Walker's Shortbread Highlanders: the thick round with a sugared edge

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Walker's Shortbread Highlanders: the thick round with a sugared edge, in summary:** Thicker than the fingers and rolled in Demerara sugar at the edge, Highlanders are Walker's shortbread rounds, eight to a 160g pack. You get a crunchy rim, a softer middle and very little sweetness in between.

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

A Highlander gets two textures out of a very short ingredient list: a firmer outer rim that has had more of the oven's heat, around a denser, softer middle. Walker's rolls that edge in Demerara sugar by hand, so there is a crunch at the outside that the plain fingers do not have.

Thickness, and a sugared edge

Eight rounds in a 160g pack works out at twenty grams each, so one Highlander is a proper serving by itself rather than a biscuit you take three of. It is thicker than a finger, which means the outside firms up in the oven while the centre stays denser and softer. Thin shortbread has a single texture all the way through; a thick round gives you two, and that contrast is most of the pleasure.

The label lists wheat flour, butter at 31%, sugar, Demerara sugar at 4% and salt. The Demerara sits on the edge, which Walker's rolls by hand, and it adds a sweet crunch at the rim against the plain butter crumb inside. The allergen statement for this barcode lists wheat (gluten) and milk, and says the rounds may contain nuts.

Highlanders or fingers?

Both are Walker's butter shortbread and both come in 160g packs, but they suit different moments. The fingers are slim and even through the bite, easy to pass round on a tray and to dip briefly. The Highlanders give you more to notice, with the firm edge, the soft middle and the crunch of the sugared rim all in one round.

The round shape also travels better. Fingers are slender and can break if handled carelessly, while a round is compact and sturdy enough to reach a picnic in one piece. For Walker's in individual snack bags, the Wee Shorties are made for exactly that job, and for something richer the Chocolate & Caramel Wee Chunkies are the sweeter option.

Serving and storing Highlanders

Let them sit out for a few minutes before serving. Cupboard-cool butter is firm and holds on to its aroma, so a cold Highlander tastes noticeably flatter than one given five minutes to warm on the side. The fridge makes this worse rather than better, so leave it out of the plan.

If you want to dunk, dip only the firm edge, and for a second or two at most; the butter softens quickly in hot tea and a short crumb has nothing else to hold it together. In practice, a dunk adds little here. Store the pack somewhere cool, well clear of the oven: shortbread shrugs off damp, so what eventually fades is the butter, not the crunch.

The packs we stock

- Walker's Shortbread Highlanders, 8 Pack 160g (barcode 039047014473)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Walker's Shortbread Highlanders, 8 Pack 160g (barcode 039047014473) says it contains wheat (gluten) and milk, and it may contain nuts. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Wheat flour (wheat flour, calcium carbonate, iron, niacin, thiamin), butter (milk) (31%), sugar, demerara sugar (4%), salt.

Typical values per 100g	Per 100g
Energy	514 kcal
Fat	26.9g
of which saturates	16.8g
Carbohydrate	61.7g
of which sugars	23.5g
Protein	5.2g
Salt	0.7g

Ingredient and nutrition data for this barcode: Open Food Facts (openfoodfacts.org), ODbL. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- Clipper Organic Fairtrade Earl Grey Tea, 80 Unbleached Tea Bags 200g: Earl Grey is the tea we point Highlanders at, and the citrus lift of bergamot suits the sugared edge.

- Twinings the Earl Grey Decaffeinated Plant Based, 40 Tea Bags 100g: The same Earl Grey pairing for the evening, in a decaffeinated version.
- Twinings Darjeeling Tea (International Blend), 25 Tea Bags 50g: A plain Darjeeling does not need to be strong, because Highlanders are low in sugar and never fight the cup.
- Tetley Redbush Pure, 40 Tea Bags 100g: A redbush for anyone who wants a mellow, rounded cup beside a buttery round.

Elsewhere in the Walker's range

- Walker's Chocolate & Caramel Wee Chunkies Shortbread, 125g
- Walker's Shortbread Fingers, 10 Pack 160g
- Walker's Shortbread Wee Shorties Mini Shortbread Fingers Multipack, 6 x 25g

The full range is on the Walker's brand page.

FAQ

How do Highlanders differ from Walker's shortbread fingers? Thickness and the edge. Highlanders are thicker rounds with a Demerara-rolled rim, giving a firm edge and a softer middle; fingers are thin and even all the way through.

What is the Demerara on Walker's Highlanders? Demerara sugar rolled around the edge of each round, 4% of the recipe by the ingredient list. It gives the rim its crunch.

Do Walker's Highlanders contain nuts? Nuts are not in the ingredient list, but the allergen statement says they may contain nuts. They do contain wheat (gluten) and milk.

How many Highlanders are in a pack? Eight rounds in a 160g pack, about twenty grams each.

Do Highlanders taste better warm or cold? Nearer room temperature. Cold butter mutes the flavour, so keep them in a cool cupboard rather than the fridge and give them a few minutes out before serving.

Curator's note: Eat a Highlander from the edge inwards, so the sugared crunch comes first and the soft middle last. With a pot of Earl Grey, it is our pick of the Walker's shelf. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Walker's Shortbread Highlanders: the thick round with a sugared edge

Field	Detail
Brand	Walker's
Packs we stock	8 Pack 160g
Category	Shortbread
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat (gluten) and milk, and it may contain nuts.
Dunkable	Edge only, a second or two
Best with	Earl Grey or a plain black tea
Eat it	Edge first, soft middle last

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