

Sea Freight from China to Sarajevo

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□ Sea Freight

China → Sarajevo · via SJJ air / Ploce transit · clearance by Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Cargo handling on the China-Sarajevo lane.

Sarajevo is capital and main consumer market, and it is served through SJJ air / Ploce transit. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 4–9 days.

Duty, tax and clearance into Sarajevo

Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Sarajevo consignees. Current regime: VAT 17% flat; customs duty 0–15%, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Conformity requirements largely aligned to EU technical regulations. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Transit through Croatia or Montenegro requires bonded movement documents. Customs valuation disputes are relatively common — keep supporting price evidence with the shipment.

Routing and transit on this lane

Ploče in Croatia is the natural sea gateway and Bar in Montenegro the alternative, both followed by a road leg under transit. The single 17% VAT rate keeps landed-cost modeling simple compared with neighboring markets, but the two-country routing means two sets of documentation.

Sea gateways used	Landlocked in practice — via Ploče (Croatia) or Bar (Montenegro)
Sea transit, China to gateway	30–40 calendar days plus inland leg
Gateway serving Sarajevo	SJJ air / Ploce transit
Inland leg to Sarajevo	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	4–9 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the SJJ air / Ploce transit routing serving Sarajevo.

Before you book: Sarajevo checklist

- Confirm the consignee in Sarajevo can act as importer of record — Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina lane.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Sarajevo take?

China to the Bosnia and Herzegovina gateway is 30–40 calendar days plus inland leg. On top of that, allow 4–9 days of clearance with Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a +1 day inland leg to Sarajevo.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Sarajevo?

Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina applies: VAT 17% flat; customs duty 0–15%. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Sarajevo.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Sarajevo?

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 Landlocked in practice — via Ploče (Croatia) or Bar (Montenegro). Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

What documents does Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 (Conformity requirements largely aligned to EU technical regulations). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Which port or airport does cargo for Sarajevo clear through?

Cargo for Sarajevo is routed via SJJ air / Ploče transit. Sea gateways for Bosnia and Herzegovina are Landlocked in practice — via Ploče (Croatia) or Bar (Montenegro); air gateways are SJJ (Sarajevo), BNX (Banja Luka). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Sarajevo?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 30–40 calendar days plus inland leg by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina

- [China to Banja Luka](#)
- [China to Tuzla](#)
- [China to Mostar](#)
- [China to Zenica](#)

[All Bosnia and Herzegovina freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina or your broker before you ship.

- [Indirect Taxation Authority](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)

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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.

- [Headphones Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Home Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Garden Products Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Bosnia and Herzegovina duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Sarajevo. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — 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 Sarajevo

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina

✚ 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.

Sea Freight to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Sea Freight from China to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Transit 30–40 calendar days plus inland leg to the gateway, 4–9 days dwell, +1 day inland. Duty, documents and packing.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Sarajevo by Mode

- [All modes — Sarajevo](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- [China to Banja Luka](#)
- [China to Tuzla](#)
- [China to Mostar](#)
- [China to Zenica](#)

Other Europe Destinations

- [Shipping to Albania](#)
- [Shipping to Cyprus](#)
- [Shipping to Iceland](#)
- [Shipping to Malta](#)
- [Shipping to Moldova](#)
- [Shipping to Montenegro](#)
- [Shipping to North Macedonia](#)
- [Shipping to Norway](#)

Customs clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

[Bosnia and Herzegovina clearance requirements →](#)