

Air Freight from China to Heredia

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→ Air Freight

China → Heredia · via SJO air / Moin sea · clearance by Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica



Cargo handling on the China-Heredia lane.

Freight from China into Heredia clears through SJO air / Moin sea. Heredia is technology and services free-zone cluster, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 3–8 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

What you will pay on arrival in Costa Rica

Imports into Costa Rica are cleared by Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica. The headline position is: IVA 13%; duty 0–15% under the Central American tariff, plus selective consumption tax on some goods. The de-minimis threshold is USD 500 for courier

consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Ministry of Health registration for food, cosmetics and devices; conformity for regulated electricals. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Costa Rica: Free-zone versus ordinary import status changes the duty treatment entirely. Health registration must be held by the consignee for regulated goods.

How this lane actually runs

Moín on the Caribbean side handles most container volume and receives Asian cargo transshipped through Panama or Cartagena; Caldera on the Pacific is smaller but sometimes faster for west-coast consignees. Costa Rica's free-zone regime is heavily used by medical-device and electronics manufacturers, and inputs moving into a free zone are treated very differently from ordinary imports.

Air gateways used	SJO (San José)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-6 business days
Gateway serving Heredia	SJO air / Moín sea
Inland leg to Heredia	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the SJO air / Moín sea routing serving Heredia.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Confirm the consignee in Heredia can act as importer of record — Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Heredia delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- 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 Costa Rica duty rate against it yourself.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Heredia.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Heredia take?

China to the Costa Rica gateway is 4–6 business days. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica and a same-day inland leg to Heredia.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Heredia?

Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica applies: IVA 13%; duty 0–15% under the Central American tariff, plus selective consumption tax on some goods. The de-minimis position is USD 500 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Heredia.

Which port or airport does cargo for Heredia clear through?

Cargo for Heredia is routed via SJO air / Moín sea. Sea gateways for Costa Rica are Moín (APM Terminals, Limón), Caldera; air gateways are SJO (San José). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

What certification do I need for Costa Rica?

For regulated goods, plan for: Ministry of Health registration for food, cosmetics and devices; conformity for regulated electricals. 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Heredia?

Yes. Delivery to a Heredia address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica, 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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Heredia?

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

Other delivery cities in Costa Rica

- [China to Puerto Limon](#)
- [China to San Jose](#)
- [China to Alajuela](#)
- [China to Cartago](#)
- [China to Limon](#)
- [China to Liberia](#)

[All Costa Rica freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Costa Rica 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 Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica or your broker before you ship.

- [Dirección General de Aduanas](#)
- [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 \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Conveyor Belts Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)

- [Electronic Components Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Computer Hardware Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Kitchen Appliances Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Home Decor Furniture & Home Products](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Costa Rica duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica 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.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

On the air side, anything with a cell or a battery in it, plus liquids, powders, magnets and aerosols, is governed by [the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations](#). Those articles are not refused outright, but they need to be declared at booking so the shipment is built correctly — declaring them late is the single most common cause of an air consignment being offloaded.

For a wider view of how importing into Costa Rica actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Costa Rica customs regulations](#) is a useful independent read alongside our own lane notes.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

[How to Check Import Tariffs for Any Country | HS Code Lookup Tutorial 2026 — Vixnk - English](#). 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 Heredia

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 Costa Rica route page →](#)

Freight Rates to Costa Rica

⚖ 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.

Heredia Air Freight, Costa Rica: Cost, Transit & Customs

Air Freight to Heredia: 4-6 business days in transit, cleared by Dirección General de Aduanas de Costa Rica, same day to the door.

What the rate covers and what it does not.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Heredia by Mode

- [All modes — Heredia](#)
- ☐ [Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Costa Rica

- [China to Puerto Limon](#)
- [China to San Jose](#)
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- [China to Liberia](#)

Other Americas Destinations

- [Shipping to Argentina](#)
- [Shipping to Bolivia](#)
- [Shipping to Brazil](#)
- [Shipping to Chile](#)
- [Shipping to Colombia](#)
- [Shipping to Dominican Republic](#)
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- [Shipping to El Salvador](#)

Route Page

- [Costa Rica DDP route details →](#)
- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Costa Rica

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

[Costa Rica clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Costa Rica

- [Ningbo to Puerto Limon FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Shanghai to Puerto Limon Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Ship Yantian to Puerto Limon — FCL Container Cost from China](#)