



13 ways to impress your true love on Valentine's Day in downtown Ames

If you are planning a date with your Valentine and aren't coming to downtown Ames, you may be looking for love in all the wrong places. Simply strolling the sidewalks in this quaint historic area provides a romantic mood-setting atmosphere. Whether you are wanting to propose or have been married for years, the Main Street Cultural District in Ames is the place to be on Valentine's Day weekend. You will find public art

displays that will inspire conversation, you can hold hands as you sit on one of the beautifully painted benches, or steal that first kiss in Tom Evans Park. No matter what you are looking for, it can be found in downtown Ames. Below are some suggestions that will help you find the experience you are looking for. Pick one or pick several! Oh, and if you like the looks of the strawberries in the photo, you can find those on Main Street too!

Fine Dining:

If you are looking for a true fine dining experience for a romantic Valentine's dinner, look no further than **Aunt Maude's** at 547 Main Street, **The Spice Thai Cuisine** at 402 Main Street, and **Bar La Tosca** at 400 Main Street. Depending on your taste, each restaurant will provide you with an experience that is sure to get you that first kiss at the end of your meal. If you want something a little more simple nothing says amore like pizza sauce. **Great Plains Sauce and Dough Co.** at 129 Main Street has been serving it up to pizza lovers in downtown Ames for well over 20 years. If you love trains and a great homemade meal you should try the **Depot Deli** at 526 Main Street.

Chocolate:

It wouldn't be Valentine's Day without chocolate. You can be a cupid hero by bringing your love to **Chocolaterie Stam** at 230 Main Street. Not only will you find handcrafted chocolates, but also wine, gourmet coffees, and live music. If frosting is more your thing, stop in at **Ali Cakes** at 300 Main Street for some tasty cupcakes and cookies. Nothing says lovin' like something from the oven!

Flowers:

Roses are red, violets are blue, **Evert's** on Main has the best posies for you! Don't disappoint her! Send her the best flowers in town!

Wine:

Start your Valentine's Day early with a wine and chocolate tasting at **Della Viti** wine bar at 323 Main Street. From 5 to 7pm on February 13 you can pair up your favorite wines with some

delicious Stam Chocolate. There will also be great deals on wine and chocolate gifts for your sweetheart and live music to get you in the mood for love!

Gifts:

An ordinary gift won't earn you any points with a potential love interest. You need unique! You can find what you need at **Worldly Goods** at 223 Main Street. Here you will find free-trade, hand-made gifts imported from all over the world. Your lady love will be impressed that you are socially conscious! **Nature's Touch Jewelry** is also a great place to find a one-of-a-kind gift at a great price plus you will get service at the counter from the owner of the business. You can find something old and something new at **Tangerine Zebra** at 219 Main Street.

Beauty:

Everyone wants to look beautiful on Valentine's Day! **The Salon** at 323 Main Street and **His and Hers Salon** at 413 have experienced technicians who can make your lady feel like a queen on Valentine's Day! Surprise her with an appointment and a gift card.

Jewelry:

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, or so the saying goes. **Ames Silversmithing** at 220 Main Street and **Gilger Designs** at 236 Main Street have been helping the men of Ames be heroes for over 20 years. Both places provide personalized service and custom designs that will ensure your lover isn't wearing the same ring as anyone else!

Clothing:

A girl can never have too many clothes! Especially in Iowa where the weather can change from day-to-day. Treat your fashion conscious girlfriend to a shopping spree at **Tres Teal** at 314 Main Street, **Moorman Clothiers** at 226 Main Street, **The Loft** at 233 Main Street **Miss Meyer's** at 432 5th Street, and the **Grey Elephant** at 404 Main Street. Be sure to bring your credit card because she will find something she falls in love with at every single location!

Shoes:

If your wife loves her best pair of shoes as much as she loves you, take her to **Emerhoff's Footwear** at 215 Main Street. Their personalized service will make her feel like a princess, she will get her new favorite pair of shoes, and you will be a hero!

A Night Out:

Get a babysitter and tell your true love to put on her best dress! Whether she loves dancing to live music, having a couple of drinks at the bar, or playing a game of pool you can find the perfect place in downtown Ames. Start at **London Underground** at 212 Main Street where you can practice your British accent and sip an import beer in a relaxed atmosphere, then walk down the sidewalk to meet up with friends at **Whisky River** at 134 Main. Across the street you will

find live music at **DG's Tap House** at 125 Main Street and a friendly game of pool at **The Corner Pocket**, or walk around the block to **McFly's** on 5th street to get your 80's groove on. If it is craft beer you are craving head down to **Olde Main Brewing Company** at 316 Main Street or **Torrent Brewing Company** at 504 Burnette Avenue. Be sure to have a designated driver to take you home!

Breakfast:

If chocolate and flowers aren't what your woman wants, try bacon! **The Grove Café** at 124 Main Street is the next best thing to breakfast in bed!

Puppy Kisses:

If it is unconditional love you want, be sure to shop for your best friend at **Treats on a Leash** at 223 Main Street. Here you will find everything from gourmet treats, healthy food, sweaters for those cold mornings, and toys. You can also buy a gift for the dog lover on your list!

Tattoo:

Whether you want to treat your one true love to her own tattoo or have her name immortalized on your bicep, **Heroic Ink** at 409 Douglas Avenue can help you out. Their artists have many years of experience and will give you some ink that will make all of your friends jealous!