

Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

Can you take teabags on a plane, in summary: A UK guide to flying with teabags: yes in hand or hold luggage, dry food not liquid, declare for Australia/NZ biosecurity, otherwise unrestricted.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

A genuine, frequently Googled worry with a simple answer. This sits in the tea travel cluster beside [best tea to take travelling](#).

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

Teabags on a plane, at a glance

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Teabags on a plane, at a glance, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

Question	The answer
Allowed in hand luggage?	Yes; dry teabags are unrestricted in cabin baggage
Allowed in hold luggage?	Yes; unrestricted in checked baggage
Counted as a liquid?	No; dry tea is solid food, not subject to 100ml rule
Need to declare at customs?	Personal-use quantities typically no; large quantities sometimes yes
Biosecurity issues?	Australia/NZ may require declaration; most countries unrestricted
Security swab/inspection?	Possible but rare; harmless and quick
Quantity limit	No specific limit for personal use; commercial quantities raise customs questions
Packaging requirement	Original packaging fine; resealable bag also acceptable
Loose-leaf tea?	Same rules as teabags; unrestricted

The short answer

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The short answer, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

Yes. Dry teabags and loose tea are permitted in both hand and hold luggage; they are a dry food, not a liquid or a restricted item, so there is genuinely nothing to worry about. The pre-flight anxiety this question usually carries is unnecessary: the rules are simple and permissive, and the only real complication anywhere is biosecurity declaration in Australia and New Zealand, covered below.

Security and the liquids rule

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Security and the liquids rule, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

In hand luggage they are completely fine. Airport scanners read tea as ordinary organic material and do not flag it; occasionally staff may swab or inspect a dense bag, which is harmless and takes about thirty seconds, and original packaging clears slightly faster than an unmarked bag. The 100ml liquids rule does not apply, because that covers liquids, gels and pastes, and dry tea is a solid. Only pre-brewed tea in a flask would count as a liquid; dry tea is effectively unlimited through security. See [brewing on arrival](#).

Customs and biosecurity

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Customs and biosecurity, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

Tea is low-risk for customs in most countries. Commercial sealed teabags are treated as harmless personal-use food and pass without question, and loose-leaf from established sources is similar. A few countries want a declaration: the US asks if the quantity is significant or includes unusual plant material, while standard teabags are fine; the UK and most of the EU have no specific tea restriction for personal use. When in doubt, declare, since declaring an unrestricted item costs nothing but failing to declare a restricted one can be penalised.

Australia and New Zealand

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Australia and New Zealand, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/>*

Australia and New Zealand run the world's strictest food-and-plant biosecurity, and are the one destination that needs care. Declare all tea on the incoming card: sealed commercial teabags are typically allowed after declaration, and loose-leaf is occasionally inspected but rarely refused for proven commercial product. Failing to declare can mean a fine (around AUD 444 in Australia, more for deliberate concealment). The rule is simple, declare everything; the worst outcome of declaring is a brief check, the worst of not declaring is a

fine and a delay.

Practical packing

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Practical packing, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/*

For packing, either keep teabags in their original commercial packaging, which makes any customs check faster and signals personal-use food clearly, or decant them into a clear resealable bag, which saves most of the box volume for a longer trip. Foil-wrapped bags survive humidity best, and a transparent bag also speeds any security inspection. See [packing tips](#).

In-flight tea

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for In-flight tea, Can You Take Teabags on a Plane?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/can-you-take-teabags-on-a-plane/*

On board, in-flight tea is constrained whatever the airline. British carriers (BA, Virgin, Emirates, Qatar) serve recognisable mainstream brands; US carriers tend to disappoint British palates. The reason is structural: aircraft water heats to about 85 to 90C rather than a rolling boil, the milk is UHT, and the paper cup loses heat fast, so even good airlines cannot make British-standard tea aloft. If you have packed your own bags, most crews will give you hot water to brew in your own cup, which is still limited by the water temperature but usually beats the default.

What to buy

For travel-friendly teabags buy [Yorkshire Tea](#), [PG Tips](#) or [Twinings English Breakfast](#). For a premium travel tea buy [Yorkshire Tea Gold](#). For loose-leaf travel buy [loose-leaf sample packs](#) with a [portable infuser](#), and for hot water on the go a [tea thermos](#).

Reference noted

- [EFSA: Pesticides in food](#)

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Travel reading

For broader travel-tea context see [should I take my own teabags on holiday](#) and [best tea to take travelling](#). For why tea differs abroad see [why does tea taste different abroad](#). For hotel-room brewing see [how to make tea in a hotel room](#). For the expat angle see [the expat care package](#).

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