

# The Tea Room Times

Presented by: The White Heron Tea & Gifts

## Iced Tea

How did the world's favorite hot beverage become America's favorite iced beverage?



The United States has a deep love for tea.... Iced tea that is. It's no wonder, when over 80% of the tea consumed in the United States on a daily basis is iced. Hot

tea may reign supreme around the globe, but not here, where on an average day, Americans will consume on average 8.3 million gallons of iced tea a day. This June, as we celebrate National Iced Tea Month, we thought it would be fun to explore the origins of iced tea.

So how iced tea come into existence? Here's the brief history on a long-standing favorite.

### The History of Iced Tea:

Tea, at its origin, was always prepared and served hot. From its discovery through the development of centuries old traditions, the traditional way of steeping tea always began with hot water and tea leaves. That tradition carried over into Europe, when tea made its way there, and ultimately to the United States. Tea continued to be consumed hot for a majority of drinkers, however, recipes for 'iced tea' started to show up in publications in

the late 1800's.

Despite these early publications, it wasn't until 1904 when the beverage actually started to gain in popularity. It was at the World's Fair in St. Louis, that Richard Blechynden changed the course of how a majority of the United States would enjoy tea.

During the World's Fair, the weather was uncharacteristically warm, and Blechynden, a merchant and tea plantation owner, was having a hard time convincing fair goers to sample his hot tea. Understanding that people wanted something to help counteract the heat and cool people down, he decided to serve his tea samples cool. With this change, his tea sold so well that it gained national popularity. People began requesting iced tea instead of hot, and tea consumption in the United States was changed forever.

Whether you drink iced tea daily or just enjoy it as a refreshing drink in the warm wrath of summer, you can thank a very hot day at the World's Fair, and the desire of one tea entrepreneur with creating one of the biggest influences on how we drink tea in the United States.

And the rest, we say, is history.

## Summer 2025

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The White Heron Tea & Gifts, as seen on Daytime TV, ABC Action News, Bay News 9, and House Hunters. Featured in Tea Time Magazine, Destination Tea, Tampa Bay Magazine, Suncoast News, and Tampa Bay Times. Voted Best Tearoom in Tampa Bay by readers of the Tampa Bay Times Best of the Best (2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020)

# Dear Friends and Tea Lovers...

Happy Summer!

I can't believe that summer is already here, and we are half-way through 2025. This year continues to be unlike any other and has been keeping the tearoom and tea brand on its toes, as we continue to navigate unprecedented times.

As I look back on previous years, I can still see the lasting impacts that last Fall's hurricane season took on our businesses and our town. I was speaking with friends just the other day about their home that flooded during Hurricane Helene, and they are still in the early reconstruction phase, and still are not living in their home. This is the story of so many, and my heart continues to go out to them as they continue to recover.

With recovery still a long way away, the economic impacts continue to prolong recovery in our downtown historic and palm districts. So many locals were affected, and while they continue to try and support the mom-and-pop businesses that call Main Street home, the impact still runs deep.

This means most businesses, including the tearoom. With less seasonal visitors this winter, and less local traffic due to recovery, we once again find ourselves at the mercy of tough times. During Covid closures, guests used to ask us how we were doing, and while it was tough, looking back, I can say that this current time is just as tough, if not tougher. With closures and mandates we were able to navigate and offer unique options for our guest. When guests are affected and not here, that leads to a whole new path to navigate.

As we continue to navigate these times, we would love to ask for some help from you, our tea friends, so that we can continue to provide beautiful tea times and delicious teas for years to come. Here are a few simple things you can do, and ones that we would be so appreciative for.

## Like and follow us on social media:

Whether you are on Facebook or Instagram, search our names: The White Heron Tea & Gifts and Driftwood Tea Company and make sure you are liking and following them.

## Interact with our posts on social media:

Giving a quick thumbs up or occasionally commenting on our posts will ensure that you keep engaged with us and that you see new posts when they come up. This is especially important when wanting to know about upcoming events and activities. If you see a post, react to the post, it takes less than 2 seconds to thumbs up or heart us.

## Share our posts on social media:

Do you like what we are doing? If so, give the share button a push and share us with your friends and family. It's no fun keeping the tearoom a secret. We encourage you to share. You never know who else you know that may love teatime too!

## Write us a review:

We would love for you to share your experience with our tearoom and gift shop with the world. Hop on to Google, search our name, and leave us a review. We read all of them and know that many people searching online often make decisions about where they will visit based on the reviews they read.



## Share your knowledge about us with others:

The best marketing is 'word of mouth' marketing. When friends ask about places to go and things to do, we would love if you would share about our tearoom. It means the world to us to receive your vote of confidence and referral.

## Book a Teatime:

Of course, one of the best ways to support us is to stop in and enjoy tea with us. Whether in our full-service tearoom or our pop-in tea parlour, visiting us is the best way to support us, our team and our future.

If you aren't able to come to the tearoom, consider hosting a tea party at your home (or even the park) with our Afternoon Tea to Go.

All of these ways, mentioned above, will help ensure that your tearoom, The White Heron Tea & Gifts, continues to be around for many years to come, welcoming guests, providing a respite of relaxation and care, and remembering life's special moments.

Thank you for your continued love and support of our beautiful tearoom. Happy Steeping!

*Kelly M. Hackman*

PS. Thank you to all who voted for us in The Suncoast News Best of the Suncoast Reader's Choice 2025. Our gift shop was named the silver (2<sup>nd</sup> place) winner.

## Tea Room Policy Update

**Effective Immediately:** Guest who book a teatime one day prior to visiting for tea, will be required to make a 50% non-refundable deposit for their visit. Deposit will be taken via credit card and charged immediately. This deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE if you do not show up for your teatime.

When you show up for teatime, the deposit will be deducted from your bill, and you will just pay the remaining balance.

This change comes as we have had a large number of guests booking last minute and not showing up for their reservation. Instead of raising prices due to food loss, last minute reservations will be required to provide the 50% deposit.

We encourage you to book your teatime well in advance, in order to avoid this non-refundable charge.

For other policies, please visit our website at [www.TheWhiteHeronFL.com](http://www.TheWhiteHeronFL.com)

Thank you for your understanding.  
The White Heron Tea & Gifts

# Upcoming Events

## June 2025

### Scone Sunday - Sunday, June 21, 2025 - 11 am - 1 pm

Grab your favorite gal, guy, or both, and enjoy a catch up session over delicious tea and scones in our Tea Parlour. Scone Sunday features our "Cream Tea", including a pot of tea, and two scones (one flavored, one plain) with Devonshire cream. You can enjoy our Cream Tea for \$9.50. No reservation needed, just pop in from 11 am to 1 pm and enjoy this relaxing treat.

### Tea Leaf Reading with Dawne - Friday, June 27, 2025 - 4 pm - 7 pm

What are the tea leaves trying to tell you? Join our tea leaf reader, Dawne, as she looks into your destiny and answers your burning questions, by reading your tea leaves. 15-minute one-on-one session, guests should arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled reading time. \$25 per person. Your tea leaf reading time will be provided to you when you register. Call (727) 203-3504.

### Fourth Friday - Downtown New Port Richey - Friday, June 27, 2025 - 6 pm - 10 pm

Come downtown and enjoy New Port Richey's monthly event. The outdoor market that fills Downtown New Port Richey with creativity, community, and good vibes! Each Fourth Friday features a rotating lineup of talented artisans, makers, and small businesses offering handmade goods, art, jewelry, woodwork, gifts, and unique finds. **This month's theme: Stars & Guitars!** Celebrate summer with patriotic flair and country-inspired fun! **Stop into our gift shop until 8 pm this evening. Check social for event specials.**

### Red, White & Blue: Hometown Extravaganza - Saturday, June 28, 2025 - 4 pm - 9 pm

Join us in downtown New Port Richey for a star-spangled day of family fun, in Sims Park. This patriotic celebration is packed with entertainment for all ages, including: Bounce houses, waterslides, face paint, food trucks, field day activities and more, hotdog & watermelon eating competition, patriotic costume contest, live music, and **Fireworks!** Bring your lawn chairs, your appetite, and your community spirit—we can't wait to celebrate with you! Check out the New Port Richey Parks and Recreation page on social for more details!

## July 2025

### Golf Cart Patriotic Ride & Roll - Friday, July 3, 2025 - 7 pm

It's time to deck out your golf cart in red, white, and blue and roll through Downtown New Port Richey in style! Grab your crew, get festive, and join us for this beloved evening parade as we light up the streets with patriotic flair. Line up starts at 7 pm, ride starts at 8 pm. Hosted by New Port Richey Main Street.

**Our gift shop will be open until 8 pm this evening. Stop in for an iced tea to enjoy while watching the parade.**

### Tearoom & Gift Shop Closed for Holiday - Friday, July 4 - Sunday, July 6, 2025

Our tearoom and gift shop will be closed Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to allow for our staff to enjoy their 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday and Annual Summer vacation. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to serving you tea when we return on July 9<sup>th</sup>!

### Paint and Sip with Coastal Creations - Thursday, July 17, 2025 - 6 pm

Art and Tea? We can't think of a more lovely combination. Join us as we delve into our artistic side with a fun paint class from Coastal Creations. Held at the tearoom, we will be creating a painted glass piece while we sip on some delicious tea. \$40 per person includes all supplies, instructions, and tea.

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/335SNP60G4PWY/checkout/OOB7S6S6FF5YXPAYXBCIDMB4>

or call Coastal Creations at (727)843-1642 to register.



### Tea Leaf Reading with Dawne - Friday, July 25, 2025 - 4 pm - 7 pm

See listing above for more information. \$25 per person. Your tea leaf reading time will be provided to you when you register. Call (727) 203-3504 to reserve your tea leaf reading time and pay for your visit.

### Fourth Friday - Downtown New Port Richey - Friday, July 25, 2025 - 6 pm - 10 pm

Check out general event information above. **This month's theme: Neon Summer**

**Stop into our gift shop until 8 pm this evening. Check social for event specials.**

### Scone Sunday - Sunday, July 27, 2025 - 11 am - 1 pm

See June event for details

## August 2025

### End of Summer Tea After Dark - Thursday, August 14, 2025 - 6 pm

Dress in your colorful floral summer dresses or favorite Hawaiian shirt and join us for a cool end of summer tea party. Unlike our traditional tea parties, this event will feature summer-inspired tea and food selections in a laid back, summer chilled atmosphere. You won't want to miss this "coolest" event this summer! \$35 per person (plus tax and gratuity). Call to reserve your space (727) 203-3504

### Fourth Friday - Downtown New Port Richey - Friday, August 22, 2025 - 6 pm - 10 pm

Check out general event information above. **This month's theme: Back to School**

**Stop into our gift shop until 8 pm this evening. Check social for event specials.**

### Scone Sunday - Sunday, August 24, 2025 - 11 am - 1 pm

See June event for details

## Cold Steeping Your Iced Teas

It's summertime, and while we know most people consume iced tea over hot, many still steep their tea with heat and then pour it over ice. But what about cold steeping your iced tea?



Here's a few simple steps to creating delicious iced teas using this unique steeping method.

- Determine which tea you want to steep. While you can cold steep with loose tea, we recommend putting the loose tea in teabags (we recommend Tea Brew tea bags).
- Determine your brewing vessel. What are you going to make your tea in? A cup, a jug? Determine how big (how many ounces) of water the container holds.
- Determine how much tea you need. Rule of thumb is one tea bag per 8 ounces of water. Loose leaf tea uses approximately 1 tsp. of tea to 8 ounces of water.
- Fill vessel  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full of room temperature water.
- Add tea bags to water in vessel.
- Finish filling vessel with water, use lid to close vessel.
- Place vessel into refrigerator overnight.

### The Next Day.....

- Remove vessel from refrigerator.
- Remove lid and remove teabags from tea.
- Grab a cup of ice, pour tea over ice and enjoy!



## Scone Summer

### June 18 - August 31, 2025

Join us in our tearoom or tea parlour June 18<sup>th</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup> for tea and take-home scones to enjoy.

# \$2.50

(Plus tax - originally \$3)

Offer includes one plain and one flavored scone, and side Devonshire cream (no substitutions)

\*Limit, one per person, per visit. Offer not available for showers, private or special events. Scones are packaged to go.



The White Heron Tea & Gifts  
Driftwood Tea Company  
6228 Grand Boulevard  
New Port Richey, Florida 34652

## Featured *Summer Teas*

### Berry Creamsicle Black Tea

Notes of mixed berries and vanilla swirl together and bring back memories of cooling off in the warm summer heat with your favorite creamsicle.

**Luxury Ingredients:** Black tea, Strawberry pieces, Blueberry pieces, Hibiscus, Natural flavors.  
**Antioxidant Level:** High  
**Caffeine Content:** Low



### Strawberry Dream White Tea

Delicate floral notes of white tea and jasmine meld together with sweet strawberry to create a perfectly balanced tea. Close your eyes and take a walk through the beautiful blooming strawberry fields as the fruit ripens and is picked. This is very refreshing over ice.



### Cranberry Echinacea Herbal

This tea is light, slightly earthy with lots of herbs, and the light tartness of cranberry finish. It's great for building your body's immunity and recovering quicker from colds and flues. Steep hot or cold, this tea is a treat over ice.



Tea information available on [www.DriftwoodTeaCompany.com](http://www.DriftwoodTeaCompany.com)

Teas available beginning June 18<sup>th</sup>. Limited Edition teas available until sold out.

## CONTACT US

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.thewhiteheronfl.com](http://www.thewhiteheronfl.com)  
Enjoy our tea at home. Visit our tea website at  
[www.driftwoodteacompany.com](http://www.driftwoodteacompany.com)

**Reservations required for tearoom services. Please call a minimum of 24 hours in advance.**

*\*Large parties are encouraged to call well in advance as the tearoom fills quickly.*