



DATING ON A DIME

*With all the fish in the sea,
don't spend every last penny!*

1. **Mexican**: Did you know that you can actually go on a nice date to a Mexican restaurant on a budget?
 - a. Vaqueros Mexican-is in Pendleton and they offer “small dinner” options that range from \$4.50-\$7.00. Pair that with chips and salsa, and great conversation....perfecto!
 - b. Monterrey's- is in Clemson and they have the best and FATTEST beef tacos around. They are \$2.10 each and have meat, cheese, and lettuce.....incredible! Chips and salsa are always fillers.
 - c. The Mexican- is in Central and is an authentic “Mom and Pop” Mexican restaurant. It is well worth the visit....and portions are plenty! Try splitting a meal and adding the guac made to order and handmade chips.
2. **Date early!** There are lots of “Happy Hour” specials on drinks and food (often half priced).
 - a. Ruby Tuesday-okay, it's common...but still good, and from 4-7p.m. it's happy hour on drinks and certain appetizers.
 - b. The Spot on the Alley- is in Seneca, has a great food selection, and also has trivia and bingo nights, as well as video games. They even have a jazz night. Excellent food!
 - c. Charleston Sports Pub- is in downtown Clemson and has fantastic specials! Monday night is BOGO burger night and they are fabulous!
 - d. Wild Wing Café- is in Anderson, and has 2fer Tuesdays! They also have daily happy hour drink and meal specials from 4-7p.m.
3. **Pack a picnic lunch**: Hear me out, a packed picnic means a labor of love and is much appreciated and can feel quite charming. With all of the wonderful places to picnic in the upstate of South Carolina, this is a sure hit. And, if you are not going to make the sandwiches scoot by your favorite sandwich shop and have some made, pop them in a cooler and still plan your picnic.
 - a. Subway, easy box lunch pick up
 - b. Jersey Mikes, will make the boxes complete with chips and cookies
 - c. Your grocery store of choice! They make subs at all stores and you can grab the other items you need there as well....talk about on a dime!

(FLIP OVER FOR MORE FRUGAL DATE IDEAS)

4. **Take a hike, literally:** There are lots of wonderful places to explore in the upstate of SC. You can get as strenuous (or as easy) as you'd like. Here are a few suggestions (hint: they pair well with #3):
 - a. You can find all the trails in SC by visiting <https://www.sctrails.net/trails>. I am listing a few favorites that I have visited, personally.
 - b. Fant's Grove Lake- is in Anderson county, moderate difficulty, 9.4 mile loop around the lake.
 - c. Table Rock- is in Pickens County, varying difficulties based on trail choice from moderate to strenuous, 3.6 to 4.2 miles.
 - d. Raven Rock-is in Pickens County, listed as strenuous, but more on the moderately strenuous side. Great place at the halfway point to put up hammocks and relax by the lake. 4.4 miles. Stunning!
 - e. Yellow Branch Falls-is in Oconee County, moderate difficulty, gorgeous waterfall, 1.5 miles.
 - f. Riley Moore Falls- is in Oconee County, moderate, but on the easy side, beautiful trail, 1 mile.
5. **Go bowling:** Did you know that you can get in some exercise, in a controlled environment, and have fun doing it? Bowling is loads of fun and most people are beginners, so if you are no good at it, no one knows. Most places have great specials too!
 - a. **Boulevard Lanes in Anderson-** games before 6:00 p.m. are discounted to \$2.75, and on Sundays games are \$1.75 (that's half price!). Shoe rentals are \$2.50.
 - b. **Oconee Lanes in Seneca-** glow bowling is always an amazing time here! They have an old school feel and lots of glow bowling fun.
 - c. **Tri City Lanes in Easley-** has Thursday night "all you can bowl" specials for \$7 per person from 9-11p.m. They also have "Cosmic Bowling" which is glow bowling, \$25 per lane for up to 6 people (that's \$4.16 each) 11p.m.-1a.m. with free shoe rental.
6. **Go to the Zoo:** Don't underestimate this one! It's a fun and cheap way to break the awkward silence while you are trying to get to know one another. There is much to see (and talk about) at the zoo.
 - a. Greenville Zoo at www.greenvillezoo.com is sure to please. Ticket's are \$12 an adult, but if you find yourself regularly visiting the annual pass is \$60.
7. **Coffee Date:** Who doesn't love coffee? And, a coffee date is a day date, which is less of a commitment, and more of a "let me get to know you." This one can be a great conversation starter and there are literally coffee shops in every city now with indoor and outdoor seating.
 - a. We love the vibe at All In Coffee Shop, downtown Clemson, SC.
 - b. Brews at the Square, Pendleton SC is fabulous and has games!
 - c. Jitters Brewing Company, Central SC has an awesome brew and conversation space.
8. **Disc golf:** Never tried it? It's so much fun! The best part...it's free! Well, with the exception of purchasing some discs. You can get these second hand online or at a used sporting goods store. They are also relatively cheap (Wal Mart has a variety anywhere from \$20-\$35, with bag). Once you purchase a set, they're yours and the next trips are all free.
 - a. Check out the City of Central's course, Grand Central Station at <https://cityofcentral.org/attractions> - it's located at 270 Sanders Rd. Central, SC 29630.
 - b. Check out the City of Seneca's course located at 698 W South 4th St Seneca, SC 29678.
 - c. Check out the City of Easley's course at 111 Walker's Way Easley, SC 29642.
9. **Apple Picking:** Okay, you already know....who isn't crazy over those fall apple picking pics? This one is a no-brainer. Entry is free, there are several places nearby, and it will take an entire afternoon for very little investment....and those apple cider donuts are worth the drive alone!
 - a. Check out Sky Top Orchard at 3403 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock, NC 28731
 - b. Check out Grandad's Apples at 2951 Chimney Rock Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792.