

Sea Freight from China to Guatemala City

China Ocean Freight · chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-guatemala/guatemala-city/sea-freight

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Guatemala](#)
4. [Guatemala City](#)
5. Sea Freight

□ Sea Freight

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.

We move sea freight cargo from South China into Guatemala City through GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea. Guatemala City is capital and the largest Central American market, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

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 you will pay on arrival in Guatemala

Imports into Guatemala are cleared by SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala. The headline position is: IVA 12%; Central American common tariff 0–15%. The de-minimis threshold is 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.

How this lane actually runs

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.

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



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

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- 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 Guatemala duty rate against it yourself.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Health registration for food and cosmetics; conformity for regulated goods.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Put the Guatemala City delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Guatemala City.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Guatemala City take?

China to the Guatemala gateway is 22–30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal. 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Guatemala City clear through?

Cargo for Guatemala City is routed via GUA air / Puerto Quetzal sea. Sea gateways for Guatemala are Puerto Quetzal (Pacific), Santo Tomás de Castilla (Atlantic); air gateways are GUA (Guatemala City). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

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.

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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Guatemala City?

Yes. Battery cargo by sea moves under UN3480/UN3481 with an MSDS, and the dangerous-goods documentation is prepared as part of the booking into Puerto Quetzal (Pacific), Santo Tomás de Castilla (Atlantic). Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

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 \(PI 965-970\)](#)

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.

- [Aluminum Coils Steel & Metal Materials](#)
- [Pipe Fittings Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Assembly Line Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Semiconductor Equipment Specialised Production Machinery](#)
- [Transformers New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Brake Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Ceramic Tiles Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Bathroom Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Engineering Plastics Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Ceramic Components Glass & Ceramic Products](#)

- [Data Center Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Home Appliances 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.

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 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 Guatemala City. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Bill of Lading Explained (BOL) | Types, Components & Full Beginner Guide | Shipping Document — 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 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 Sea Freight, Guatemala: Cost, Transit & Customs

Sea Freight to Guatemala City: 22–30 calendar days to Puerto Quetzal in transit, cleared by SAT — Intendencia de Aduanas de Guatemala, +1 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 Guatemala City.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Guatemala City by Mode

- [All modes — Guatemala City](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Guatemala

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

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](#)