

TOP 7 DESTINATIONS WITH BREATHTAKING TEA CULTURE



experience tea culture worldwide.

On May 21 each year, people mark the International Tea Day - an occasion created to draw attention to tea's role in culture, society, and economies worldwide. Tea ranks second only to water in global consumption, reports the UN's food and agriculture body. Tea culture brings moments focused on wellness, slow breathing, and inherited customs. Tourism Review presents the best places to

1/ The Traditional Tea Ceremony

Miyajima, Japan

Mindfulness shapes the tea ceremony in Miyajima, called sadou, linking it closely to Zen Buddhist principles. Within old homes or temple spaces - places where moments seem to pause - the event progresses through deliberate actions: arranging tools, offering tea, bowing back and forth, then sipping slowly. Each act carries intention, reflecting balance, awareness, yet quiet reverence. Guests often join hands-on during setup; sometimes they dress in kimonos, deepening their connection. Through such details, one grasps a core part of Japanese heritage - not by watching, but living it.

2/ Tea Culture in Daily Life

Shanghai, China

Tea shapes daily rhythms across Chinese cities. Places such as Tianzifang or the old streets of Qibao become quiet stages for moments rooted in leaf-steeped rituals. Attention settles on small choices - leaf grade, heat level, how slowly the brew pours. While traffic hums nearby, these corners hold space for customs passed down through generations. Tradition does not fade here; instead, it adjusts quietly within new surroundings.

3/ Afternoon Tea by the Thames

London, UK

Still cherished today, the traditional British afternoon tea holds deep roots in national custom. Gliding along the River Thames on a boat turns the occasion into something vivid, framed by sights such as the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. As you sip your drink, bite-sized sandwiches appear first, followed by delicate pastries, then small desserts. Here, among the hum of modern London, old habits settle gently alongside present-day rhythms. What emerges is neither outdated nor forced - it simply belongs. The London's tea culture will please all visitors.

4/ Tea Culture in Village Days

Tam Coc, Vietnam

Among limestone peaks, flooded fields stretch wide under open sky. Following narrow trails by foot

or boat reveals quiet hamlets tucked beside slow-moving water. A pause for tea happens without fanfare, seated on low benches near mossy stones. Though rooted in routine, the moment reflects deeper bonds between people and land. Harvesting leaves becomes part of conversation, not performance. Moments unfold slowly, shaped by rhythm more than plan.

5/ Volcanic Terrain and Ocean Tea

Furnas, Portugal

Deep within São Miguel Island's rugged terrain lies Furnas, where steaming fumaroles rise beside quiet lagoons inside ancient caldera walls. Rolling across the hills nearby, Gorreana's historic tea fields stretch - a rare patch of farmland producing leaves since the 1800s. Visitors walk narrow rows between bushes before sampling freshly brewed cups on site. Moist ocean air weaves into each harvest, subtly shifting taste from season to season. Hand-driven techniques persist here, passed down despite changing ground beneath. Volcanic soil shifts slowly underfoot, reshaping roots and rituals alike.

6/ Mint Tea and Hospitality

Marrakech, Morocco

Tea culture in Morocco means more than sipping a beverage - it reflects how people welcome others, bond, and share moments. Inside Marrakech's quiet courtyards, families follow an old routine: loose-leaf green tea goes into the pot, then sprigs of mint, a spoonful of sugar. The pour matters most - high above, so air swirls in, lifting aroma, forming a light froth on top. This act, repeated day after day, invites you closer to what shapes ordinary life there.

7/ Tea as a Political Symbol

Boston, USA

History hides in small things, like leaves steeped in hot water. A sip can carry rebellion when roots run deep enough. During 1773, colonial anger boiled over - not just at tax laws, but control disguised as trade policy. Resistance came fast: crates smashed open, waves swallowing pounds of imported leaf. What looked like vandalism was really defiance shaped by principle. Centuries later, floating replicas near Boston's shore let visitors touch that moment again. Props, reenactments, scattered fragments - each piece pulls people backward into tension thick as smoke. Steeped in context, even a teacup becomes evidence.

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