



DATE IDEAS IN BANGKOK

For Valentine's Day, or any day, here are a few ideas on where to go for a date with your friends or with your beau.

by MANDY SMITH

AVARPURI MASSAGE & SPA

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One of the best things about living in Bangkok is the abundance of foot massage locations to pop into after a long day of commuting or touring. But, on occasion, it's nice to spring for something slightly more sophisticated when you and your pals are on the prowl for some next-level pampering. Dodge the rows of glass-fronted parlors along the gritty Sukhumvit strip and step into Avarpuri — a five-star spa service that comes with an affordable price tag.

Tucked away on the top floor of J Avenue, you'll discover one of the city's best-kept secrets. A luxury spa with sensibly priced services and staff that are professionally trained,

Avarpuri is an oasis of calm in bustling Bangkok. The space was renovated a year ago in a contemporary style with understated elegance — just the environment for mindful relaxation.

From the moment you step into their comfy slippers until you're sipping tea from porcelain cups at your treatment's end, you'll find yourself — if only for an hour or two — free from the chaos and clamor of this city and in the lap of luxury. It begins with the music: Rather than playing music featuring twangy stringed instruments (as many spas in the city do), Avarpuri will woo you with the timeless works of Chopin, Tchaikovsky and other classical composers with its soothing soundtrack.

Next, choose from an assortment of natural products for the purest spa

experience and then begin your spa treatment. The oil massage rooms are single occupancy only, so they are not ideal for couples. However, you can book a couples Thai massage in the beautifully renovated massage corridor where double occupancy rooms allow for a relaxing treatment side-by-side.

Body scrubs, masks, waxing, massage and facials are among the treatments you can book for a little "me time" or pampering for you and your girlfriends.

CONTACT

J-Avenue, Thonglor 15, 4th floor
Open daily from 10:30 a.m. –
10:30 p.m. (Service until midnight.)
www.fb.com/avarpuri

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MAISON DE LA TRUFFE

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The Aston Martins and Bentleys parked outside are a clue as to the pedigree of clientele this ritzy restaurant attracts. It seems high society has a new hotspot at Maison de la Truffe, a French-inspired fine dining experience that leverages the holy grail of all gourmet ingredients — the truffle. Enter and you'll find, enshrined in glass, championed specimens of white and black truffles that flavor the majority of the restaurant's signature dishes and inspire cocktails, desserts and even the decor.

Black truffle infused oil served with a warm bread basket sets the tone for a one-of-a-kind dining experience. The inventive chef masterfully crafts each dish by pairing flavors and ingredients that complement the main attraction, so that you can experience course after course of truffles in just about every way imaginable.

For a scent-sational flavor feast foodies will love, the truffles are served up as shavings. This presentation allows the truffle aroma to emit strong signals of taste before they touch your tongue. The subtle and succulent tones of truffles incorporated into each dish will leave you fascinated by the versatility of these exquisite mushrooms.

The jury is still out on the black truffle infused vanilla ice cream, which perhaps only the most ardent enthusiast can truly appreciate, but the fondant chocolate cake is to die for.

The restaurant — opened just a few months ago — is in the heart of the upscale Thonglor district, and there is a second location at Siam Paragon.

Offering a set lunch menu, Maison de la Truffe is ideal for an executive lunch by day and a romantic rendezvous by night. Perfect for anniversaries, Valentine's dates and special occasions, you can count on the finest service and an elaborate menu but expect to shell out a small fortune to cover costs of a dining experience superior to most date-night destinations.

CONTACT

129 (Thonglor 9) Sukhumvit 55
Open 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for
lunch and 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
for dinner
www.fb.com/MaisondelaTruffe.th

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