

Shipping from China to Samalaju

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Asia Pacific

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



Cargo handling on the China-Samalaju lane.

For buyers shipping into Samalaju, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Samalaju is Sarawak heavy-industry park port; cargo enters through BTU air / Samalaju sea, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

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

How this lane actually runs

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 Samalaju	BTU air / Samalaju sea
Inland leg to Samalaju	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2–4 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Samalaju

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Samalaju 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 / Samalaju sea routing serving Samalaju.

Air, sea or overland into Samalaju?

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 +1 day inland leg to Samalaju and 2-4 days of clearance.

Before you book: Samalaju checklist

- Check the de-minimis position (MYR 500 (low-value goods sold online are taxed regardless)) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Malaysia duty rate against it yourself.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Mode guides for Samalaju

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Samalaju 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 +1 day inland leg to Samalaju.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Samalaju?

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 Samalaju.

When is the busiest time on the China–Malaysia 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Samalaju clear through?

Cargo for Samalaju is routed via BTU air / Samalaju 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Samalaju?

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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Samalaju?

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 +1 day inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

Other delivery cities in Malaysia

- [China to Bintulu](#)
- [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.

- [Illuminated Signs Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Outdoor Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Office Supplies Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Cross-border E-commerce E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Metal Products Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Architectural Hardware Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Production Line Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Aerial Work Platform Construction, Mining & Material Handling](#)
- [Switchgear New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)

- [Automotive Electronics Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Sanitary Ware Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Pallet Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

FCL Container Rates — China to Samalaju

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

Shekou → Samalaju

Container	Rate (USD)
20GP	1,350
40HQ	2,550

- Carrier: STIC

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

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

Price Trend — Samalaju

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

Get a rate for Samalaju

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.