

How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Making tea in a hotel room, in summary: Hotel tea really is worse and you are not imagining it: clean the kettle by boiling and binning water, boil fully, steep longer, bring decent bags.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

Hotel room tea is a survival skill. This sits in the tea travel cluster beside [best tea to take travelling](#).

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

Tea in a hotel room, at a glance

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Problem	The fix
The enemy	A coffee-tainted, under-powered, half-descaled hotel kettle
First step	Boil and discard one or two kettles of water to clean it
Heat & time	Boil fully, brew a touch longer to offset a weak kettle
Bring your own	Decent bags from home beat the tray sachets
No kettle	Bathroom tap rarely hot enough; ask for genuinely boiling water

The enemy

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The enemy, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

Hotel-room tea really is worse, and you are not imagining it. The in-room kettle is the main culprit: usually low-powered, so it struggles to reach and hold a true boil; often half-descaled, so the water tastes of limescale; and almost always used for instant coffee and pot noodles, leaving a residue that taints tea far more than it taints coffee. Add unfamiliar water, UHT milk pots and the cheapest sachet the hotel could buy,

and the cup is sabotaged before you start.

Clean the kettle first

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Clean the kettle first, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

The single highest-impact fix is to clean the kettle before you trust it: fill, boil and discard a full kettle of water once or twice. That clears most of the coffee taint and loosens loose scale, and it costs you two minutes. Do it on arrival and the rest of the trip's tea is transformed.

Heat, time and your own bags

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Heat, time and your own bags, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

Then maximise heat and time, and bring your own tea. Let the weak element reach as full a boil as it can, use the water immediately, and steep a little longer than at home to compensate for water that was never quite hot enough. Above all, bring your own bags: a dozen decent ones weigh nothing in a suitcase and beat the stale tray sachet by a wide margin. See [packing teabags](#).

Milk strategy

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Milk strategy, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

Have a milk plan, because the UHT pot is the weak link. UHT is tolerable in a strong brew, but black or with lemon often beats bad UHT, and buying a small bottle of fresh milk locally is the real upgrade if you are staying a while. See [milk in tea](#).

No kettle, and the travel kit

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for No kettle, and the travel kit, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/>*

If there is no kettle at all, do not use the bathroom hot tap: it is rarely hot enough to brew properly and carries hygiene questions. Better to ask reception or room service for genuinely boiling water, use a breakfast hot-water urn, or, for frequent travellers, carry a small dual-voltage travel kettle, which is the definitive fix and pays for itself quickly. The packable kit is tiny: a dozen decent bags or a small tin of robust loose tea with a collapsible infuser, plus a few UHT pods so you are not at the mercy of the tray. See [travel kit](#).

What to buy

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What to buy, How to Make Tea in a Hotel Room. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/how-to-make-tea-in-a-hotel-room/*

Pack something robust that survives a bad cup: a strong [black tea](#) or [breakfast blend](#), or travel-friendly bags from the full [tea shop](#).

Reference noted

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- [EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine \(2015\)](#)

FROM THE CURATOR *teas* · One good loose-leaf in a clean teapot beats five exotic bags drunk in a hurry.

Travel reading

- [Tea abroad](#)
- [Best tea to take travelling](#)
- [Ideal water temperatures](#)
- [How to make tea properly](#)

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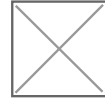
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