

# Cuba closes borders to non-residents over virus: president

March 20 2020

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Cuba announced on Friday the closure of its borders to non-residents due to the coronavirus pandemic, having previously tried to remain open to keep its key tourism industry alive.

"We're going to regulate the entry at the country's borders, allowing only Cuban residents to enter," said President Miguel Diaz-Canel after updating Cuba's [number](#) of confirmed cases to 21, with one Italian tourist having died.

Economically crippled by US sanctions, Cuba is largely dependent on its tourism revenue.

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