



# 5 Ways to Make Your Friend Feel Extra-Special on Her Birthday!

It seems as though the older we get, the less we enjoy birthdays. The opposite should be true! We've survived another year so let's celebrate! Since we can't just pick up our friends and head to the local pizza parlor for a party, we have to get creative. Use some of these ideas to help your friends feel special on their big day!

## *Birthday Scavenger Hunt*

When my friend turned 30, we took her on a Birthday Scavenger Hunt. We made a list of things that were popular when she was a child and set out to find as many of them as we could. Instead of getting her a present, we each gave her the money we would have spent on a gift and let her purchase some of her favorite items she found along the way. When the scavenger hunt was over, we all gathered together and shared memories from when we were kids and played with some of the items she bought.

## *Birthday Supper Club*

Life can get so busy when you're having babies and there's often little money left for birthdays. Several years ago, four of my closest friends decided to go in together and make a tradition of taking each other out to eat for birthdays and letting the night out be the gift to the birthday girl. Since we had four people going in together, the night was affordable for everyone as we all pitched in and bought the birthday girl's dinner. And let's be honest, a night away was a treat for everyone involved, too!

## *Surprise Birthday Trip*

When one of my closest friends turned forty we set up a surprise birthday trip. After looking around, we found a destination that was both fun and affordable. We cleared the trip with her husband (who was grateful that he was off the hook!) and had him tell her to pack a bag with the specific items she'd need for the getaway. After arranging childcare for her children because her husband worked weekends, we showed up at her house on the morning of her birthday and kidnapped her away to a weekend in paradise!

## *Themed Birthday Party*

Get to know your friend and find out what special interests she has. Then, create a party around that theme. For example, I have a friend who LOVES Elvis Presley. For her birthday one year, we threw her an Elvis themed birthday party! Everyone dressed up like characters from his movies and we had Elvis music playing in the background while serving some of Elvis's favorite foods as the party treats.

## *Birthday Decorations*

One year on my birthday, I walked into my classroom that morning to find my room had been decorated by my co-workers. When lunch arrived, they showed up at my room with lunch from my favorite restaurant. All day long as I looked at my decorations, I thought about how blessed I was to have good friends.

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