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3-Day Edinburgh Afternoon Tea Itinerary

From our guide **Top 10 Best Afternoon Teas in Edinburgh**. Print it or save it to your phone.



Day 1: Grand hotel and Princes Street

Spend the morning at Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, then walk down to The Balmoral for your booked Palm Court tea. Afterwards, stroll through Princes Street Gardens. Staying longer? See our best day trips from Edinburgh for ideas outside the city.

Day 2: History and George Street

Start at the Scottish Parliament and St Giles' Cathedral, then have tea at The Colonnades in the Signet Library. Alternatively, walk to George Street for The Dome's Georgian Tea Room, then enjoy the New Town shops.

Day 3: Leith and something different

Take a bus or tram to Leith for the Royal Yacht Britannia, followed by tea at Fingal or Mimi's Bakehouse. Walk along the Water of Leith before heading back.

The 10 places at a glance

1. Palm Court at The Balmoral

How to get there: On Princes Street beside Waverley station, so it is a short walk from most central hotels.
How long to spend: About two hours.
Best time to go: Weekday afternoons, booked well ahead.
Tip: Say if anyone has dietary needs or is celebrating when you book. Check the official website for the current menu.
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2. The Colonnades at the Signet Library

How to get there: On Parliament Square, a few minutes from Waverley station up the Royal Mile.
How long to spend: About two hours.
Best time to go: A midweek afternoon, booked well ahead.
Tip: Pair it with a visit to St Giles' Cathedral. Check the current format and availability on the official website.
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3. Prestonfield House

How to get there: By taxi or bus from the Old Town, about a short ride to the Duddingston area beside Holyrood Park.
How long to spend: Two hours, or longer with a park walk.
Best time to go: A winter afternoon, when the fires are lit.
Tip: Confirm transport home when you book, as buses are less frequent in the evening. Check the official menu before you go.
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4. The Dome, Georgian Tea Room

How to get there: On George Street in the New Town, about ten minutes on foot from Waverley station.
How long to spend: About one and a half to two hours.
Best time to go: A weekday afternoon.
Tip: Ask about the vegan option when you book. Check current opening arrangements online.
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5. Fingal

How to get there: By bus or tram from the city centre to Leith, then a short walk to the dock.
How long to spend: About two hours, longer if you explore Leith.
Best time to go: A weekday or a summer afternoon, booked ahead.
Tip: Fingal sometimes offers packages with a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia, so check the official website.
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6. Royal Yacht Britannia

How to get there: By bus or tram to Ocean Terminal in Leith.
How long to spend: Half a day if combined with the yacht visit.
Best time to go: A weekday, to avoid the busiest periods.
Tip: Compare the tearoom with the Royal Tea package on the official site, as availability is limited to certain days.
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7. Mimi's Bakehouse

How to get there: By bus to Leith, or check the nearest branch on the official website.
How long to spend: About one and a half hours.
Best time to go: Weekday afternoons.
Tip: Book ahead for groups and check which branches offer afternoon tea.
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8. Brewhemia

How to get there: On Market Street, a couple of minutes from Waverley station.
How long to spend: About one and a half hours.
Best time to go: Weekday afternoons.
Tip: Check the current afternoon tea menu and booking rules online. Reviews vary, so read recent ones.
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9. The Witchery

How to get there: On Castlehill at the top of the Royal Mile, beside Edinburgh Castle.
How long to spend: About two hours.
Best time to go: A weekday afternoon, booked well ahead. Afternoon tea is weekdays only.
Tip: Choose between the Secret Garden and the Original Dining Room when you book. Confirm the dates and menu online, as tea is paused in some months.
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10. Dalhousie Castle

How to get there: By taxi or car from central Edinburgh to Bonnyrigg, which is a short drive from the city. Check before you go for transport options.
How long to spend: Half a day including the drive.
Best time to go: A dry afternoon, so you can enjoy the grounds.
Tip: Confirm whether afternoon tea is running on your date and whether non-residents can book.
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Getting Around Edinburgh

The city centre is compact, and most of the venues in the Old Town and New Town can be reached on foot. Leith is a short trip by bus or tram, and Prestonfield House and Dalhousie Castle are easiest by taxi or car. Edinburgh's trams and Lothian Buses publish timetables on their official sites, so check them before heading out. The Old Town has steep streets and steps, so wear comfortable shoes.

Opening times, prices and transport change often, so check with each venue or operator before you go. For the full guide, photos and FAQs, see https://toptravelinsider.com/top-10-best-afternoon-teas-in-edinburgh/.