Teapigs Darjeeling: Single Origin in a Temple Bag

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Teapigs Darjeeling, in summary:** Teapigs Darjeeling is single-garden whole-leaf in a pyramid bag, ahead of supermarket multi-garden blends.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in February 2026.

Teapigs Darjeeling is one of the more accessible premium Darjeeling teas in UK supermarkets, single origin Indian tea in temple bag form, the right brewing approach for the "Champagne of teas." The whole leaf format and temple bag preserve Darjeeling's delicate muscatel character better than mass market Darjeeling tea bags. Worth the small premium for the proper Darjeeling experience.

What is Darjeeling

Darjeeling is single origin tea from the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, India, in the foothills of the Himalayas. The district produces three main "flushes":

- **First flush (March April):** Delicate, floral, light bodied. The most premium.
- **Second flush (May June):** Muscatel, fruity, fuller bodied. The "Champagne" character.
- **Third flush (autumn):** Mellower, less premium.

More on Darjeeling.

The Teapigs Darjeeling specifics

Teapigs Darjeeling typically uses:

- Whole leaf Darjeeling tea (likely second flush, sometimes seasonal).
- Temple bag (plant-based mesh, industrial composting).
- Single origin sourcing.

The tea grade is higher than mass market Darjeeling tea bags (which use broken leaf or fannings) and lower than specialty single estate Darjeeling (which is loose leaf and £15-30 per 100g).

How it tastes

- **Aroma:** Floral, slightly fruity, distinctively Darjeeling. The muscatel grape note is recognisable.
- **First sip:** Lighter than English Breakfast or Yorkshire Tea. Brighter, more delicate.
- **Mid cup:** Muscatel character emerges, that distinctive grape like fruitiness.
- **Finish:** Long, soft, slightly tannic.
- **With milk:** Possible but milk masks the muscatel character. Best drunk black.

Curator Rating: 4.9/5.

How to brew

1. 1 temple bag in a teacup or mug.
2. 200ml water at 95°C (just below boiling, preserves delicate notes).
3. Steep 3 minutes (NOT longer, Darjeeling becomes astringent quickly).
4. Drink black with optional lemon slice. Avoid milk if possible.

The 3-minute steep is the key, Darjeeling reveals its delicate notes early then becomes increasingly bitter. Most British people over steep Darjeeling and miss its character.

Why temple bag whole leaf matters for Darjeeling

Standard mass market Darjeeling tea bags use:

- Broken or fannings grade leaf (not whole).
- Mixed Darjeeling estates and grades.
- Sometimes blended with non Darjeeling for cost reasons (legitimate Darjeeling labelling requires 100% Darjeeling, but lower grade single estate is still less premium).

Teapigs Darjeeling uses:

- Whole leaf or larger broken leaf grades.
- Single origin Darjeeling district.
- Temple bag allows full leaf expansion during brewing.

Result: more authentic Darjeeling character, the muscatel notes that mass market bags often miss.

Compared to other UK Darjeeling options

vs Twinings Darjeeling

Twinings is mainstream tier, more lightly priced, broken leaf, less character. Teapigs is premium tier with whole leaf format.

vs Whittard Darjeeling

Whittard premium tier; tin form; comparable quality. Teapigs is temple bag convenient.

vs single estate specialty (teas.co.uk, with friends Mei Leaf and Postcard Teas)

Specialty single estate is loose leaf, £15-30 per 100g, premium tier. Teapigs is the budget version of "good Darjeeling."

vs supermarket tier Darjeeling tea bags

Mass market £2-3 boxes use broken leaf and lighter character. Teapigs noticeably better.

Caffeine

30-45mg per cup, Darjeeling has slightly less caffeine than full Assam style black tea.

Use cases

Afternoon tea

The classic Darjeeling moment. Light, refined, perfect for cucumber sandwiches, scones, fruit cake.

Refined daily drinker

For the British tea drinker who wants a step up from Yorkshire Tea but doesn't want full specialty pricing.

Special occasion morning tea

Sunday morning, holiday breakfast, hosting guests.

Tea tasting

Useful as the "Indian premium" benchmark in tea tasting flights.

Pairings

- Cucumber sandwiches.
- Plain scones with clotted cream and jam.
- Lemon drizzle cake.
- Fruit cake.
- Shortbread.
- Light pastries.

Pricing

Premium tier, typically 40-50p per bag. Roughly twice mass market Darjeeling.

Buying

Available at Waitrose, Whole Foods, online specialty retailers. Use /buy/teapigs darjeeling/.

Pack sizes

- 15-bag (trial)

- 50-bag (regular)

Storage

Airtight tin or original packaging. Use within 12 months. Darjeeling is delicate and loses character with age.

Vegan

Yes, pure tea, plant based.

Who it's for

- Afternoon tea enthusiasts.
- Drinkers wanting Darjeeling character without specialty pricing.
- Gift recipients who appreciate quality.
- Tea discovery shoppers stepping up from mainstream.

Limited edition status

Sometimes seasonal, first flush and second flush versions may rotate. Check current Teapigs range.

FAQ

How long to steep? 3 minutes. Don't over steep.

Milk? Possible but masks the character. Best black with optional lemon.

Caffeine? 30-45mg per cup.

Vegan? Yes.

Premium worth it? Yes, meaningfully better Darjeeling character than mainstream.

Curator's note: Teapigs Darjeeling is the accessible Darjeeling, temple bag, whole leaf, proper character. Worth keeping for afternoon tea or refined morning moments. Darjeeling deserves to be brewed correctly. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

The essentials: Teapigs Darjeeling

Field	Detail
Origin	Darjeeling, West Bengal, India (single-origin)
Format	Whole-leaf pyramid bag, 15 per box
UK price	£4.50 to £5.50
Cup character	Light, floral, muscatel notes, golden-amber liquor
Best for	Afternoon drinking, lighter than English Breakfast, no milk
Single-origin distinction	One garden's leaf rather than multi-garden Darjeeling blend

What to buy now

Buy Teapigs Darjeeling for the single-origin pyramid bag. Compare with loose-leaf Darjeeling first flush from a specialist (the obvious quality step up), Darjeeling second flush for the maltier autumn-harvest variant, and a quality Assam single origin alongside to taste why Darjeeling and Assam read so differently despite both being Indian-grown.

For the cupboard, see the Darjeeling range and loose leaf range.

Reference noted

- Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea (history)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · The cup you finish is the right cup. Skip the variety until that one is sorted.

Darjeeling reading

For Darjeeling context see the Darjeeling tea guide, the Darjeeling first flush piece, and the Darjeeling second flush overview. For brand context see the Teapigs deep dive.

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
- Black tea
- Oolong tea
- White tea
- Herbal tea
- Caffeine in tea
- How to make tea properly
- Loose leaf vs teabag

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