

Sea Freight from China to Santiago de los Caballeros

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□ Sea Freight

China → Santiago de los Caballeros · via STI air / Caucedo sea · clearance by Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA)



Cargo handling on the China-Santiago de los Caballeros lane.

We move sea freight cargo from South China into Santiago de los Caballeros through STI air / Caucedo sea. Santiago de los Caballeros is northern industrial and free-zone center, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

Clearance itself is handled by Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA), and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3–8 days.

Import duty and tax position for Santiago de los Caballeros

Imports into Dominican Republic are cleared by Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA). The headline position is: ITBIS 18%; duty 0–20%, plus selective consumption tax on some categories. The de-minimis threshold is USD 200 for courier consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Health registration for food, cosmetics and devices; INDOCAL conformity 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 Dominican Republic: Free-zone versus ordinary import changes duty entirely. Health registration is required for regulated consumer goods. Tourism-driven demand peaks ahead of the winter season.

Routing and transit on this lane

Caucedo is a modern DP World terminal and one of the better-run gateways in the Caribbean, with direct and transshipped Asian services. The country's free-zone sector is large and its duty treatment differs sharply from ordinary import, so establish which regime the consignee operates under before quoting.

Sea gateways used	Caucedo (DP World), Haina, Puerto Plata
Sea transit, China to gateway	26–34 calendar days
Gateway serving Santiago de los Caballeros	STI air / Caucedo sea
Inland leg to Santiago de los Caballeros	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3–8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the STI air / Caucedo sea routing serving Santiago de los Caballeros.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Confirm the consignee in Santiago de los Caballeros can act as importer of record — Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Santiago de los Caballeros delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Health registration for food, cosmetics and devices; INDOCAL conformity for regulated goods.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Dominican Republic lane.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Santiago de los Caballeros take?

China to the Dominican Republic gateway is 26–34 calendar days. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA) and a +1 day inland leg to Santiago de los Caballeros.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Santiago de los Caballeros?

Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA) applies: ITBIS 18%; duty 0–20%, plus selective consumption tax on some categories. The de-minimis position is USD 200 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Santiago de los Caballeros.

What documents does Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA) 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 (Health registration for food, cosmetics and devices; INDOCAL conformity for regulated goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Santiago de los Caballeros?

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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Santiago de los Caballeros clear through?

Cargo for Santiago de los Caballeros is routed via STI air / Caucedo sea. Sea gateways for Dominican Republic are Caucedo (DP World), Haina, Puerto Plata; air gateways are SDQ (Santo Domingo), STI (Santiago), PUJ (Punta Cana). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Santiago de los Caballeros?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 26–34 calendar days by sea versus 4–6 business days by air to the Dominican Republic 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 Dominican Republic

- [China to Caucedo](#)
- [China to Santo Domingo](#)
- [China to La Romana](#)
- [China to Punta Cana](#)
- [China to San Pedro de Macoris](#)
- [China to Haina](#)

[All Dominican Republic freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Dominican Republic 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 (DGA) 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 \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Cross-border E-commerce E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)

- [Metal Products Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Architectural Hardware Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Production Line Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Dominican Republic duty position yourself

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

For a wider view of how importing into Dominican Republic actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Dominican Republic 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 Santiago de los Caballeros. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

LCL vs FCL | Difference Between Full Container Load & Less than Container Load | Which is better ? — 10 Min For Supply Chain.

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 Santiago de los Caballeros

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 Dominican Republic route page →](#)

Freight Rates to Dominican Republic

⚙ 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.

China to Santiago de los Caballeros Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Santiago de los Caballeros by sea freight — 26–34 calendar days transit, 3–8 days port dwell, duty assessed by Dirección General de Aduanas (DGA).

Get a Quote

Send the cargo details and we respond within one business day with a full DDP figure for Santiago de los Caballeros.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Santiago de los Caballeros by Mode

- [All modes — Santiago de los Caballeros](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Dominican Republic

- [China to Caucedo](#)
- [China to Santo Domingo](#)
- [China to La Romana](#)
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Other Americas Destinations

- [Shipping to Argentina](#)
- [Shipping to Bolivia](#)
- [Shipping to Brazil](#)
- [Shipping to Chile](#)
- [Shipping to Colombia](#)
- [Shipping to Costa Rica](#)
- [Shipping to Ecuador](#)
- [Shipping to El Salvador](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Dominican Republic

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

[Dominican Republic clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Dominican Republic

- [Shanghai to Caucedo Container Shipping — 40HQ Rates](#)
- [Ship Ningbo to Caucedo — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Yantian to Caucedo FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)