

# Shipping from China to Escuintla

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Guatemala](#)
4. Escuintla

Americas

China → Escuintla · via GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea · clearance by SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala



Cargo handling on the China-Escuintla lane.

Escuintla is the province containing the main Pacific port, and it is served through GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 4–10 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

## Import duty and tax position for Escuintla

SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Escuintla consignees. Current regime: IVA 12%; Central American common tariff 0–15%, with a de-minimis position of USD 100 for courier consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Health registration for food and cosmetics; 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 Guatemala:** Road onward delivery into El Salvador and Honduras is straightforward but constitutes a separate customs event. Valuation reviews on consumer goods are common.

## What the routing looks like in practice

Puerto Quetzal on the Pacific coast is the shorter routing from China and avoids the Panama Canal, so it is usually both cheaper and faster than the Atlantic side. Guatemala is also the largest Central American consumer market, which makes it a sensible regional entry point when serving several neighboring countries by road.

|                               |                                                              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air gateways used             | GUA (Guatemala City)                                         |
| Air transit, China to gateway | 4-7 business days                                            |
| Sea gateways used             | Puerto Quetzal (Pacific), Santo Tomás de Castilla (Atlantic) |
| Sea transit, China to gateway | 22-30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal                        |
| Gateway serving Escuintla     | GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea                                 |
| Inland leg to Escuintla       | Same day from the gateway                                    |
| Typical clearance / dwell     | 4-10 days                                                    |
| Peak season to plan around    | Sep-Nov                                                      |



Handling on the GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea routing serving Escuintla.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Guatemala duty rate against it yourself.
- Put the Escuintla delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.

Air, sea or overland into Escuintla?

| Mode          | Transit to gateway                    | Best suited to                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ➔ Air Freight | 4–7 business days                     | time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo           |
| 🚢 Sea Freight | 22–30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal | volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed |

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

## Mode guides for Escuintla

- [✈ Air Freight to Escuintla](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Escuintla](#)

## Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Escuintla take?

China to the Guatemala gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 22–30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal by sea. On top of that, allow 4–10 days of clearance with SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala and a same-day inland leg to Escuintla.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Escuintla?

SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala applies: IVA 12%; Central American common tariff 0–15%. The de-minimis position is USD 100 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Escuintla.

What documents does SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala 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 and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

What certification do I need for Guatemala?

For regulated goods, plan for: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods. 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.

When is the busiest time on the China–Guatemala lane?

Space and rates tighten around Sep–Nov, plus the China-side windows of Chinese New Year in January or February and Golden Week in early October. Book one to two weeks earlier in those periods.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Escuintla?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 22–30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the Guatemala 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.

## Other delivery cities in Guatemala

- [China to Puerto Quetzal](#)
- [China to Guatemala City](#)
- [China to Mixco](#)
- [China to Villa Nueva](#)
- [China to Quetzaltenango](#)

[All Guatemala freight information →](#)

## References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Guatemala 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 SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala or your broker before you ship.

- [SAT — Aduanas](#)
- [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 \(PI 965–970\)](#)

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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.

- [Sheet Metal Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Storage Tanks Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Electric Motors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Agricultural Drones Agriculture & Livestock Equipment](#)
- [Wire & Cable New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Lighting Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Flooring Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Cartons Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Flexible Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Capacitors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Smart Home Products Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Refrigeration Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

## Checking the Guatemala duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala 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.

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

Sea Freight from China: How to import from China to your country via Ocean Shipping — 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 Escuintla

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 Guatemala route page](#) →

## Freight Rates to Guatemala

📦 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.

Escuintla, Guatemala Freight from China: Transit & Customs

Cargo from China to Escuintla, Guatemala clears through GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea. SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala assesses duty and tax; the inland leg adds same day.

## Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

## Escuintla by Mode

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

## Other Cities in Guatemala

- [China to Puerto Quetzal](#)
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- [China to Villa Nueva](#)
- [China to Quetzaltenango](#)

## Other Americas Destinations

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

## Route Page

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

## Customs clearance in Guatemala

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

[Guatemala clearance requirements →](#)

## Priced routes to Guatemala

- [Shanghai to Puerto Quetzal FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Ningbo to Puerto Quetzal: Cost & Transit](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Yantian to Puerto Quetzal: Cost & Transit](#)