



ROMANCE

close to home

IT'S THE MONTH OF LOVE AND TIME FOR THE ULTIMATE DATE NIGHT WITH YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE

As busy parents it's not always possible to organise a romantic weekend away – and it's also not easy to enjoy a romantic evening in a house full of kids! So, we sent our team out to test a few romantic overnight stays that aren't too far from home. Treat yourself and your partner to one of these special little getaways for Valentine's Day.

Johburg lovebirds

PEERMONT D'OREALE GRANDE HOTEL

The Peermont D'oreale Grande at Emperors Palace offers a luxury stay for loved-up but worn-down parents. We liked its location – central enough and close to our highway connections, we were able to get there just after check-in opened. The hotel staff were welcoming and friendly, and we were quickly shown to our room, which had every convenience my partner usually scans for on arrival. Wi-Fi? Tick. Coffee machine? Tick.

Even though we were hoping to dine at Aurelia's, the hotel's acclaimed fine-dining restaurant, it was booked out for a wedding (I was informed when booking), so we headed to the bustling complex at Emperors Palace – just a short walk away. Although you could easily take in dinner and a show, we enjoyed a meal before walking it off back to the hotel. The prospect of an early night not having to nag anyone to study, was simply too appealing!



If it's a chilled date night you're after, Octavia's Day Spa has a full service treatment menu including a couple's massage that'll help ease away the stresses of the real world. After unwinding in the hydrotherapy pool, we certainly felt we'd left Parenting and entered Dating again. With room options ranging from affordable to blow-the-budget and everything in between, it's the perfect in-city escape. You'll even be able to tip the babysitter afterwards.

Emperorspalace.com/hotels/peermont-doreale-grande

Contact: 011 928 1000



THE PEECH BOUTIQUE HOTEL

A great deal of thought and research has gone into making The Peech a favourite among locals looking for a comfortable city 'scape and tourists stopping over in Joburg on their way to the bush.

This gorgeous eco-friendly boutique hotel has just doubled in size from 16 to 32 suites, with the upstairs units offering views across the treetops, and downstairs units just metres away from the pool and landscaped gardens. The surroundings are exquisite, with one of the oldest oak trees in the area still standing proud after renovations and extensions. The original 1950s home offers two cosy House Rooms, while the Garden Rooms and Garden Suites are tucked around the remainder of the property.

It's peaceful and quiet, even though it's centrally located in Melrose, close to Rosebank and Sandton. Meals are served at The Bistro and during our stay we enjoyed well-presented and delicious options for our vegetarian and pescatarian diets, paired with wine from the extensive and cleverly compiled wine list.

Wine tastings are a monthly event at The Peech, and it's worth keeping an eye on their events pages for pop-ups and pairing evenings. The rooms are comfortable and air conditioned, and feature quirky touches in the form of gorgeous wallpapers, and scatter cushions. We were delighted by the rose petals strewn around the rooms while we were enjoying dinner. The management and staff practise responsible tourism, and the hotel is Fair Trade certified. It's the perfect escape for anniversary dinners and peaceful getaways.

Thepeech.co.za

Contact: reservations@thepeech.co.za

EVOLVE DAY SPA

If you live near the East Rand and you're looking for something luxurious that doesn't keep you away from home overnight, why not pamper yourselves with a relaxing and peaceful spa day that'll leave you both feeling fresh and revitalised!

We enjoyed a lovely couple's spa day package that included an Ancient Arabian Mud Rasul Ritual, a Swedish massage, and a delicious lunch at Evolve Day Spa in Boksburg. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by warm and friendly faces and the spa manager led us to the change rooms. After changing into our costumes and gowns we were treated to a lovely glass of bubbles (they also have non-alcoholic options) in the relaxation area while waiting for our treatments to begin.

The treatments start with 45 minutes in the Rasul chambers, which include applying mineral mud all over your body to exfoliate and cleanse the skin, while soothing your muscles and improving circulation. The chambers are filled with hot steam that opens up your pores to let the mud do its magic, before it's rinsed off by the showers, leaving your skin soft and silky.

We then enjoyed an hour-long full-body Swedish massage, followed by a fabulous light lunch with more bubbles (happiness!). Needless to say, you'll leave the spa feeling happier and more relaxed.

Evolvedayspa.co.za

Contact: 011 894 6224

