

Air Freight from China to Luang Prabang

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➔ Air Freight

China → Luang Prabang · via LPQ air / Boten rail · clearance by Lao Customs Department



Cargo handling on the China-Luang Prabang lane.

Luang Prabang is northern tourism city on the rail line, and it is served through LPQ air / Boten rail. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

On the destination side, Lao Customs Department handles clearance; budget 3-8 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

What the routing looks like in practice

Laos is the one landlocked ASEAN market with a direct rail link to China. The Boten-Vientiane railway puts Kunming within roughly 30 hours of Vientiane, and container rail is now usually cheaper and faster than trucking through Thailand. Conventional sea freight

has to transit Laem Chabang or Hai Phong and then move overland, which adds a second customs event.

Air gateways used	VTE (Vientiane), LPQ (Luang Prabang)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-6 business days
Gateway serving Luang Prabang	LPQ air / Boten rail
Inland leg to Luang Prabang	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Oct-Dec

What you will pay on arrival in Laos

Lao Customs Department assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Luang Prabang consignees. Current regime: VAT 10%; duty 5-40%, with ACFTA and RCEP preference on a Form E, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Import license for controlled categories; Form E for duty preference. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Laos: Transit through Thailand or Vietnam creates a bonded-movement step that must be documented in advance. Fuel, vehicles and controlled goods need specific licenses. Rail bookings tighten sharply around Chinese New Year.



Handling on the LPQ air / Boten rail routing serving Luang Prabang.

Before you book: Luang Prabang checklist

- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Laos duty rate against it yourself.
- Confirm the consignee in Luang Prabang can act as importer of record — Lao Customs Department will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Laos lane.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Luang Prabang take?

China to the Laos gateway is 4–6 business days. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Lao Customs Department and a +1 day inland leg to Luang Prabang.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Luang Prabang?

Lao Customs Department applies: VAT 10%; duty 5–40%, with ACFTA and RCEP preference on a Form E. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Luang Prabang.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Luang Prabang?

Yes. Delivery to a Luang Prabang address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Lao Customs Department, 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 Luang Prabang?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via VTE (Vientiane), LPQ (Luang Prabang). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

What documents does Lao Customs Department 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 (Import license for controlled categories; Form E for duty preference). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Luang Prabang?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 10–16 calendar days via Thai or Vietnamese transit port by sea versus 4–6 business days by air to the Laos 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 Laos

- [China to Vientiane](#)
- [China to Savannakhet](#)
- [China to Pakse](#)
- [China to Boten](#)

[All Laos freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Laos 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 Lao Customs Department or your broker before you ship.

- [Lao Customs Department](#)
- [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.

- [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](#)
- [Cartons Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)

- [Flexible Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Laos duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Lao Customs Department 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.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

On the air side, anything with a cell or a battery in it, plus liquids, powders, magnets and aerosols, is governed by [the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations](#). Those articles are not refused outright, but they need to be declared at booking so the shipment is built correctly — declaring them late is the single most common cause of an air consignment being offloaded.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

The Customs Clearance Process: A Comprehensive Guide — ShipERP by ERP Integrated Solutions. 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 Luang Prabang

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 →](#)

Freight Rates to Laos

✚ 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.

Luang Prabang Air Freight, Laos: Cost, Transit & Customs

Air Freight to Luang Prabang: 4–6 business days in transit, cleared by Lao Customs Department, +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 Luang Prabang.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Luang Prabang by Mode

- [All modes — Luang Prabang](#)
- [Rail Freight](#)

Other Cities in Laos

- [China to Vientiane](#)
- [China to Savannakhet](#)
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Other Asia Pacific Destinations

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- [Shipping to Malaysia](#)
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- [Shipping to Myanmar](#)

Customs clearance in Laos

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

[Laos clearance requirements →](#)