



# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## A Marriage Full of Firsts

**H**ave you been married forever and feel like you have run out of ideas for new things to do together or even something new to discuss that you have not already talked about a million times?

We did something this year we had never done before during our 40-plus-year marriage. We sat together in a two-seater tractor while round baling. For me, it was actually the first time I sat in any kind of tractor cab while baling hay, as that has always been my husband's exclusive job. So, for me, this was a super magical moment.

Our baler had broken down and our mechanic was not available for several weeks. Fortunately, a neighbor had finished his baling and graciously loaned us both his newer and fancier tractor and round baler, and his tractor was a two-seater.

This experience had me recounting many of our amazing and fun first times that may perhaps spark some new ideas for you. There was a country-western dance class learning a new step. Our first painting-with-a-twist couple's date. Salmon fishing in the backcountry of Alaska when we went to a fishing camp on Kodiak Island. Our first time going deep-sea fishing off the Alabama coast. Going to countless restaurants we had never been to before and exploring towns (and countries) we had never visited before.

There was our first of many trips to Disney World that was for our daughter's fifth birthday



Annette Bridges and her husband continue to grow their travel bucket lists and other first experiences. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

and also our seventh wedding anniversary. Then, there was our first (and only) Disney Cruise on our 20th wedding anniversary, and our first trip to Disney World without our daughter for our 35th anniversary.

Do you need new ideas for things to talk about? Do you know all there is to know about your partner's growing-up years? Asking questions can lead to amazing first-time chats. Stay curious about each other's past, opinions and feelings. This is a fabulous way to keep conversations interesting.

Need some ideas for questions to ask your mate? I am always on the lookout for what I think are fun ones. A few I have written down that are yet to be asked include:

What's the first thought that popped into your mind when you met me?

If we could spend 24 hours together doing anything in the world, what would you like us to do?

If you could store up only one hour's worth of memory in your mind, which hour of our marriage would you want to remember?

We continue to grow our travel bucket list. It is so very exciting to go to places together you have never been to before. By the way, this does not only mean big-budget trips. It is adventurous to drive on back roads you have never been on before, even when going to a familiar destination. We did this last spring on a trip to the Texas coast.

Stay tuned for more details on that adventure. In the meantime, I wish you and your partner many more wonderful big and small first times together. 🍷