

# THE LIST

## First dates for every style

*So you finally talked that girl in your class into "hanging out sometime." What a charmer! And it only took you like a whole semester? Well congrats, but slow down a little bit before you run home and wax that hairy chest. There's an even more important preparation to make: figuring out where you're gonna go. But don't worry, we've got you covered with five fool-proof first dates. By Christopher Spata*



### The Competitor

There's nothing like a little friendly competition to help kick up the flirtation. This could be anything from billiards, darts, bowling, or air hockey, to playing a game of racquetball or shooting some one-on-one hoops. It's fun and it offers the chance to show off your skills and do a little bit of good-natured teasing.

**WHERE:** *Galaxy Lanes* at 1818 SW 17th St. has plenty of lanes, extra greasy french fries, and on Saturday night, hosts "Xtreme bowling." That's where they turn out the house lights, crank up the black lights, blare the dance music, and spell "extreme" with an "X" — so you know it is good.

**Downtown Billiards** on the Ocala square is upstairs from the Melting Pot, and close to plenty of other stuff to do. They also have a very decent selection on the jukebox, and some great bartenders that have been there forever.

There are public *racquetball courts* on campus.

**THE DAMAGE:** Xtreme bowling special is \$15 for three hours, including shoes. Downtown Billiards is \$7 per person, per hour, or free if you go on Sunday. The CFCC courts are free if you don't mind a little wait.

**CAUTION:** Letting your girl win is okay, but straight-up getting your butt kicked by her in everything is not a good look. If you're the type that somehow rolls a gutter ball, even with the bumpers are in, you might want to skip this one.



### The Funny Man

Sharing some laughs together is a great way to bond, as well as help take the stress and pressure off when you're getting to know someone. Also, it's good to find out early if your date has a "bad laugh," like the cackling like a hyena, the high pitched siren, or the snake hiss. Many women also say that a great sense of humor is a huge turn-on.

**WHERE:** *Bonkerz Comedy Club*, located inside of Club Zanzabar on Pine Street hosts

stand-up comedians every weekend. Many of them have appeared on Comedy Central. In February, Gallagher was there. And yes, he smashed some watermelons. Check out [bonkerzcomedy.com/Ocala.htm](http://bonkerzcomedy.com/Ocala.htm) for a complete schedule.

**THE DAMAGE:** The cover charge for Bonkerz is \$7 per person.

**CAUTION:** Avoid the front row if possible. You don't want to be the guy that gets mercilessly slammed by the comedian for your goofy haircut, or ugly shirt or something. Oh it's funny, but not sexy.



### The Sophisticate

So you want to impress the girl you met in line at the bookstore that was buying a Kafka novel — and she was going to read it *just for fun*? Well the first thing you did right was hide that copy of *High Times* behind your back. Now you should consider taking her somewhere cultured like a museum, a wine tasting or a bookstore.

**WHERE:** The often overlooked *Appleton Museum* on Silver Springs Boulevard has plenty to see, without being so big that it takes all day to get through. The museum's diverse collection of modern and ancient art will provide plenty to talk about on a date.

Go to [AppletonMuseum.org](http://AppletonMuseum.org) to find out about current and upcoming exhibitions.

The *Ocala Wine Experience* is located at 36 SW First Ave. in downtown. The very small, and intimate wine bar is stocked with beer and wine from all over the world, and the outdoor Mediterranean courtyard is a good place to talk over drinks.

Browsing through a bookstore is a great way to get a feel for someone's personality. *Barnes and Noble's* new location on S.R. 200 is the best bookstore in town, and there's coffee there. Mmmm coffee.

**THE DAMAGE:** The Appleton is free for CFCC students. The Wine Experience offers a "Wine Experience" (pretty creative), where you can try a sample portion of all their signature wines for \$15.

**CAUTION:** Do not get hammered drunk on a first date. You may feel like you're being charming, but you're actually just yelling...and slurring...and peeing in a parking lot.



### The Spiritual

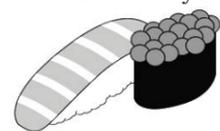
What could be a more unforgettable first date than one where you find out who you were your past life, learn what your future holds, or have a chat with your dead uncle. And if a scary movie is an aphrodisiac, imagine what actually being in a haunted house could do.

**WHERE:** *Psychic Divas* on East Silver Springs Boulevard, offers past life readings, tarot cards, channeling of the dead, life path coaching and a host of other psychic services that last 30 or 60 minutes.

Southeast Paranormal Investigation Group offers a "*ghost walk*" tour of downtown Ocala every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. The group has been featured on the Sci Fi Channel's "Ghost Hunters." Call 216-9809 for more info.

**THE DAMAGE:** SEPI ghost walks cost \$10. A session with the Psychic Divas will run between \$25 and \$75.

**CAUTION:** You don't want a psychic telling you that things aren't going to work out when it's only your first date — or would you?



### The Raw Deal

Eating in front of somebody you're interested in, but don't know that well, can be uncomfortable, especially for women. But if you must go out to eat on a first date, the most important rule is to stay away from anywhere too fancy or expensive. Spending too much creates an awkward tension for the rest of the date. The great thing about sushi, is that not only does it taste great, it's also really fun to eat and talk about, which is just as alluring.

**WHERE:** *AKI Sushi* in the Publix plaza on 17<sup>th</sup> Street is small, much cheaper than the other Japanese restaurants in town, and has the best sushi. Great specialty rolls are found here, as well as exotic favorites like baby octopus, ikura (large salmon eggs) or sea urchin.

**THE DAMAGE:** You can make it out of here for 30 bucks, including the tip.

**CAUTION:** If your date is a really picky eater, this could get ugly.