# British family’s Cancun holiday shattered by violent shootout at luxury resort



A British family's idyllic holiday in Cancun descended into chaos and terror when they became witnesses to a violent shootout at their luxury resort. Colin Nulty, his wife, and their 14-year-old daughter had invested nearly £8,000 in a two-week stay at the Riu Palace in Costa Mujeres, promising sun-soaked relaxation and tranquillity. However, their reprieve was shattered when an unthinkable event occurred mere metres from where they lounged beside the hotel pool.

The Nultys were not alone in their experience, as other tourists in the area have reported similar episodes of violence. Just days into their Indian summer escape, a "sketchy" atmosphere had already enveloped the resort, with Colin noting encounters with unaccredited individuals harassing guests and engaging in illicit activities. “They didn’t have hotel wristbands,” he recounted. “They were interacting with my daughter, demanding drinks and food, and the staff acted like they knew them.” Such observations raise alarming questions about security measures in place at high-end tourist destinations and the responsibilities of hotel management.

On that fateful morning, while Colin and his wife were poolside and their daughter safely in their room, gunfire erupted, sending guests scrambling for safety. “Everyone just dived down straight away,” Colin described. “We were hiding behind the sunbeds. My wife was crying, she was terrified. I messaged my daughter and told her to lock the door and hide.” As the horrifying scene unfolded, Colin instinctually rushed toward the source of the gunfire. Tragically, he found a man fatally shot, only to be confronted moments later by another armed individual. The quick thinking of Colin, who is a veteran firefighter, likely saved his family from further trauma as he guided them to safety.

In the aftermath, hotel guests were confined to their rooms while authorities conducted a thorough search for the assailants, who reportedly fled the scene. A police helicopter circled overhead, and panic-stricken holidaymakers were left to grapple with their harrowing experiences. Colin later recounted the state of his daughter upon their reunion: “She was white as a ghost and trembling with fear.” The family eventually learned through local news reports that the violent scene had stemmed from an undercover police operation—a fact that the hotel had not disclosed to them.

The incident highlights a burgeoning concern surrounding safety in popular tourist hotspots in Mexico. Recent statistics indicate an alarming rise in cartel-related violence, prompting authorities to issue travel advisories urging tourists to exercise caution when visiting areas known for such threats. In a similar vein, a Cambuslang family also faced traumatic consequences during their stay at the Hotel Riu Palace Peninsula, cutting their trip short after witnessing a man being shot multiple times in a separate incident at a nearby hotel.

These events are not isolated; they reflect a broader trend of increasing violence attributed to drug trafficking and cartel disputes. A recent shooting incident near the Riu Caribe hotel involved a 30-year-old man, with four gunmen escaping on jet skis—an alarming development that has drawn attention from the U.S. State Department. This surge in violence has not only raised concerns among holidaymakers but also poses significant risks to the local economy reliant on tourism.

As families like the Nultys and others navigate the aftermath of these traumatic events, the urgency for enhanced safety protocols within tourist accommodations has never been more pronounced. Tour operators, hotel management, and local authorities must collaborate more effectively to protect visitors. The responsibility lies not just with law enforcement but with the travel industry to ensure that holidays remain enjoyable rather than perilous.

Ultimately, the Nulty family's experience is a stark reminder of the fragile line between a dream vacation and a nightmare. With growing awareness of the rising risks tourists face, the hope is that proactive measures will emerge, ensuring that such tragic incidents become less frequent, allowing families to travel with peace of mind.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1
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7. Paragraph 7: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
8. Paragraph 8: 1

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2053646/british-family-hide-terror-gunfight> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-family-traumatised-after-man-27528193> - A Cambuslang family was left 'absolutely traumatised' after witnessing a shoot-out at their 5-star resort in Mexico, where a man was shot three times in the face at the poolside. The incident occurred at the Hotel Riu Palace Peninsula in Cancun, leading the family to cut their holiday short and return home early. The hotel offered alternative accommodation, but the family chose to leave due to the traumatic experience. TUI, the travel company, provided a pro-rata refund for the missed days of their holiday.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/tourists-flee-man-killed-shooting-cancun-assassins-flee-jet-skis-hotel-riu-b1185679.html> - Terrified tourists fled after four assassins gunned down a man outside the five-star Hotel Riu in Cancun. The victim, a 30-year-old Mexican national, was shot by the gunmen, two of whom escaped on jet skis. Guests sought shelter inside the hotel following the attack. Authorities are investigating whether the incident is related to drug trafficking and cartel-related crimes in Mexico. The U.S. State Department has issued travel advisories for Mexico, urging caution due to increased levels of cartel-related violence.
4. <https://people.com/man-killed-mexico-beach-gunmen-fled-jet-skis-8722509> - A 30-year-old Mexican national was shot and killed by four gunmen near the Riu Caribe hotel in Cancun. Two of the assailants fled on jet skis after the attack. The incident prompted nearby guests and staff to seek shelter. Authorities launched an investigation into the man's death, with a marina boat sent out to locate the suspects who had fled across the water. The U.S. embassy in Mexico is looking into reports of shots being fired at a resort in Cancun.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/04/cancun-tourists-luxury-hotel-gunmen-reports> - Tourists at a luxury hotel in Cancun rushed for shelter after a group of armed men entered the beach area and opened fire. Two men were killed in what state officials described as a confrontation between drug dealers at the Hyatt Ziva in Puerto Morelos, just south of Cancun. No tourists were seriously hurt or kidnapped. The incident highlights the ongoing violence in Mexico's tourist areas due to disputes between drug cartels over territory and trade.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/cancun-mexico-explosion-british-dad-killed-b2036186.html> - British businessman Chris Cleave was killed at a resort in Mexico when two men on a motorbike shot him close to his home in front of his teenage daughter. Mr. Cleave, 54, was shot in his vehicle while he was in traffic. Ahead of the murder, the real estate agent from Cornwall had been threatened by a drug cartel. There have been a number of recent instances of deadly violence at the resort, with a bar manager from Argentina being shot twice in the head, in addition to two Canadians who were killed during a January shootout.
7. <https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2019/06/british-families-flee-tulum-hotel-in-terror-after-gunman-shoots-lifeguard/> - A gunman opened fire on a beach lifeguard in Tulum, Mexico, near the Grand Bahia Principe Hotel, leading terrified British families to flee for their lives. The lifeguard was shot in the leg after a disagreement with a street vendor selling jewelry along the beachfront. The shooter fled the scene, and the lifeguard was taken to a hospital in Playa del Carmen. British tourists staying at the hotel were moved to different accommodations by Thomas Cook due to safety concerns.