

TimeOut

10 afternoon tea experiences across America that are trending right now

From storied hotel lounges to inventive, food-forward tearooms, these afternoon tea services across the U.S. prove that atmosphere is just as important as ritual.

Chinese Tea House: Newport, RI

The aptly named Chinese Tea House looks as though it's been lifted straight from China and set along Newport's rocky coast—unexpected, slightly out of place, and undeniably striking. Perched on the cliffs of the Marble House, the ornate pavilion was built in 1913 by Alva Vanderbilt Belmont and served as both a traditional teahouse and a gathering place for the suffragist movement during the Gilded Age. Today, the Tea House offers two dining options: a casual self-serve café with sandwiches, salads, and light bites, and a more formal prix fixe afternoon tea, offered on weekends in partnership with Stoneacre Brasserie. The latter features classic tea sandwiches and seasonal pastries, all served with sweeping ocean views. Afternoon tea is available exclusively to Marble House tour ticket holders or Preservation Society members.

