

Shipping from China to Guatemala City

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Americas

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



Cargo handling on the China–Guatemala City lane.

For buyers shipping into Guatemala City, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Guatemala City is capital and the largest Central American market; cargo enters through GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

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.

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 Guatemala City	GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea
Inland leg to Guatemala City	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	4-10 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Guatemala City

SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Guatemala City 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.



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

Air, sea or overland into Guatemala City?

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 +1 day inland leg to Guatemala City and 4-10 days of clearance.

Pre-shipment checklist for Guatemala City

- Check the de-minimis position (USD 100 for courier consignments) 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.
- Put the Guatemala City 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.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Guatemala City.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods.

Mode guides for Guatemala City

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Guatemala City 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 +1 day inland leg to Guatemala City.

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

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 Guatemala City.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Guatemala City?

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 +1 day inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

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.

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

Yes. Delivery to a Guatemala City address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala, and the +1 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Guatemala 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.

Other delivery cities in Guatemala

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

[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.

- [Personal Protective Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Beauty Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Inflatable Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Flowers Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Retail Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [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](#)

[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.

If this is your first shipment into Guatemala, the [Guatemala Country Commercial Guide](#) covers the practical import environment in more depth than a rate page reasonably can, and it is written by a party with no stake in your booking.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — Flexport. 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 Guatemala 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 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.

Guatemala City, Guatemala Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Guatemala City, Guatemala — GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea gateway, SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala clearance, +1 day onward. Sea and air both covered.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Guatemala City by Mode

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

Other Cities in Guatemala

- [China to Puerto Quetzal](#)
- [China to Mixco](#)
- [China to Villa Nueva](#)
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Other Americas Destinations

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- [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](#)