

ARTICLE-Top Tea Times Around the World

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Top Tea Times around the World

It's Always Tea Time Somewhere

article and images by [Carole Terwilliger Meyers](#)

"Tea urges tranquility of the soul." –Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In England, a proper afternoon tea (sometimes called cream tea) is an elegant affair served in three stages, or all at once on a tiered tray. High tea is early supper and not at all special—perhaps a boiled egg and some toast. However, in the U.S. high tea refers to afternoon tea. Hope you aren't confused. A few rules go with afternoon tea. Eat the scones first, then the savories and sandwiches, and the sweets last. Pinch the teacup handle raising your pinkie in the air, and never leave your spoon in the cup.

It is interesting to know that all tea types come from the same plant. Leaves receive different amounts of oxygen during processing, which is what makes them black, green, or oolong (in between black and green). Black teas get more oxygen, green teas get less. Unprocessed leaves make white tea.

I've personally enjoyed many of the tea times in this compilation. I hope you'll get to try some of these yourself in your own travels.

Some of these tea times are more modest than a full-on afternoon tea; they are noted with **.



two ladies in hats having tea at Lovejoys Tea Room in San Francisco, California

Top Tea Times in San Francisco

As the King said in "Alice in Wonderland," let's "begin at the beginning." For me that is tea times in my home town, San Francisco. From here, we will expand into the immediate Bay Area and the rest of Northern California.

articles:

[*San Francisco Tea Times That Will Take You Around the World*](#)

[Five Places: Tea Rooms](#)

[Crown & Crumpet Tea Salon](#)

In Japantown.

[Laurel Court Restaurant](#)

In the Fairmont San Francisco hotel.

[Imperial Tea Court](#)**

In Ferry Building.

[Japanese Tea Garden teahouse](#)**

In Golden Gate Park

[Lovejoy's Tea Room](#)

In Noe Valley.

[Palace Hotel](#)

On Market Street.

[The Rotunda](#)

In Neiman Marcus, Union Square.

[Top of the Mark](#)

In InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco. In December this is iconic bar turns itself over to Holiday Teas. But never fear, cocktails are also still served.

Top Tea Times Around the Bay

BERKELEY

[A' Cuppa Tea](#)**

On College Ave., in Elmwood.

[Asha Tea House](#)**

On University Ave., downtown.

[Far Leaves Tea](#)**

On San Pablo Ave., in West Berkeley.

FREMONT

[Tyme for Tea & Co.](#)

In Niles area.

LOS ALTOS

[Lisa's Tea Treasures](#)

On Main Street.

OAKLAND

[Sophie's Cuppa Tea**](#)

In Montclair village.

PALO ALTO

[Tea Time](#)

On Ramona Street.

Top Tea Times in the Rest of Northern California



dessert and cuppa at Columbia Kate's Teahouse
in Columbia SHP, California

COLUMBIA STATE HISTORIC PARK

[Columbia Kate's Teahouse](#)

On Columbia St., back from the main street.

MUIR BEACH

[Green Gulch Farm](#)**

A Sunday Tea Gathering occurs in a tea house built in the traditional Japanese style.

Top Tea Times in the Rest of the U.S.

These are all places that I've personally visited.

HAWAII

●HONOLULU

[Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Waikiki Beach](#)

At Veranda at the Beachhouse. The banyan tree here came from India and is older than the hotel.

MICHIGAN

●MACKINAC ISLAND

[Grand Hotel](#)

High Tea has taken place in the parlor for more than 100 years.

NEW JERSEY

●CAPE MAY

[Emlen Physick Estate](#)

In the Cafe.

OREGON

●PORTLAND

[Hotel deLuxe](#)

In Gracie's. Tea-based cocktails with the traditional afternoon tea are optional.

Teahouse**

In Lan Su Chinese Garden, in the Tower of Cosmic Reflections.

Top Tea Times Abroad

CANADA

●BANFF

Fairmont Banff Springs

The Rocky Mountain Afternoon Tea is taken in the Rundle Lounge.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

In the Lakeview Lounge with a view of the lake and Victoria Glacier; within Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

●VICTORIA

The Fairmont Empress Hotel

In Lobby Lounge.

The Butchart Gardens

Special vegetarian and children's tea menu in summer.

CHINA

●CHENGDU

Shu Feng Ya Yun Teahouse**

Enjoyed while watching Sichuan Opera.

●HONG KONG

The Peninsula

Originally in The Lobby.

●YAN'AN, in Shaanxi Province

Zaoyua Hotel

[This video depicts a Chinese tea ceremony.](#) The way the lady makes the presentation is like a little dance.

Yak Butter Tea**

Served in various shops and restaurants in the remote

[Jiuzhaigou Valley in Sichuan Province.](#)

DUBAI

[Burj Al Arab](#)

In the Sahn Eddar atrium restaurant in what many call [the world's most luxurious hotel.](#)

ENGLAND

article: [2 Spot-On Teas for 2 Near London's Hyde Park](#)

●**LONDON**

[The Dorchester](#)

On Park Lane.

[Kensington Palace Pavilion Tea Room](#)

Afternoon tea service runs from noon to 6 p.m. in this this elegant Georgian structure (it was once the palace's citrus house) built in 1704 for Queen Anne.

[The Lanesborough, London](#)

Across from Hyde Park.

[The Langham, London](#)

Afternoon tea at has been a tradition in the Palm Court here since 1865. In fact, [the hotel](#) claims it is the site where afternoon tea was invented.

[The Montague on the Gardens](#)

In Bloomsbury. [The hotel](#) is a joining of nine Georgian houses dating to 1815 that were once part of the Duke of Bedford's estate. It was the 7th Duchess of Bedford who gave afternoon tea its name in the early 1800s. A pianist plays on Sundays.

[The Original Maids of Honour](#)

Near the main Victoria Gate entrance Kew Royal Botanical Gardens.

[The Ritz London](#)

The most expensive tea in London. Reserve 4 weeks ahead.



exterior of The Ritz in London

●LAKE DISTRICT

[Yew Tree Farm](#)**

Once owned by Beatrix Potter, this farm's Herdwicks Cafe tea room is now restored and reopened and is decorated with Potter's original furnishings. The terrific clotted cream and scrumptious housemade wild Damson plum jam are to-die for.

●ARUNDEL

Belinda's Tea Rooms

Near [Amberley Castle](#). Everything is made in house at this 16th century tea room.

FRANCE

●PARIS

[Ritz Paris](#)

In Salon Proust. A refined tea is served on white Limoges porcelain by Havilland. My tea of choice is the fragrant and divine Ritzy Earl Grey.

ICELAND

[Sunshine Pancakes](#)**

This video depicts an informal tea at Skorrastaour farm in the valley of Nordfjordur.

IRELAND

●CONG

[Ashford Castle](#)

Served in the magnificent, yet casual, Drawing Room lounge of [Ashford Castle](#).

●DUBLIN

[Merrion Hotel](#)

The Merrion hotel's famous Art Tea is served in the Drawing Rooms lounges.

JAPAN

●HACHIMANTAI CITY

[Geocolor](#)**

I visited this facility to learn about geothermal dyeing. After completing our project, we trekked through the snow to a warm shop where we sipped tea while our hankies were ironed.

TAIWAN

●TAICHUNG

[Chun Shui Tang Cultural Tea House](#)**

Cold pearl milk tea—also known in the U.S. as bubble or boba tea—originated at this Taiwan tea house in the early 1980s. Now you can take a do-it-yourself workshop that teaches you how to make both that and the original cold Chinese tea.

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recipes:

[Amazon Scones](#)

[Orange Scones](#)

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