

TOP 10 AFTERNOON TEA WALKS

WOW! What a countdown it has been! Sumptuous afternoon teas across the Round&About area. Remember enjoying local produce in Stanton St John? Did you take in the stunning ambience at Hartwell House? Or, did you stroll through the secret garden at The Lamb Inn? Did you get studios from the educational background of Oxford during tea at the Old Parsonage? Oh, and did you feel Fresh As A Daisy in Sonning Common? Did the long-established George Hotel warrant a longer tea break? Was the Wantage walking scenery a great way to prepare for a tea feast? Did the famous surroundings of Henley on Thames give you a memorable tea? Was tradition still warming the cockles of your heart at The Old Tearooms in Beaconsfield? History, amazing landscapes and beautiful backdrops filling the year, the tea walks have shown diverse choices for great afternoon teas.

Waddesdon

So, with so many most important afternoon tea ingredients to be found, where is the perfect place to enjoy one? Christopher Fisher says Waddesdon is the creme de le creme of afternoon tea walks in the Round&About area, and here is why...

WALKING INFORMATION: An easy 90 minute stroll around the beautiful village of Waddesdon and the extensive beautiful parkland around Waddesdon estate. If you want to visit the house, you will need to book in advance at www.waddesdon.org.uk. Be prepared to be asked to purchase an entry ticket to enter the grounds even if this excludes visiting the house. Remain on the route outlined whilst in the park to easily return to the starting point.

1. The walk starts at The Lion pub in Waddesdon. Leave the pub and walk onto The High Street turning left and walk straight ahead into the village. You should ignore a cluster of streets leaving to the right and left of you.
2. Remain on the High Street; make sure you pass by a church and Post Office to your right, and a hotel to your left.
3. When you reach a turning to your left, directed to Waddesdon manor, turn left onto it. Whilst you think you may never ever reach the house, remain on the road, and walk straight ahead. On your approach you will have to pay an entrance fee. For more information visit www.waddesdon.org.uk/.
4. The road will bend to the right and then you will see the most beautiful French chateau straight ahead of you. Walk straight ahead until you are right in front of the house.
5. With the stories of four generations of one family, and life up and down stairs to explore, the house is worth exploring. However, due to its popularity, make sure you book 24 hours in advance. Visit www.waddesdon.org.uk for more details and admission information.
6. If tea and scones is more your thing, make sure you follow the signposts to the stables and café for the most perfect tea.
7. When you are ready to continue, retrace your footsteps through the beautiful parkland that surrounds the house and walk towards the entrance to Waddesdon. To complete the walk, you must leave the way you entered, which could be confusing as you could easily get lost here!
8. When you reach a road leaving to your right, close to the Waddesdon Dairy, take this. The road will cross some woodland and come to a minor road junction.
9. Turn right and continue walking straight ahead until you reach two crossroads. Cross the first and remain straight ahead on the approach to the second. At the second crossroads turn left, walking straight ahead for a short period until you reach a footpath leaving to your left.
10. The footpath will cross through some woodland, turn right, and go straight ahead, circling the grounds of Waddesdon Church of England School. When you meet a footpath leaving to your right, take this,
11. The footpath will connect you to Golden Mede. Continue straight ahead until you meet the High Street. Turn left onto The High Street and walk straight ahead until you return to your starting point at The Lion. If you are not too full up, why not enjoy a relaxing meal; the Moules Marinieres with crusty bread is great!

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