



Online Dating

a guide to some of the top sites and apps

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Finding a mate can be as easy as swiping left or right. Over the past few years, online dating has become much more attuned to the needs of its users. Niche sites have begun to flood the internet for people who are looking for very specific partners. Political stripes, lifestyles and yes, even your hidden geekdom are all taken into account today.

Here are some of the best dating websites for those looking for love (or a fellow Trekkie).

Hook-Ups

Tinder (www.tinder.com)

Tinder's philosophy is simple 'Swipe and match'. Over time users have taken Tinder from a dating app to a place to meet people for hookups. Users are only able to receive messages from those they match with on the site or app. The app allows for quick connections and meet-ups, which has helped it earn a reputation for not being a place to find love.

Bumble (www.bumble.com)

Similar to Tinder, Bumble helps users find their mate by swiping through pictures. The significant difference between the two apps is that women must make the first move. Once a match is found, you receive a notification and it's ladies first if she wants to begin a conversation. This app is ideal for women who want more control over how they meet new people.

Looking For Love

Match.com (Match.com)

We have all seen the commercials of couples who have found love using Match.com and it may not be just good marketing. The Match.com blog is filled with success stories of couples who used the site and went on to get married. Users like the fact that significant profile information is required, meaning you get to know a person better before arranging a date. So perhaps love really can be found online?



E-Harmony eharmony.com

E-Harmony offers a similar interface to Match.com by filling out a profile and allowing the algorithm to produce a list of potential matches. Personality quizzes help narrow the field further. These quizzes tend to go into more detail than Match so you may find a better-suited partner based on the results. Users are only allowed to contact each other through messaging unlike Match which allows users to send winks and other emojis before communication begins.

PlentyOfFish (pof.com)

PlentyOfFish is a popular free Canadian-based site and app owned by Match.com, that focuses on finding 'meaningful relationships' and offers premium upgraded membership allowing members to see who has liked them or whether a message has been read.

Over 50

Our Time (Ourtime.com)

Dating over 50 can be difficult. For many users, it is the first time they have dated for many years due to divorce or the death of a partner. Others are looking for a better site suited to their age and interests as many dating apps tend to cater to the under 30 crowd. Our Time is directed towards people 50 and over and offers a safe place to connect for dating, friendship or exploring new partnerships for the

first time. Similar to Match and E-Harmony, just fill out the profile and discover new matches.

50+Club (50plus-club.com)

Though the name may sound a bit dated, 50+Club offers users more than simply finding a match. The site has been designed to find love, but also find people with similar interests or to connect with similar concerns. Forums, chat rooms and a site magazine offer assistance not just with dating, but with health, finance and retirement information too. Many users will find this a refreshing change from the traditional online dating experience.

Looking for Friendship

Meet Up Meetup.com

Tired of Netflix and Chill. Not sure you are ready to get into the dating game again? Are you new to a community and looking to meet people as friends first? Meet Up offers a variety of opportunities to connect with people based on interests and values. Simply put in your location and your interests and discover hundreds of groups in your area that get together for walking, movies, business, sports and more. This is an excellent site for both young and old to get involved in your community or to simply spend less time with your digital device.

Niche Dating

Seeking Arrangement (Seekingarrangement.com)

Not everyone is into traditional dating, and Seeking Arrangement allows couples to determine what the arrangement will be. Based on the Sugar Daddy (Mommy)/ Sugar Baby relationship, couples can arrange to spend time together for a variety of reasons. Dating, attending events or casual encounters. Many users use the site for companionship simply looking for someone to spend some time with on a regular basis without romantic entanglements.

GK2GK (Gk2gk.com)

Are you looking for the R2D2 to your C3P0? GK2GK specializes in pairing like-minded geeks in search of love. Create a profile highlighting your inner geekdom and discover others in your area who share your passion for all things nerdy like Star Wars, Star Trek, Anime, or Cosplay. May the force and love be with you. 🍌