

Best Afternoon Teas in London to celebrate the Coronation

The pomp and splendour of King Charles III's coronation ceremony may be behind us, but London is still in celebration mode. If you are in need of a very British afternoon tea, one where you can revel in luxurious royal regalia or majestic history, look no further

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Little excuse is usually needed to partake in one of the great British food traditions – afternoon tea – a very civilised procession of daintily cut sandwiches,

scones and little cakes in sumptuous surroundings served with tea in the finest china. We have curated the best venues in the capital where *Dream Escape* guests can be sure of an experience fit for a king (or queen)...



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Best for a Special Occasion

The Goring

Not only the holder of The British Tea Guild Council's Top London Afternoon Tea Award, The Goring is the only one of London's luxury hotels that has a Royal Warrant for hospitality services. The closest hotel to Buckingham Palace (Kate Middleton stayed here the night before her wedding to Prince William), The Goring's pastry chefs supplied a cake for Prince Charles' Christening back in 1948 and also hosted the crowned heads of Europe for a luncheon in honour of his 60th birthday celebrations in 2008. In fact, every reigning monarch has visited this grand five-star hotel since 1910. Enjoy a high-quality tea blend in the light-dappled Veranda restaurant, perhaps paired with a glass of Bollinger, while nibbling on fresh pastries and sandwiches, revelling in centuries-old service standards.

Things to do nearby:

Don't miss The State Rooms & Garden Highlights Tour of Buckingham Palace, which run every day of the week (except Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 17 July until 24 September.

The Rubens at the Palace

Overlooking the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace (the royal family's palace entrance), this historic hotel is the ideal location to enjoy a King's Coronation Themed Afternoon Tea (until 1 August). From the Palace Lounge you can enjoy panoramic views of royal carriages passing while indulging in treats such as a delicate crown made from Valrhona Opalys white chocolate, cherry chocolate brownies and elegant finger sandwiches. Relax to the gentle tinkle of a live pianist performance, and take home a memorable souvenir; each afternoon-tea guest will receive a special commemorative coronation tea gift set.

Things to do nearby:

Visit memorable fashion moments at 'Style & Society – Dressing the Georgians' Exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, until 8 October.



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Best for Traditionalists

Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon, Fortnum & Mason

If anyone has the inside knowledge on the King's favourite ingredients, it's Fortnum & Mason, royal grocer for more than a century. Dine in the splendour of the Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon, named after her (late) Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who visited in 2012 to formally open the room with the then Duchess of Cornwall (now Queen Consort) and Duchess of Cambridge (now Princess of Wales). There's a special Coronation Afternoon Tea menu until 30 September, featuring the best of British seasonal ingredients and a leaning towards the new King's preferences: finger sandwiches with Cotswold Legbar egg mayonnaise and salt beef

with kohlrabi and tarragon sour cream dressing; Welsh lamb Scotch egg; native coronation lobster and Harbourne blue cheese mousse; even a royal vanilla mousse lollipop. There are 150 of the store's famed tea blends to choose from, but the Coronation Darjeeling Tea is another speciality for the occasion. And why not raise a toast with the limited-edition Blancs de Blancs Grand Cru Coronation Champagne.

Things to do nearby:

The National Portrait Gallery reopens on 22 June, following an extensive three-year renovation. The top floor Portrait Restaurant, with sublime views across Trafalgar Square, will be taken over by acclaimed chef Richard Corrigan.

Haymarket Hotel

Right on the royal procession route, the sophisticated Haymarket Hotel is holding a Coronation Afternoon Tea until 10 July in its Brumus Bar & Restaurant. There'll be the classics, such as egg mayonnaise and watercress sandwiches, along with specially created items (Coronation chicken brioche roll) and sublime bakes with a British theme; think raspberry Victoria sponge, and strawberry and cream choux buns. If you want to fully immerse in the theme, pick the King's Tea (an Assam and Ceylon blend) from the range of speciality teas and infusions.

Things to do nearby:

You're right in London's theatre district, so why not be among the first to visit Andrew Lloyd Webber's newly named His Majesty's Theatre (yes, formerly called Her Majesty's Theatre), still showing the West End's second-longest-running production *Phantom of the Opera*.



Best for Creativity

Great Scotland Yard Hotel

In partnership with renowned perfumery and Royal Warrant Holder Floris London, Great Scotland Yard Hotel is presenting a multisensory afternoon tea in honour of the coronation until 27 June. The array of sweet treats and savouries are inspired by the royal family; take a seat in the sumptuous Parlour and indulge in King Charles III's Lemon and Strawberry Charlotte or St Edward's Crown Lavender and Blueberry Tartlet.

Things to do nearby:

The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Walk (seven miles) will take you past four of the eight Royal Parks: St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Brown's Hotel London

A glorious English Garden Afternoon Tea is available until 31 August at Brown's Hotel in the heart of Mayfair, considered one of London's oldest hotels (1837), with previous guests including Queen Victoria. In a tribute to the new King's love of gardening, atop the cake stand will be a beehive-shaped cake drizzled with Highgrove Honey when served, as well as a selection of finger sandwiches and cakes decorated with fresh flowers. While admiring the floral installations created by Brown's in-house florist, guests even have the opportunity to write notes to the King on intricately hand-painted postcards, then post them in a pink Boodles postbox, after which they will be hand-delivered to Buckingham Palace.

Things to do nearby:

A personal shopping experience: Savile Row, the home of men's tailoring, which has had a very busy season fitting tail coats for visiting coronation guests as well as preparing uniforms for the special day, is the place to visit for bespoke suits.



IMAGE © JOHN CAREY



Best for VIP Entrances

Mandarin Oriental

Take afternoon tea from a unique hanging cake stand in the opulent The Rosebery, in Knightsbridge's Mandarin Oriental hotel, one of London's most exclusive addresses: it has its very own Royal Entrance from Hyde Park, usually reserved for dignitaries or visiting royal families, although special permission can be sought for VIPs and wedding parties. This is a result of King George V moving the hotel's entrance, refusing to have any advertising (including the hotel's name) overlooking the park. In April 2011 the hotel hosted the pre-wedding celebration of Prince William and Kate Middleton, with 142 royals in attendance.

Things to do nearby:

The 'Crown to Couture' Exhibition at Kensington Palace runs until 29 October and features over 200 fashion items, including the widest surviving court gown in Britain (nearly 3m wide!).

Best for Royal History Buffs

Westminster Abbey's Cellarium Café and Terrace

The significance of dining within the hallowed Westminster Abbey, home to 16 royal weddings, Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, King Charles III's coronation and indeed every coronation since 1066, should not be underestimated. Its Cellarium Café and Terrace is a little-known hideaway spread across two floors. Until 31 July, you can enjoy a special Coronation Afternoon Tea that champions King Charles' sustainability ethos with delectable Earl Grey scones alongside savoury items and cakes.

Things to do nearby:

A visit of Westminster Abbey is a must. Additional attractions as part of this special year include the coronation exhibition in the Chapter House, as well as crown-making and other family friendly activities.

T¹³³⁴ Tregothnan

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The Etiquette of Afternoon Tea by Jo Bryant, leading British etiquette consultant



JO'S TOP TIPS...

- Traditional afternoon tea comprises a selection of sandwiches, scones (pronounced 'skonns', never 'scoans'), and patisserie and cakes.
- The tea is loose leaf (not teabags), poured from a teapot. Milk is always added to the tea after it is poured, along with sugar, if required.
- Sandwiches are traditional flavours, such as cucumber or smoked salmon. They are eaten in the fingers.
- The scones are broken in half lengthways by hand (never cut with a knife), and enjoyed with jam and rich clotted cream.
- The cakes and patisserie come last, and are eaten in the fingers or, if messy, with a special three-pronged cake fork.

REMEMBER...

Afternoon tea is an indulgent meal in itself, and should be approached with a good appetite and enjoyed at a leisurely pace. ☺

[Find out more](#)

Contact the team at
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Sally Strange, Client Relationship Manager

"Did you know *Dream Escape* arrange magical picnic teas 'Wind in the Willows' style on a private boat on The River Thames? Discover the joy of delving into a tea hamper filled with culinary goodies in one of our Royal Parks, or perhaps a great stately home such as Badminton, Blenheim or Goodwood. You can even don your tux and party dress for a picnic on the lawns of Glyndbourne's famous opera house set within the rolling Downs of East Sussex."

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