

SNOW DAY

IT'S LOVELY WEATHER FOR A SLEIGH RIDE TOGETHER.



Setting the Stage:

When was the last time you spent the whole day just enjoying the snow back like a kid? If you're in an area that gets the white stuff, or if you're within a short drive from it, plan a day of silly fun and games like you had when you were young and carefree... it's a great way to break the ice, so to speak, and your date will love it.

We're talking snowmen, snow angels, snowball fights topped with a sleigh ride and hot toddy. Any rural spot or open field will do or even a city park. You'll have to bring hand-warmers and hot toddy, and locate a carriage or sleigh ride, so you can end the date on a romantic note. In the countryside, Inns are best bets on finding a sleigh ride. If the innkeeper doesn't provide it, s/he will know who does. You'll have the time of your life laughing and chasing one another, not to mention keeping each other warm!

Dress to Impress:

Leave the snowmobile suit at home. You can stay warm by layering your clothes properly. Begins with some undergarments made of this great man-made fabric that is skin tight and completely invisible under your jeans. Any ski shop should carry it. Followed by a T-shirt,

turtleneck, and thick sweater under your ski jacket to keep you warm.

Yes, you can stay cute and warm! Wool tights under wool pants, a tiny T under a sweater, then a warm coat. Cute mittens and hat round out this snow bunny look. Warning – know your hair can get wet and stringy on an outing like this, so cute braids if your hair is long, French braids if it's medium length. Short hair? Prevent hat head by packing along a sample sized tube of hair gel in your coat pocket.

Devil's in the Details:

Bring along some fresh fruit or power bars to snack on before having a hearty dinner at a small inn if you've gone to a rural area. Staying in the city? Find a local restaurant that serves comfort food – potpies, pot roast, and chili at www.citysearch.com.

You will need to bring a hot beverage together with cups. For a whole day out, bring two thermoses – one containing hot apple cider and the other hot chocolate or spiked toddy for later for a nice touch. (Warm apple cider: toss into cider or apple juice two cinnamon sticks, three cloves and heat until the spices flood your kitchen before pouring into pre-warmed thermos.) (For a basic toddy:

steep hot black or herbal tea with sliced lemons and oranges, cloves, and a shot of orange juice, then pour into a thermos followed by a few shots of rum or bourbon.)

 Holiday carols if it's the season, Bing Crosby tunes anytime.

 Even the most familiar scenes look different covered with snow.

 Toddy, hand-warmers, extra hats, gloves, and change of sweaters – yours might get soaked in the snowball fight! It's too early in the relationship for getting cold feet, so make sure you bring extra socks too!

 How did you spend winters as a kid? Did you ever have a snow day?

 If you're in the country, a jug of cider and some local baked goods to take home and have for breakfast, or something locally handcrafted: jam, preserves, a quilted pillow. In the city? You can get great cashmere scarves for a song.

 Come on baby, light her fire! If possible, a blazing fire on the hearth is a perfect romantic ending to a snow-filled day. The only thing more fun than throwing snow at each other is warming up afterwards together. Find a quiet spot in front of the fireplace and warm up your cold hands by putting them on each other's warm skin!

SURVEY

Relationship Material:

What is the most important factor in making a person "relationship material"?

20% voted: Intellect

11% voted: Physical appearance

24% voted: A great sense of humor

42% voted: A strong sense of loyalty

3% voted: Financial/business sense

www.askApril.com Online Magazine Poll

DANCE CLASS

FOOTLOOSE - AND FANCY FREE.



Setting the Stage:

Scent of a Woman, True Lies, Along Came Polly... The list is endless. Dance scenes in Hollywood films have stopped the whole movie in its tracks when the stars see each other across a room and set it afire with their dance moves. Do you fellows ever wish you could saunter confidently to a beautiful woman and lead her gracefully on the dance floor? I know you ladies dream of being literally swept off your feet by a fellow with all the right moves. Well, you can both learn how to tear up the dance floor and have a fun date doing it.

**"You know 'that look' women get when they want sex? Me neither."
- Steve Martin**

First, think about what style of dance makes your toes twinkle: a sexy Latin dance like the salsa, tango, rumba or samba, a classic ballroom dance like the fox trot or waltz, or perhaps country line dancing or swing? If it's Latin dance or country swing, your local Latin club or country bar often offer instructional nights. This is a fun way to go, because after an hour of instruction, you're dancing at a real club with the pros. Look them up in the phone book and inquire about lessons or instructional evenings.

Barring this and for more personalized instruction, try a dance school like Arthur Murray or Fred Astaire dance

studios. They are listed in the yellow pages under "Dance Instruction." For more resources, Ballroomdancers.com and the "dance" section of Yahoo directory are also chuck full of listings. Pretty soon you'll be dancing the night away and if this date swings, you'll have launched your first "couple hobby!" If you're on a budget, check out your local community center for extremely affordable classes.

Dress to Impress:

 Look the part in classic black trousers in a wool or silk blend, a sexy loose fitting button-up shirt in linen, silk, or soft woven cotton and soft soled shoes with a leather upper. If you're going line dancing, a pair of jeans, a T-shirt, some cowboy boots and a cowboy hat should easily get you in the mood.

 This is where you break out that fabulous little dress you bought for some wedding and never get to wear – make sure it has a flared or slit skirt. Wear it with sexy earrings that won't get in the way. What's the most important thing? Shoes that set off a long leg, but that you can still dance in. A chunky heeled pump or a lace up wedge would be best. For the line dance, take your pick – jeans or a denim skirt with a button up shirt tied at the waist paired with cowboy hat and boots.

Devil's in the Details:

 You will find dancing works up a huge appetite. Latin dance clubs often have terrific food, otherwise, find a cute little romantic restaurant nearby (it's no fun to drive a half hour to dinner after you've had a great class. You'll want to fall into a corner booth right around the corner). Do your research in advance by locating the nearest best restaurants at www.citysearch.com

 At a Latin club, order a Cubre Libra or a Mojito. At a country bar, a longneck beer on your dance break will quench your thirst. If you're taking ballroom dance, elegant drinks at a hotel bar after your lesson will round out your evening with class. Order a Poinsettia or the classic Bellini. Toast each other's lithe grace on the dance floor!

Cubre Libra:

rum, coke and lime.

Mojito:

crushed ice, sugar, mint and rum.

Poinsettia:

champagne, a splash of cranberry and a splash of cherry juice

Bellini:

champagne and peach juice

 The beat, baby. In the words of our favorite Latin songstress, "the music is gonna get you."

 The best couple on the floor... the best way to learn is by watching.

 A confident attitude.

 Forced to take dance lessons as a kid? Silliest dance crazes?

Favorite dance movies.

 Presenting a nosegay (small bouquet) would be an ideally romantic way to start off the evening.

 You don't need any help from us here. All dancing is sexy, however, the very sexiest thing you can do is look directly into your partner's eyes. Even if you are all left feet, looking right into each other's eyes will start the engines purring – I promise! And need I even say it? Don't miss any opportunity for some meaningful touches on the dance floor!