# Jay Slater inquest reveals ease of drug access in Tenerife party hotspots



The tragic case of Jay Slater, a British teenager whose life was cut short during a holiday in Tenerife, has not only grieved his family but also ignited widespread concern about the rampant drug culture in popular tourist destinations. With an inquest revealing distressing details about Slater's final hours, many are now questioning how easily vulnerable youths can access dangerous substances in party hotspots like Playa de las Américas.

On the recent date of the inquest, toxicology reports painted a harrowing picture, suggesting that 19-year-old Slater was heavily intoxicated from a cocktail of Class A drugs, including cocaine and ecstasy, just prior to his untimely death last June. This prompted a visit from journalist Patrick Hill, who reported on the scene at the notorious Veronicas Strip, where he was offered drugs within mere moments of arriving. A street dealer reportedly wasted no time in offering cocaine, MDMA, and cannabis, highlighting how easily accessible these substances are, even as tourists are seemingly oblivious to the risks involved.

Playa de las Américas is well-known for its vibrant nightlife, but lurking beneath the allure is a darker reality where drug dealing and other criminal activities are rampant. The area has been marked by numerous drug trafficking arrests, with local authorities struggling to maintain a consistent presence in the face of a burgeoning underground narcotics trade. Notably, recent police actions included the arrest of a gang for distributing drugs like cocaine and hashish, demonstrating that the island is not so immune to organised crime as one might think.

Witness accounts during Jay Slater's inquest provided unsettling insights into his last moments. He was seen partying vibrantly at the Papagayo nightclub, exuding an energy consistent with drug intoxication, before reportedly wandering into precarious situations with individuals whose intentions remain questionable. His disappearance sparked a massive search operation, culminating in the tragic discovery of his body in a ravine, with injuries consistent with an accidental fall. Confirmation of his identity through fingerprint analysis further painted a grim picture of his fate. Jay’s mother, Debbie, expressed her profound heartbreak, lamenting the loss of her “beautiful boy” and the sheer unpredictability of the circumstances leading to his death.

The allure of the nightlife in places like Playa de las Américas, where cheap alcohol and drugs circulate freely, is difficult to resist for many young holidaymakers. Observations on the strip revealed not only the pervasive presence of drug dealers but also groups of teenagers inhaling nitrous oxide, also known as "hippy crack." Such open consumption of substances would raise alarm bells for any responsible local authority; however, many argue that police efforts appear insufficient, as uniformed officers patrol the perimeters rather than addressing the drug dealings happening directly on the streets.

The troubling reality resonates further given the accounts of local residents and holidaymakers expressing concern over crime, with reports of thefts and pickpocketing adding to the pervasive sense of unease. A bar worker, during Hill's visit, scoffed at the police presence, indicating that the actions were merely for show rather than genuine efforts to mitigate crime. Such attitudes towards enforcement illustrate the complexities faced by law enforcement in tackling drug-related issues while ensuring the safety of tourists.

In the wake of Jay Slater's tragic story, it becomes evident that the problems of drug abuse and crime are pressing issues that require immediate attention. As the inquest moves forward, the hope remains that his family's search for answers can also motivate broader discussions around the need for stringent measures and educational initiatives to protect young people in these enticing, yet perilous, holiday destinations.

Ultimately, justice for Jay Slater may hinge upon not only the legal ramifications of those involved in his last hours but also a communal effort to combat the ongoing danger that drugs present in tourist hotspots.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060077/i-went-strip-where-jay-slater-partied-10-seconds-i-offered-drugs), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-authorities-confirm-body-found-tenerife-is-missing-briton-jay-slater-2024-07-16/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060077/i-went-strip-where-jay-slater-partied-10-seconds-i-offered-drugs), [[5]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/jay-slater-missing-dark-side-33076445)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1923968/jay-slater-autopsy-cause-of-death), [[7]](https://tenerifeweekly.com/2024/07/25/jay-slater-tenerife-the-identity-of-the-other-mysterious-man-with-whom-jay-slater-spent-the-night-before-he-died-has-been-revealed/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-rescue-teams-find-remains-thought-be-missing-british-teenager-2024-07-15/), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/16/jay-slater-body-autopsy-tenerife-identified)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060077/i-went-strip-where-jay-slater-partied-10-seconds-i-offered-drugs), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-authorities-confirm-body-found-tenerife-is-missing-briton-jay-slater-2024-07-16/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-rescue-teams-find-remains-thought-be-missing-british-teenager-2024-07-15/), [[5]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/jay-slater-missing-dark-side-33076445)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1923968/jay-slater-autopsy-cause-of-death), [[7]](https://tenerifeweekly.com/2024/07/25/jay-slater-tenerife-the-identity-of-the-other-mysterious-man-with-whom-jay-slater-spent-the-night-before-he-died-has-been-revealed/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060077/i-went-strip-where-jay-slater-partied-10-seconds-i-offered-drugs> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-authorities-confirm-body-found-tenerife-is-missing-briton-jay-slater-2024-07-16/> - Spanish authorities confirmed that a body found in a remote area of Tenerife was that of missing British teenager Jay Slater. The 19-year-old had been missing since June 17, and his phone was last traced to the Masca ravine in a national park on the Canary Islands. His body was discovered on Monday morning by a Civil Guard mountain rescue group, with his possessions and clothes found nearby. The injuries sustained were consistent with an accidental fall. Slater's mother, Debbie, expressed her heartbreak over the tragic news through the British overseas missing persons charity, LBT Global. The charity’s chief executive, Matthew Searle, has pledged to assist the family in repatriating Slater's body and making funeral arrangements.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/spanish-rescue-teams-find-remains-thought-be-missing-british-teenager-2024-07-15/> - Rescue teams on the Spanish island of Tenerife discovered human remains believed to be those of missing British teenager Jay Slater. Slater, 19, disappeared on June 17, with his mobile phone last traced to the remote Masca ravine in a national park. Despite a large search operation ending on June 30, the Guardia Civil maintained a discrete search, leading to the discovery of remains near where his phone was last located. Items belonging to Slater were found alongside the remains, strengthening the likelihood they are his, but an autopsy is pending to confirm identity and cause of death. The family has been notified, and the case will be handled by a Tenerife court. Slater's mother recently arranged for Dutch experts to assist in the search, expressing her son's normal, hardworking nature and the love of those who know him.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/16/jay-slater-body-autopsy-tenerife-identified> - The court said injuries on his body suggested his death had been caused by an accidental fall. “We have a positive identification and more data, fingerprint tests show that the body is [that] of Jay Slater and that the death was caused by trauma consistent with a fall in a rocky area,” a statement by the high court of justice in the Canary Islands said. Slater’s mother, Debbie Duncan, said in a statement that confirmation of his death was the “worst news”. “I just can’t believe this could happen to my beautiful boy,” she said. “Our hearts are broken.” Slater had been staying with a group of friends on the coast and had attended the NRG music festival in the nearby resort of Playa De Las Americas. He had left the festival and gone with two men to their Airbnb in the remote Rural de Teno national park, about 11 hours on foot from where he was staying.
5. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/jay-slater-missing-dark-side-33076445> - Local media have reported several drug trafficking arrests in recent years. In June 2023, the National Police arrested 13 members of an organised crime gang for trafficking drugs in the Canaries, Canarian Weekly reports. Officers seized 5kg of cocaine, 94kg of hashish, and 26,000 euros in cash. A local media report states the gang was moving drugs by sea from the ferry port in Agaete (Gran Canaria) to Santa Cruz (Tenerife), before distributing it around the island. In September 2022, the same local news site reported two British drug dealers had been arrested in the south of Tenerife at Los Cristianos. In November 2023, Canarian Weekly reported a similar arrest involving nine people on suspicion of using cannabis clubs as a front to sell drugs to foreign tourists in the south of Tenerife around Playa de las Américas. Cannabis clubs in Tenerife are legal, but they are only allowed to sell licensed amounts of marijuana and other narcotics on the premises to members of the club's association so sales and usage are regulated. In this case, 5.5 kilograms of marijuana, 1 kilogram of hashish, 49 hallucinogenic mushrooms, and over 1,600 euros in cash were seized.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1923968/jay-slater-autopsy-cause-of-death> - Jay Slater's body was found on Tenerife. Jay Slater's cause of death has been revealed after the missing teenager's body was recovered from a remote ravine in Tenerife on Monday. A Civil Guard spokesman said the 19-year-old's injuries included broken bones, suggesting he had a catastrophic fall. She said: "The body of the man located yesterday has been identified of that as Jay Slater through fingerprint comparison and identification. "The result of the preliminary autopsy points to the cause of death being a fall or plunge from height due to the broken bones he suffered." The 19-year-old, who had been holidaying with friends on the island, disappeared on June 17 after travelling to a remote Airbnb near Masca with two men he met following a rave in Playa de las Americas.
7. <https://tenerifeweekly.com/2024/07/25/jay-slater-tenerife-the-identity-of-the-other-mysterious-man-with-whom-jay-slater-spent-the-night-before-he-died-has-been-revealed/> - The family of Jay Slater has been visibly affected after learning the news about their son’s whereabouts. Although the young man’s parents could not rule out this possibility, they also never imagined it would become a reality. After four weeks, the body of Jay was found at the foot of a ravine in the Masca area, to the north of the island and near the point where he had been sought since his disappearance. He was last seen in the company of two unknown men, with whom he headed to an apartment in the remote village of Masca. One of them, Ayub Qassim, a well-known drug dealer, stated that he offered to take Jay back, but he preferred to take a bus. The other man has broken his silence. Known only as ‘Rocky’, he and the convicted drug dealer wanted to speak out to discredit conspiracy theories and told ‘Tik Tok detectives’ to “have some respect.” Final moments before death Jay had been partying at the nightclub Papagayo in Playa de las Américas before travelling in a rented car to the remote Masca with Rocky and Qassim. The young man shared a final post on Snapchat at 7:30 in the morning on the apartment stairs, holding a cigarette in his hand. Jay left around 8:30 in the morning and made a last phone call to his friend Lucy, saying he was lost, needed water, and had only one percent battery left on his mobile phone. Another theory suggests that Jay had stolen a £12,000 Rolex watch. Former detective Mark Williams-Thomas also suggested that Jay felt “scared” when he left the apartment on the morning of his death. When asked how he felt, Qassim stated, “I don’t know why he was scared, and he’s not here to answer that question. I don’t want to say it, people could be going through something in their own heads, who knows, you know what I mean?” While Rocky admitted, “I got drunk, I was sleeping in the car. Why didn’t he charge his phone? I don’t know, I was asleep.