# American tourist arrested in Herne Bay for carrying knife while sunbathing



An American tourist was arrested in Herne Bay, Kent, after admitting to carrying a knife while sunbathing on the beach. The incident occurred on Thursday, April 3, at approximately 10:30 AM, when local residents alerted Kent Police about a man seen with a knife in the Hampton area of the coastal town.

Witnesses reported that the individual, who is a US citizen visiting the UK, had been relaxing on the grass verge and listening to music when he was approached by officers. According to a police spokesman, the man openly stated that he hailed from an "open-carry" state in the United States and claimed he had the knife for personal protection. He was reportedly unaware of UK laws regarding the public carrying of knives.

Upon arrival, law enforcement took the tourist into custody on suspicion of possessing a knife in public. Following his arrest, he engaged with the police, who explained the relevant legal ramifications related to knife possession in the UK. As the situation unfolded, it was revealed that the knife in question was a steak knife that he had taken from the kitchen of his rental property.

Residents in the vicinity observed the police's response: “It was quite strange,” one witness told KentOnline. “I was just walking the dog along the seafront... and saw a man relaxing on the grass verge.” The witness noted the arrival of police officers and commented on the unusual circumstances of the situation.

After assessing the particulars of the case, police opted for a community resolution for the tourist, allowing him to receive guidance about UK knife regulations. Under British law, the maximum penalty for an adult unlawfully carrying a knife can include up to four years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both. Subsequent offences increase the likelihood of receiving a prison sentence. Notably, exceptions to this prohibition exist for certain types of knives, such as folding pocketknives that are non-locking and have a blade measuring no longer than three inches.

This incident highlights the importance of understanding and complying with local laws, particularly for international visitors unfamiliar with regulations surrounding knife possession.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/herne-bay-american-tourist-knife-police-kent-b2729469.html> - This URL supports the claim that an American tourist was arrested in Herne Bay for carrying a knife. It mentions the tourist's admission to possessing the knife for protection due to being from an open-carry state in the US.
* <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/herne-bay/news/american-holidaymaker-sparks-police-response-after-brandishi-322591/> - This article corroborates the details of the incident, including the location and time, as well as the tourist's misunderstanding of UK knife laws. It also mentions the police response and handling of the situation.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/herne-bay-american-tourist-knife-police-kent-b2729469.html> - This URL provides information about the maximum penalties for carrying knives in the UK and the specific exceptions allowed under UK law, such as for certain types of pocketknives.
* <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/herne-bay/news/american-holidaymaker-sparks-police-response-after-brandishi-322591/> - It highlights the witness accounts of the incident, including a dog walker who saw the tourist and the arrival of the police officers, adding to the unusual nature of the situation.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/herne-bay-american-tourist-knife-police-kent-b2729469.html> - The article explains the handling of the case by the police, including the decision to use a community resolution to inform the tourist about UK knife laws.