

# Shipping from China to Mindelo

China Ocean Freight · [chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-cape-verde/mindelo](https://chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-cape-verde/mindelo)

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Cape Verde](#)
4. Mindelo

Africa

China → Mindelo · via SID air / Porto Grande sea · clearance by Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde



Cargo handling on the China-Mindelo lane.

Freight from China into Mindelo clears through SID air / Porto Grande sea. Mindelo is the main commercial port on Sao Vicente, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 4-10 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

## What the routing looks like in practice

Cape Verde is an archipelago, so cargo lands at Praia or Mindelo and then moves between islands by coastal vessel — a leg that is easy to underestimate. Asian cargo transships through Las Palmas, Lisbon or Algeciras. Tourism drives the demand pattern, with

the build-up ahead of the European winter season.

|                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Air gateways used</b>             | RAI (Praia), SID (Sal)        |
| <b>Air transit, China to gateway</b> | 6–9 business days             |
| <b>Sea gateways used</b>             | Praia, Mindelo (Porto Grande) |
| <b>Sea transit, China to gateway</b> | 26–36 calendar days           |
| <b>Gateway serving Mindelo</b>       | SID air / Porto Grande sea    |
| <b>Inland leg to Mindelo</b>         | Same day from the gateway     |
| <b>Typical clearance / dwell</b>     | 4–10 days                     |
| <b>Peak season to plan around</b>    | Sep–Nov                       |

## Import duty and tax position for Mindelo

Imports into Cape Verde are cleared by Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde. The headline position is: VAT 15%; duty 0–50% depending on commodity. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; health registration for food. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

**Restrictions and known friction points for Cape Verde:** Inter-island distribution is a separate cost and schedule element. Transshipment through European or Canary Island hubs is the norm. Confirm which island is the actual delivery point.



Handling on the SID air / Porto Grande sea routing serving Mindelo.

## Air, sea or overland into Mindelo?

| Mode                 | Transit to gateway  | Best suited to                                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| → <b>Air Freight</b> | 6–9 business days   | time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo           |
| ☐ <b>Sea Freight</b> | 26–36 calendar days | volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed |

Transit shown is China departure to the Cape Verde gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Mindelo and 4–10 days of clearance.

## What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Cape Verde lane.
- 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 Cape Verde duty rate against it yourself.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Mindelo.

## Mode guides for Mindelo

- [➔ Air Freight to Mindelo](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Mindelo](#)

## Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Mindelo take?

China to the Cape Verde gateway is 6–9 business days by air, 26–36 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 4–10 days of clearance with Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde and a same-day inland leg to Mindelo.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Mindelo?

Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde applies: VAT 15%; duty 0–50% depending on commodity. 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 Mindelo.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Mindelo?

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

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Mindelo?

We compare actual gross weight against volumetric weight — length × width × height in centimeters 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Mindelo?

Yes. Delivery to a Mindelo address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde, 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 certification do I need for Cape Verde?

For regulated goods, plan for: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; health registration for food. 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.

## Other delivery cities in Cape Verde

- [China to Praia](#)
- [China to Espargos](#)
- [China to Assomada](#)

[All Cape Verde freight information →](#)

## References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Cape Verde 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 Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde or your broker before you ship.

- [Direcção Geral das Alfândegas](#)
- [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 \(PI 965–970\)](#)

Page data last reviewed: 8 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.

- [Bathroom Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Engineering Plastics Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Ceramic Components Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [Data Center Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Home Appliances Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Laboratory Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Fabric Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Luggage Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Fire Protection Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Illuminated Signs Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Outdoor Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Office Supplies Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

## Checking the Cape Verde duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde 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.

Most landed-cost surprises trace back to classification rather than freight. [the WCO Harmonized System](#) defines the heading structure every customs administration builds on, and [ITC Market Access Map](#) will show you the duty a given heading attracts in this destination.

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.

## Watch: the process behind this route

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

Marine Insurance Explained - Understand the Cargo Insurance You're Getting — ABTS®. 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 Mindelo

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 Cape Verde

☞ 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.

Shipping from China to Mindelo, Cape Verde: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Mindelo: gateway SID air / Porto Grande sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Direcção Geral das Alfândegas de Cabo Verde. Transit, documents and restrictions.

## Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

## Mindelo by Mode

- [All modes — Mindelo](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

## Other Cities in Cape Verde

- [China to Praia](#)
- [China to Espargos](#)
- [China to Assomada](#)

## Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)
- [Shipping to Burundi](#)
- [Shipping to Comoros](#)
- [Shipping to Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
- [Shipping to Djibouti](#)
- [Shipping to Egypt](#)
- [Shipping to Eswatini](#)
- [Shipping to Ethiopia](#)

## Customs clearance in Cape Verde

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

[Cape Verde clearance requirements →](#)