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5 secrets for a successful long-distance relationship

5 tips from our American cousins who have made their long distance [relationships](#) last.

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Enjoy your independence.

Until their wedding in 1999, Casey and Rob Amberg lived in different states; she lived in Arkansas, while he was in Missouri (where they now live together with their two-year-old daughter). Casey, 29, says their relationship thrived despite the distance, partly because they retained their independence. 'Being apart was hard, but it enabled us to continue growing as individuals while still remaining a couple. It was almost an empowering feeling to go out with friends and still feel committed in a relationship.'

April Masini, dating coach and author of *Date Out of Your League*, wholeheartedly agrees with this strategy and takes it a step further. 'Don't offer to drop your entire life and move to his city [right away], especially if this is a new and budding relationship. Not only does this make you look like a psycho and a stalker, relocation is a huge life-changing decision and is not to be taken lightly.'

Eventually, of course, one or both of you hopefully will be able to move - but the aim is compromise, not sacrifice. Whether you live apart or together, it's important not to make your partner your whole life.

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