

Shipping from China to Bintulu

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Asia Pacific

China → Bintulu · via BTU air / Bintulu sea · clearance by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM)



Cargo handling on the China-Bintulu lane.

For buyers shipping into Bintulu, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Bintulu is Sarawak LNG and industrial port; cargo enters through BTU air / Bintulu sea, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

On the destination side, Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) handles clearance; budget 2-4 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

What the routing looks like in practice

Peninsular Malaysia is served through Port Klang and Tanjung Pelepas with very frequent South China sailings. East Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) is a separate customs territory in practice — cargo transships at Klang or Singapore and adds 5–8 days plus a second clearance step, so quote Kuching and Kota Kinabalu separately.

Air gateways used	KUL (Kuala Lumpur), PEN (Penang), BKI (Kota Kinabalu)
Air transit, China to gateway	3–5 business days
Sea gateways used	Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas, Penang
Sea transit, China to gateway	5–9 calendar days
Gateway serving Bintulu	BTU air / Bintulu sea
Inland leg to Bintulu	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2–4 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Bintulu

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Bintulu consignees. Current regime: Sales tax 5–10% plus 10% low-value-goods tax on online orders under MYR 500; duty 0–30%, largely 0% under ACFTA, with a de-minimis position of MYR 500 (low-value goods sold online are taxed regardless).

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Malaysia: Electrical goods without a SIRIM label are routinely detained. Alcohol, e-cigarettes and vape liquid are restricted. Direct-to-consumer parcels are subject to the low-value goods tax collected at the point of sale.



Handling on the BTU air / Bintulu sea routing serving Bintulu.

Air, sea or overland into Bintulu?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	3-5 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	5-9 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Malaysia gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Bintulu and 2-4 days of clearance.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Malaysia lane.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients.
- Put the Bintulu delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Mode guides for Bintulu

- [✈ Air Freight to Bintulu](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Bintulu](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Bintulu take?

China to the Malaysia gateway is 3–5 business days by air, 5–9 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 2–4 days of clearance with Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) and a same-day inland leg to Bintulu.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Bintulu?

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) applies: Sales tax 5–10% plus 10% low-value-goods tax on online orders under MYR 500; duty 0–30%, largely 0% under ACFTA. The de-minimis position is MYR 500 (low-value goods sold online are taxed regardless). Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Bintulu.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Bintulu?

Yes. Delivery to a Bintulu address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), and the same-day inland leg. Confirm whether your consignee wants the goods at a warehouse, a marketplace fulfilment centre or a shop front, because the last-mile requirement differs.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Bintulu?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 5–9 calendar days by sea versus 3–5 business days by air to the Malaysia gateway, before clearance and the same-day inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Bintulu?

We compare actual gross weight against volumetric weight — length × width × height in centimetres divided by 6000 for air — and bill the greater of the two, rounded up to the next kilogram. Light, bulky cargo is almost always billed on volume.

Which port or airport does cargo for Bintulu clear through?

Cargo for Bintulu is routed via BTU air / Bintulu sea. Sea gateways for Malaysia are Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas, Penang; air gateways are KUL (Kuala Lumpur), PEN (Penang), BKI (Kota Kinabalu). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Other delivery cities in Malaysia

- [China to Samalaju](#)
- [China to Lahad Datu](#)
- [China to Sibu](#)
- [China to Sandakan](#)

- [China to Tawau](#)
- [China to Kuala Lumpur](#)
- [China to Shah Alam](#)
- [China to Klang](#)
- [China to Johor Bahru](#)
- [China to Penang](#)
- [China to Ipoh](#)
- [China to Melaka](#)

[All Malaysia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Malaysia 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 Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) or your broker before you ship.

- [Royal Malaysian Customs Department](#)
- [SIRIM QAS International](#)
- [Port Klang Authority](#)
- [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 \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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.

- [Medical Device Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Beauty Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Inflatable Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Flowers Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Retail Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Sheet Metal Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Storage Tanks Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)

- [Electric Motors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Agricultural Drones Agriculture & Livestock Equipment](#)
- [Wire & Cable New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Lighting Automotive & Vehicles](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

FCL Container Rates — China to Bintulu

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

Shekou → Bintulu

Container	Rate (USD)
20GP	1,200
40HQ	2,250

- Carrier: STIC

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

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

Price Trend — Bintulu

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

Get a rate for Bintulu

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 Malaysia route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Malaysia

Current published rates — USD

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,200.00**

40HQ **USD 2,250.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,250.00**

40HQ **USD 2,350.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 950.00**

40HQ **USD 1,750.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,250.00**

40HQ **USD 2,350.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,350.00**

40HQ **USD 2,550.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,500.00**

40HQ **USD 2,850.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,350.00**

40HQ **USD 2,550.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,500.00**

40HQ **USD 2,850.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,500.00**

40HQ **USD 2,850.00**

Updated 2026-08-14

☐ SEA

Sea · FCL Port-to-Port (Spot)

20GP **USD 1,500.00**

40HQ **USD 2,850.00**

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.