

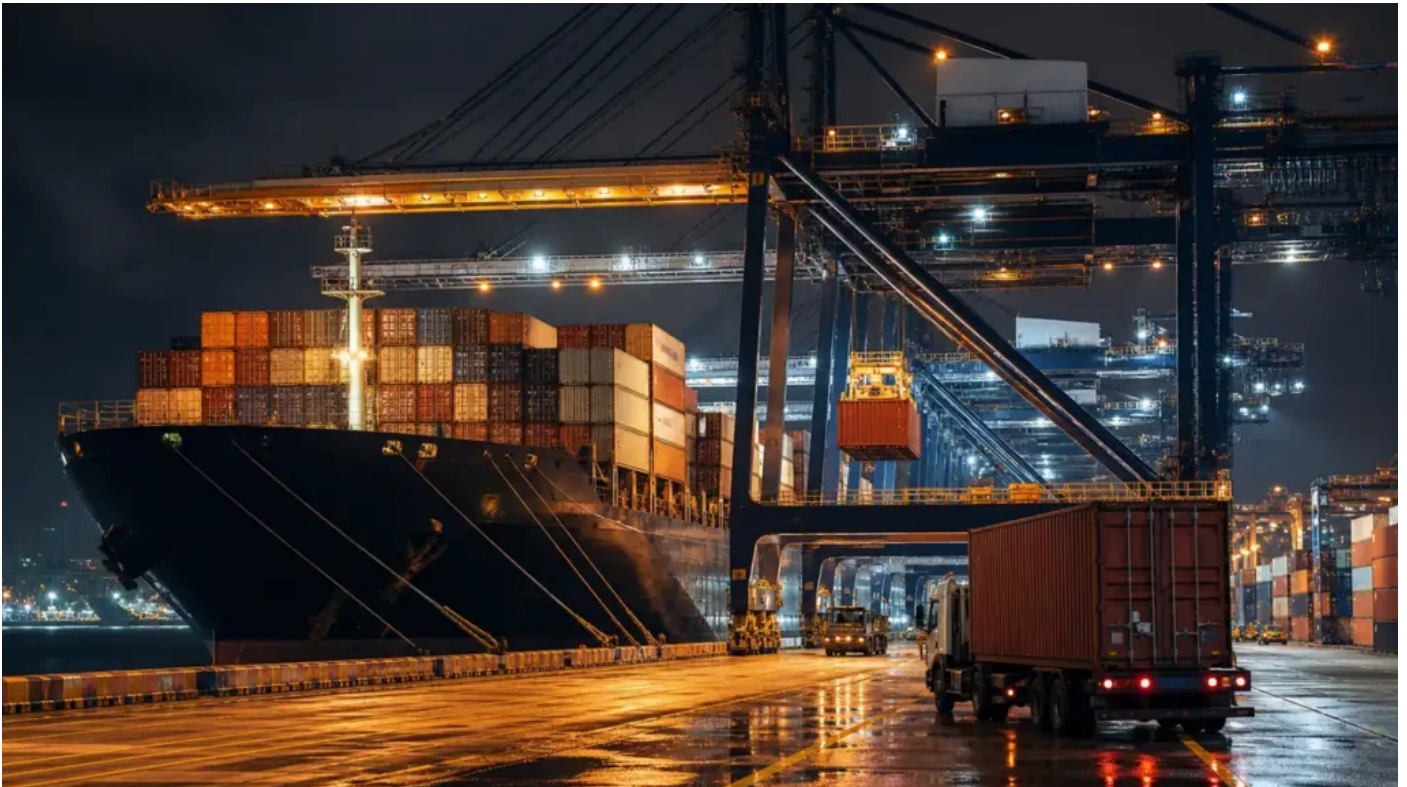
Sea Freight from China to Muara

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☐ Sea Freight

China → Muara · via BWN air / Muara sea · clearance by Royal Customs and Excise Department



Cargo handling on the China-Muara lane.

For buyers shipping into Muara, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Muara is Brunei's only deep-water container port; cargo enters through BWN air / Muara sea, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

Clearance itself is handled by Royal Customs and Excise Department, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 2-5 days.

What you will pay on arrival in Brunei

Royal Customs and Excise Department assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Muara consignees. Current regime: No VAT or GST; duty 0-20% depending on commodity; excise on selected goods, with a de-minimis position of BND 400 on personal

consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Halal certification for food; AITI approval for radio equipment. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Brunei: Alcohol imports are prohibited for Muslim consignees and tightly controlled generally. Halal rules apply to a wide range of food and ingredient imports.

How this lane actually runs

Brunei is a small-volume market usually served by transshipment through Singapore, Kota Kinabalu or Muara feeder services. Direct China calls are rare, so realistic transit planning should assume one transshipment and a feeder window.

Sea gateways used	Muara Port
Sea transit, China to gateway	7-12 calendar days
Gateway serving Muara	BWN air / Muara sea
Inland leg to Muara	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2-5 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the BWN air / Muara sea routing serving Muara.

Before you book: Muara checklist

- Confirm the consignee in Muara can act as importer of record — Royal Customs and Excise Department will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Muara delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Brunei lane.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Muara take?

China to the Brunei gateway is 7–12 calendar days. On top of that, allow 2–5 days of clearance with Royal Customs and Excise Department and a same-day inland leg to Muara.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Muara?

Royal Customs and Excise Department applies: No VAT or GST; duty 0–20% depending on commodity; excise on selected goods. The de-minimis position is BND 400 on personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Muara.

What documents does Royal Customs and Excise Department require?

A commercial invoice with HS codes, a packing list, the bill of lading or air waybill, a certificate of origin where it lowers duty, and any product certification (Halal certification for food; AITI approval for radio equipment). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

What certification do I need for Brunei?

For regulated goods, plan for: Halal certification for food; AITI approval for radio equipment. Missing conformity paperwork is the single most common cause of a hold, and in most cases it cannot be remedied once the cargo has arrived.

When is the busiest time on the China–Brunei lane?

Space and rates tighten around Sep–Nov, plus the China-side windows of Chinese New Year in January or February and Golden Week in early October. Book one to two weeks earlier in those periods.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Muara?

Yes. Battery cargo by sea moves under UN3480/UN3481 with an MSDS, and the dangerous-goods documentation is prepared as part of the booking into Muara Port. Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

Other delivery cities in Brunei

- [China to Bandar Seri Begawan](#)
- [China to Kuala Belait](#)
- [China to Seria](#)
- [China to Tutong](#)

[All Brunei freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Brunei change by ministerial decision, sometimes mid-year. The figures on this page are buyer-planning references, not a customs ruling — confirm the current position for your own HS code with Royal Customs and Excise Department or your broker before you ship.

- [Royal Customs and Excise Department](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)

Page data last reviewed: August 2026.

Shipping by industry

This page covers the route and clearance picture for the destination. Packing, classification and the compliance step that actually holds a shipment depend on what you are sending — these guides cover that by commodity.

- [Kitchen Appliances Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Home Decor Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Technical Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Wigs & Hair Products Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Fire Alarm Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Restaurant Furniture Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Amusement Equipment Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Gifts Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Amazon FBA E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Metal Fabrication Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)

- [Cutting Tools Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Compressors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

FCL Container Rates — China to Muara

Live port-to-port ocean freight for a full container into Muara, by origin port. Ocean freight only — origin haulage, customs clearance and destination delivery are quoted separately.

Shekou → Muara

Container	Rate (USD)
20GP	1,100
40HQ	2,050

- Carrier: STIC

[Full route page — Shekou to Muara →](#)

Spot allocations move week to week — reconfirm the rate against the current sailing before booking.

Price Trend — Muara

Live rate for the linked route page, shown here for a quick read before you click through.

Get a rate for Muara

This lane is quoted per shipment rather than from a published rate card, because the landed cost depends on the commodity, its density, the conformity requirements above and the delivery point. Send the cargo details and we will come back with a full DDP

figure.

[Request a quote](#) → [See the Brunei route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Brunei

Current published rates — USD

☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,100.00**

40HQ **USD 2,050.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐ Cargo Weight (KG)

☐ Enter the actual gross weight of your shipment in kilograms. If you're unsure, fill in the volume fields below and we'll calculate it for you.

☐ Or enter volume (cm) — volumetric weight ÷ 6000

× ×

Non-integers rounded up. Larger of actual vs volumetric is used.

☐ Number of Boxes

Total chargeable weight = weight per box × number of boxes.

⚠ When you have not filled in the volume information, our prices may be inaccurate.