaurant](#): Enjoy shared plates al fresco on the patio lounge or nestle up in front of the fireplace.

Find Some Date-Night Fun in Santa Barbara

61. [Santa Barbara Comedy Hideaway](#): Laugh the night away with stand-up comics from around the country.
62. [Neighborhood Bar & Grill](#): Casual food and fun games at the "best bar in Santa Barbara."
63. [SOHO Restaurant & Music Club](#): Fabulous cuisine and quality live music.
64. [Cadiz Tapas & Lounge](#): Hand-crafted cocktails, market-fresh ingredients, plus it transforms into an upscale lounge every Friday and Saturday.
65. [Sandbar](#): Combines home-style Mexican cooking with a night of dancing and music spun by the best DJs in Santa Barbara.



- 66. [Billiards](#): The Don Q Family Billiard Center has been Santa Barbara's Pool Hall for over 25 Years.
- 67. [The Savoy](#): Tri-level nightclub and restaurant featuring dancing, cocktails and live cabaret and burlesque shows.
- 68. [Couples Massage at Evolutions Day Spa](#): Relax with your date while enjoying simultaneous massages.
- 69. [Tonic Nightclub](#): Tonic's DJs have exploded the music scene in Santa Barbara.

Explore The Arts and Museums of Santa Barbara

- 70. [Museum of Art](#): An art museum of magnitude and quality.
- 71. [Museum of Natural History](#): Discover the magic of art, culture, nature, and science.
- 72. [Santa Barbara Bowl](#): Melds decades of music and scenic vistas in ways no other open-air venue can.
- 73. [LOL Comedy Festival](#): Nationally recognized live stand-up comedy and filmed comedy performances in theaters throughout Downtown.
- 74. [Arlington Center for the Performing Arts](#): Live performances, concerts, Santa Barbara Film Festival, authors, and entertainers.
- 75. [Granada Theatre](#): A landmark theatre featuring some of the finest entertainment in the region.
- 76. [Lobero Theatre](#): A variety of modern dance, ballet, lectures, classical music, opera and contemporary music performances.
- 77. [Ensemble Theatre Company](#): The New Vic is an intimate venue that is home to ETC and other performing arts.
- 78. [Historic Santa Barbara](#): The Spanish heritage of the town is reflected in the architecture of picturesque Old Mission Santa Barbara.
- 79. [The Presidio](#): Established by the Spanish from Mexico in 1782.
- 80. [Butler Event Center](#): Home to many events and fundraisers.
- 81. [Maritime Museum](#): Preserves and celebrates the maritime heritage of the California Coast.
- 82. [Casa Del Herrero](#): One of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in America.
- 83. [Carriage and Western Arts Museum](#): Collection includes over 50 saddles from such notables as Cisco Kid, Will Rogers, Clark Gable, and Jimmy Stewart.
- 84. [Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum](#): World's largest private holding of original manuscripts and documents.
- 85. [Museum of Contemporary Art](#): Advances creativity and inspires critical thinking through meaningful engagement with contemporary art.
- 86. [Reagan Ranch Center](#): Original Reagan Ranch artifacts matched with interactive, multimedia exhibits.
- 87. [Historical Museum](#): Interprets history with collections from the Chumash, Mexican, Spanish and American periods.
- 88. [Santa Barbara Studio Artists](#): Visit the studios of internationally known local artists.
- 89. [Susan Quinlan Doll and Teddy Bear Museum and Library](#): Try something a little whimsical.
- 90. [Wall Space Gallery](#): Santa Barbara's only gallery focused on the medium of photography.
- 91. [Center State Theater](#): An intimate black box theater with weekly performances.
- 92. [Opera Santa Barbara](#): Brings the highest caliber of opera to Santa Barbara.
- 93. [Santa Barbara Symphony](#): A special evening deserves special music.
- 94. [UCSB Arts & Lectures](#): Award-winning program brings exceptional cultural and artistic experiences to Santa Barbara.
- 95. [UCSB Events Center](#): The Thunderdome is a 5,600-seat, indoor multi-purpose stadium.
- 96. [American Dance & Music](#): Artistic ensemble that presents distinctive works which enliven the contemporary dance and music landscape.
- 97. [Boxtales Theatre Company](#): Uses storytelling, music, masks, and movement to present world myths and folktales.
- 98. [Camerata Pacifica](#): Explores the breadth of the chamber music genre in live, dynamic performances.
- 99. [Community Arts Music Association](#): Brings the finest classical musicians from around the globe to Santa Barbara.

100. [DramaDogs](#): Develops theatrical pieces and educational outreach activities to touch the human spirit.
101. [The Santa Barbara Art Foundry](#): Working art foundry, where artisans transform molten bronze into beautiful sculpture.

My advice to anyone going on a first date in Santa Barbara is to relax, and have fun. It's not what you are doing, but who you are doing it with. Remember, you are on a date with someone who could turn out to be "the one" for you! Be yourself and enjoy it.

Happy Dating,
Lisa

About Santa Barbara Matchmaking: Santa Barbara Matchmaking is a discreet upscale [matchmaking company](#) for commitment-minded singles in Santa Barbara, Central and Southern California. Owner Lisa Darsonval provides [private matchmaking services](#), [dating and relationship coaching](#), [genetic matchmaking](#), and [matchmaking events](#). Visit the website at <http://santabarbaramatchmaking.com> to find your perfect match in Santa Barbara. "Like" the [Facebook page](#) for notices of matchmaking events. Call 805-699-5650 to schedule your personal matchmaking session today.

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