The A-Ma Temple is ordinarily the first stop in the morning for buses filled with Chinese tourists, who flock to the 500-year-old site to light incense and pray for good fortune before hitting the casinos.

Swinging luck in one's favor is paramount in the world's gambling mecca, which is why the shrine offers a $375 joss stick as thick as a lamp post that takes two people to carry and looks like it needs a flamethrower to ignite.

On a recent weekday, however, the temple was barren apart from a custodian who guarded the green pagoda tiled entrance with a handheld infrared thermometer, making sure no would-be visitors exhibited signs of the deadly new strain of coronavirus .

Macao, which has 10 confirmed cases of the illness, isn't on lockdown like cities across the border in mainland China. But the former Portuguese enclave has ground to a virtual standstill ever since the government took the unprecedented measure last week of closing the territory's 41 casinos for half a month.

Hotels are locking their doors. Popular live shows are suspended. And the city's notoriously seedy spas are shuttered, unheard of even during the worst typhoons .

天然南非鑽石
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https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-02-10/macao-casinos-shutdown