

Shipping from China to Sulaymaniyah

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Iraq](#)
4. Sulaymaniyah

Middle East

China → Sulaymaniyah · via ISU air / Umm Qasr sea · clearance by General Commission of Customs, Iraq



Cargo handling on the China-Sulaymaniyah lane.

For buyers shipping into Sulaymaniyah, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Sulaymaniyah is second Kurdistan Region commercial center; cargo enters through ISU air / Umm Qasr sea, and allow +3 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by General Commission of Customs, Iraq, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 7-15 days.

What you will pay on arrival in Iraq

General Commission of Customs, Iraq assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Sulaymaniyah consignees. Current regime: Customs duty 0.5-30% plus a reconstruction levy; regional variations apply in the Kurdistan Region, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Certificate of Conformity (COC) issued pre-shipment under the Iraqi conformity program is mandatory for most goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Iraq: A pre-shipment COC is mandatory for most commercial goods; cargo arriving without it faces heavy penalties. Security and route conditions affect inland delivery. Confirm which customs administration applies to the final destination.

How this lane actually runs

Umm Qasr is the sea gateway for federal Iraq, while the Kurdistan Region is more often served by air into Erbil or overland from Turkey and Iran. The two administrations apply customs differently, so the destination city changes the process — not just the trucking leg. A pre-shipment Certificate of Conformity is the single most important document on this lane.

Air gateways used	BGW (Baghdad), EBL (Erbil), BSR (Basra)
Air transit, China to gateway	4–7 business days
Sea gateways used	Umm Qasr
Sea transit, China to gateway	20–30 calendar days
Gateway serving Sulaymaniyah	ISU air / Umm Qasr sea
Inland leg to Sulaymaniyah	+3 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	7–15 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the ISU air / Umm Qasr sea routing serving Sulaymaniyah.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Put the Sulaymaniyah delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Certificate of Conformity (COC) issued pre-shipment under the Iraqi conformity program is mandatory for most goods.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Iraq lane.
- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Budget for the inland leg: +3 days beyond gateway clearance to reach Sulaymaniyah.

Air, sea or overland into Sulaymaniyah?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4–7 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	20–30 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Iraq gateway and excludes the +3 days inland leg to Sulaymaniyah and 7–15 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Sulaymaniyah

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Sulaymaniyah take?

China to the Iraq gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 20–30 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 7–15 days of clearance with General Commission of Customs, Iraq and a +3 days inland leg to Sulaymaniyah.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Sulaymaniyah?

General Commission of Customs, Iraq applies: Customs duty 0.5–30% plus a reconstruction levy; regional variations apply in the Kurdistan Region. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Sulaymaniyah.

What certification do I need for Iraq?

For regulated goods, plan for: Certificate of Conformity (COC) issued pre-shipment under the Iraqi conformity program is mandatory for most 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 Sulaymaniyah?

Yes. Delivery to a Sulaymaniyah address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to General Commission of Customs, Iraq, and the +3 days 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Sulaymaniyah clear through?

Cargo for Sulaymaniyah is routed via ISU air / Umm Qasr sea. Sea gateways for Iraq are Umm Qasr; air gateways are BGW (Baghdad), EBL (Erbil), BSR (Basra). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Sulaymaniyah?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via BGW (Baghdad), EBL (Erbil), BSR (Basra). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

Other delivery cities in Iraq

- [China to Umm Qasr](#)
- [China to Baghdad](#)
- [China to Basra](#)
- [China to Erbil](#)
- [China to Mosul](#)

- [China to Najaf](#)

[All Iraq freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Iraq 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 General Commission of Customs, Iraq or your broker before you ship.

- [General Commission of Customs](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)

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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 Iraq duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by General Commission of Customs, Iraq 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 Iraq actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Iraq 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 Sulaymaniyah. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Customs Clearance & Export/Import Procedures Explained | International Trade Made Simple — International Trade Talk. 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 Sulaymaniyah

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 Iraq route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Iraq

📦 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.

Sulaymaniyah, Iraq Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq — ISU air / Umm Qasr sea gateway, General Commission of Customs, Iraq clearance, +3 days 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 Sulaymaniyah.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Sulaymaniyah by Mode

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

Other Cities in Iraq

- [China to Umm Qasr](#)
- [China to Baghdad](#)
- [China to Basra](#)
- [China to Erbil](#)
- [China to Mosul](#)
- [China to Najaf](#)

Other Middle East Destinations

- [Shipping to Bahrain](#)
- [Shipping to Israel](#)
- [Shipping to Jordan](#)
- [Shipping to Kuwait](#)
- [Shipping to Lebanon](#)
- [Shipping to Oman](#)
- [Shipping to Qatar](#)
- [Shipping to Turkey](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Iraq

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

[Iraq clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Iraq

- [Shipping a Container from Ningbo to Umm Qasr: Cost & Transit](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Shanghai to Umm Qasr: Cost & Transit](#)