The best places for date night in the Shoals area

With its rich history, local music scene and penchant for beauty, the Shoals area is bursting at the seams with romance. Whether it's the first date or the hundredth, these local date night ideas are sure to set sparks flying.

Bowling at the Boiler Room

Florence

Located in the basement of the Stricklin Hotel in downtown Florence, this bowling joint allows you to knock some pins while enjoying live music and craft cocktails. But the entertainment doesn't stop there, the novelty bar also offers its guests skeeball, foosball, shuffleboard and darts. Nothing quite says romance like a friendly game of competition! With its lively but cozy atmosphere, it will be hard to leave at the end of the night. But before you go, be sure to order from their menu that only offers the best dishes from the famous local restaurant Big Bad Breakfast.

See a show at the historic Ritz Theatre

Sheffield

Built in 1927, this theatre is the perfect way to experience some local history and art simultaneously. Still sporting its Art Deco renovation from the early 1930s, you will feel as if you stepped back in time once you walk through the theatre's doors. The theatre frequently stages locally produced and directed dramas, cabarets, and comedies throughout the year, but definitely do not miss its annual SummerStock at the Ritz production. During the third and fourth weekends of July, the Ritz treats audiences to a locally produced, directed, and acted musical. A few titles they have shown in the past are *West Side Story, Ragtime,* and *Les Miserables.* After the show, slow dancing in the street beneath the lights of the marquee a la Noah and Allie from *The Notebook* is an option, but not advisable.

Wildwood Tavern's adult arcade

Florence

Craving some nostalgia? Look no further than the arcade room at the Wildwood Tavern in downtown Florence. Cozy up with your other half and a craft beer while playing classic games like Pacman, Mortal Kombat, pinball, and so much more. If all the gaming makes you hungry, this eclectic pub has you covered offering treats like specialty flatbreads and hotdogs.

See the Spring Park Light and Water Show

Tuscumbia

This novelty show is a great budget option, because it is completely free! Every night from mid-March through December, Spring Park in downtown Tuscumbia offers a grand display of beautiful lights and dancing waters soaring 150 feet into the air set to music from Alabama artists. Grab a bite to eat at any of Tuscumbia's delicious eateries then head to the park in time for the show, or better yet, bring a blanket and snacks and enjoy a nighttime picnic with a spectacular view.

Dinner with a view at the 360 Grille

Florence

Wanting to pull out all the stops for date night? Look no further than this revolving restaurant located at the very top of the Renaissance tower. True to its name, the five star restaurant rotates a complete 360 degrees offering diners a panoramic view of the Shoals area. Indulge on decadent steak and artisan wines while taking in the stunning views. Book your reservations just before sunset for a truly special treat.

Virtual reality games at Birdy's Sports Grill

Muscle Shoals

Virtual reality games, virtual golf, corn hole, scrumptious food and cocktails, and live music - what more could you ask for a successful date night? Birdy's Sports Grill makes every effort to ensure their guest's entertainment. Challenge your date to a virtual reality game then cool off with one of Birdy's specialty cocktails while listening to live music from local artists.

Dinner in a cave at Rattlesnake Saloon

Tuscumbia

There is not another dining experience quite like that at Rattlesnake Saloon. Located in a cave underneath a waterfall, this restaurant is great for diners with a sense of adventure. Chow down on traditional American fare while listening to live music and the soothing sounds of the waterfall. If you are really brave, come to their karaoke night on Thursdays where you and your date can perform a duet.