

Surprise parents overseas with a shared gift basket by choosing things they can enjoy together and arranging delivery near their home. Add a personal note, check the delivery details, and keep the plan quiet until the basket arrives.

Choose things they can share

Start with an ordinary moment your parents enjoy together. If they linger over breakfast, a basket with tea, coffee, biscuits and jam could feel just right. If evenings are more their style, try savoury snacks, a sweet treat and something to drink.

Think about both people as you choose. One parent may love dark chocolate while the other reaches for nuts. A mix gives each of them a favourite without turning the basket into two separate gifts. Include enough to share comfortably, with a little left for later.

Flowers can add colour to the surprise if there is room alongside the food. Choose a small arrangement that suits their space, and check that the flowers are safe for any pets in the home. A basket that makes room for the cat to stay curious is a better gift.

Arrange delivery close to home

Look for a local florist or gift service in your parents' area. Buying close to their home can be simpler than sending food across a border, where customs rules and restrictions may affect what can be shipped. Check the available contents rather than assuming every pictured item will be included.

Before ordering, confirm the full address, a contact number and the expected delivery window. It helps to know if your parents live behind a gate, in an apartment building or somewhere a driver might need directions. Give the service any useful access details without spoiling the surprise.

If fresh food or flowers are included, choose a day when someone is likely to be home. A relative or neighbour might help you check their plans, as long as that person can keep a secret.

Add the personal touches

A note can make a basket feel like it came from you, even across an ocean. Mention a memory, an ordinary ritual you miss or a reason you chose a particular treat. Keep it short enough to fit on the card and sign it from everyone involved.

Before you place the order, run through this short list:

- Check allergies and dietary preferences for both parents.
- Confirm the delivery date in their local time zone.
- Ask how substitutions are handled if an item is unavailable.
- Choose a card message and check the spelling of their names.

Then plan a call for after delivery. You can share the moment as they open it, or give them time to settle in with their treats first.

Questions you might have

How do I keep the delivery a surprise?

Ask someone nearby to confirm your parents will be home, or choose a delivery window that fits their usual routine.

Can I include homemade food?

Rules for sending food overseas vary. Check the destination country's import requirements before mailing anything homemade.

What if my parents have different tastes?

Include a few favourites for each person, plus something they both enjoy. The shared note will still tie it all together.

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