

Air Freight from China to Djibouti City

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Djibouti](#)
4. [Djibouti City](#)
5. [Air Freight](#)

→ Air Freight

China → Djibouti City · via JIB air / Doraleh sea · clearance by Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration



Cargo handling on the China–Djibouti City lane.

We move air freight cargo from South China into Djibouti City through JIB air / Doraleh sea. Djibouti City is capital, port and free-zone hub, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

On the destination side, Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration handles clearance; budget 3–8 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

Routing and transit on this lane

Djibouti's economy is built around being Ethiopia's port, and the Djibouti International Free Trade Zone exists precisely to stage that transit cargo. If the real destination is Addis Ababa, structuring the move as a free-zone entry and then a separate Ethiopian import is often cleaner and cheaper than a single through-movement.

Air gateways used	JIB (Djibouti Ambouli)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-7 business days
Gateway serving Djibouti City	JIB air / Doraleh sea
Inland leg to Djibouti City	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Djibouti City

Imports into Djibouti are cleared by Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration. The headline position is: VAT 10%; duty generally low, with free-zone exemption for transit and re-export cargo. 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; free-zone registration for transit operations. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Djibouti: Distinguish clearly between Djibouti domestic import and free-zone transit to Ethiopia — the duty and documentation differ completely. Corridor trucking capacity tightens with Ethiopian demand.



Handling on the JIB air / Doraleh sea routing serving Djibouti City.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Confirm the consignee in Djibouti City can act as importer of record — Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- 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.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Djibouti City.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Djibouti City take?

China to the Djibouti gateway is 4-7 business days. On top of that, allow 3-8 days of clearance with Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration and a same-day inland leg to Djibouti City.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Djibouti City?

Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration applies: VAT 10%; duty generally low, with free-zone exemption for transit and re-export cargo. 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 Djibouti City.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Djibouti City?

Yes. Delivery to a Djibouti City address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration, 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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Djibouti City?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 20–28 calendar days by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the Djibouti 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Djibouti City?

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.

What certification do I need for Djibouti?

For regulated goods, plan for: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; free-zone registration for transit operations. 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 Djibouti

- [China to Djibouti](#)
- [China to Doraleh](#)
- [China to Ali Sabieh](#)

[All Djibouti freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Djibouti 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 Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration or your broker before you ship.

- [Djibouti Ports and Free Zones 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](#)

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.

- [Amazon FBA E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Metal Fabrication Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Cutting Tools Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Compressors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Automated Storage Equipment Construction, Mining & Material Handling](#)
- [Electrical Cabinets New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Glass Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Doors & Windows Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Paper Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Connectors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Djibouti duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration 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.

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.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Air Freight from China: Soaring Through the Skies of Global Trade — SINO Shipping. 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 Djibouti City

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 Djibouti route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Djibouti

📦 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.

Djibouti City Air Freight, Djibouti: Cost, Transit & Customs

Air Freight to Djibouti City: 4-7 business days in transit, cleared by Djibouti Customs and Indirect Taxation Administration, 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 Djibouti City.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry](#) →

Djibouti City by Mode

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

Other Cities in Djibouti

- [China to Djibouti](#)
- [China to Doraleh](#)
- [China to Ali Sabieh](#)

Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)

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

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Djibouti

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

[Djibouti clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Djibouti

- [Ningbo to Djibouti Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Ship Shanghai to Djibouti — FCL Container Cost from China](#)