

Shipping from China to Baku

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Central Asia

China → Baku · via GYD air / Alat sea · clearance by State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan



Cargo handling on the China-Baku lane.

Baku is capital, Caspian port and Middle Corridor pivot, and it is served through GYD air / Alat sea. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

Clearance itself is handled by State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3–8 days.

What the routing looks like in practice

Baku's Alat port is the pivot of the Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor, the rail-and-ferry route from China to Europe that bypasses Russia. Volumes on this corridor have grown fast since 2022, but Caspian ferry capacity is the bottleneck and schedules are less predictable than the northern rail route. Air via GYD is the reliable option for time-critical cargo.

Air gateways used	GYD (Baku Heydar Aliyev)
Air transit, China to gateway	3-5 business days
Sea gateways used	Baku (Alat) on the Caspian — the Middle Corridor hub
Sea transit, China to gateway	18-26 calendar days via the Middle Corridor
Gateway serving Baku	GYD air / Alat sea
Inland leg to Baku	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

What you will pay on arrival in Azerbaijan

State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Baku consignees. Current regime: VAT 18%; customs duty 0-15%, with a de-minimis position of USD 300 for personal parcels.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: AZS conformity certificate for regulated goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Azerbaijan: Middle Corridor transit involves several customs jurisdictions and a Caspian ferry leg with variable waiting time. Confirm whether your quote covers the ferry surcharge.



Handling on the GYD air / Alat sea routing serving Baku.

Air, sea or overland into Baku?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	3-5 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Rail Freight	18-26 calendar days via the Middle Corridor	inland destinations where sea is slow and air is expensive

Transit shown is China departure to the Azerbaijan gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Baku and 3-8 days of clearance.

Before you book: Baku checklist

- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Azerbaijan lane.
- Confirm the consignee in Baku can act as importer of record — State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- 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: AZS conformity certificate for regulated goods.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Azerbaijan duty rate against it yourself.

Mode guides for Baku

- → [Air Freight to Baku](#)
- □ [Rail Freight to Baku](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Baku take?

China to the Azerbaijan gateway is 3-5 business days by air, 18-26 calendar days via the Middle Corridor by sea. On top of that, allow 3-8 days of clearance with State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan and a same-day inland leg to Baku.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Baku?

State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan applies: VAT 18%; customs duty 0-15%. The de-minimis position is USD 300 for personal parcels. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Baku.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Baku?

Yes. Delivery to a Baku address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, and the same-day inland leg. Confirm whether your consignee wants the goods at a warehouse, a marketplace fulfillment center or a shop front, because the last-mile requirement differs.

What documents does State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan 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 (AZS conformity certificate for regulated goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Baku?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via GYD (Baku Heydar Aliyev). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Baku?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 18–26 calendar days via the Middle Corridor by sea versus 3–5 business days by air to the Azerbaijan 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.

Other delivery cities in Azerbaijan

- [China to Ganja](#)
- [China to Sumqayit](#)
- [China to Mingachevir](#)

[All Azerbaijan freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Azerbaijan 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 State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan or your broker before you ship.

- [State Customs Committee](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)

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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.

- [Footwear Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Furniture Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Display Stands Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)

- [Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Baby Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Bathroom Accessories Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [E-commerce Fulfilment E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Bearings Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Automation Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Electronics Manufacturing Equipment Specialised Production Machinery](#)
- [Generators New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Azerbaijan duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan against your declared HS code at the time of entry; where the amount is material, verify the current rate through [ITC Market Access Map](#) before committing to an order.

If you want to sanity-check a duty figure yourself, start from the heading rather than the product name — [the WCO Harmonized System](#) is the underlying nomenclature, and [the WTO Tariff & Trade Data portal](#) holds the applied rates by country pair.

For ocean cargo, restricted commodities move under [the IMO's IMDG Code](#), and the container has to be declared and stowed accordingly. Batteries, flammables and corrosives all have a compliant ocean path; what causes rolled bookings is finding out about them after the container is packed.

On the origin side, export declaration and any commodity inspection requirement fall under [China Customs \(GACC\)](#); we handle that filing as part of the service, but the requirement is theirs, not ours.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Baku. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Ocean Freight 101 - What Is LCL Ocean Freight — Flexport. Published on YouTube by a third party; we link it because it explains the process well, not because we produced it or endorse the provider.

Get a rate for Baku

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 →](#)

Freight Rates to Azerbaijan

⚖ 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.

Baku, Azerbaijan Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Baku, Azerbaijan — GYD air / Alat sea gateway, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan clearance, same day onward. Sea and air both covered.

Get a Quote

Send the cargo details and we respond within one business day with a full DDP figure for Baku.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Baku by Mode

- [All modes — Baku](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [☐ Rail Freight](#)

Other Cities in Azerbaijan

- [China to Ganja](#)
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Other Central Asia Destinations

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- [Shipping to Turkmenistan](#)

- [Shipping to Uzbekistan](#)

Customs clearance in Azerbaijan

Duty and tax position, certification, typical port dwell and what actually holds shipments at this border — plus who files the entry.

[Azerbaijan clearance requirements](#) →