

Sea Freight from China to Sandakan

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☒ Sea Freight

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



Cargo handling on the China-Sandakan lane.

Freight from China into Sandakan clears through SDK air / Sandakan sea. Sandakan is east Sabah commercial port, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 2-4 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

Routing and transit on this lane

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.

Sea gateways used	Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas, Penang
Sea transit, China to gateway	5–9 calendar days
Gateway serving Sandakan	SDK air / Sandakan sea
Inland leg to Sandakan	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2–4 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

Import duty and tax position for Sandakan

Imports into Malaysia are cleared by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM). The headline position is: 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 threshold is 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 SDK air / Sandakan sea routing serving Sandakan.

Pre-shipment checklist for Sandakan

- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep-Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- 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.
- 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.
- Put the Sandakan delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Sandakan take?

China to the Malaysia gateway is 5–9 calendar days. On top of that, allow 2–4 days of clearance with Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) and a +1 day inland leg to Sandakan.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Sandakan?

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 Sandakan.

What certification do I need for Malaysia?

For regulated goods, plan for: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients. 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–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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Sandakan?

Yes. Delivery to a Sandakan address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), and the +1 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.

What documents does Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) 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 (SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Other delivery cities in Malaysia

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

- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Connectors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Air Conditioning Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Kitchenware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Home Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

FCL Container Rates — China to Sandakan

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

Shekou → Sandakan

Container	Rate (USD)
20GP	1,500
40HQ	2,850

- Carrier: STIC

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

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

Price Trend — Sandakan

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

Get a rate for Sandakan

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.