

Shipping from China to Penang

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Asia Pacific

China → Penang · via PEN air / Penang Port sea · clearance by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM)



Cargo handling on the China-Penang lane.

We move freight cargo from South China into Penang through PEN air / Penang Port sea. Penang is semiconductor and electronics manufacturing hub, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

Clearance itself is handled by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), and typical dwell at the gateway runs 2-4 days.

What you will pay on arrival in Malaysia

Imports into Malaysia are cleared by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM). The headline position is: Sales tax 5-10% plus 10% low-value-goods tax on online orders under MYR 500; duty 0-30%, largely 0% under ACFTA. The de-minimis threshold is MYR 500 (low-value goods sold online are taxed regardless).

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Malaysia: Electrical goods without a SIRIM label are routinely detained. Alcohol, e-cigarettes and vape liquid are restricted. Direct-to-consumer parcels are subject to the low-value goods tax collected at the point of sale.

Routing and transit on this lane

Peninsular Malaysia is served through Port Klang and Tanjung Pelepas with very frequent South China sailings. East Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) is a separate customs territory in practice — cargo transships at Klang or Singapore and adds 5-8 days plus a second clearance step, so quote Kuching and Kota Kinabalu separately.

Air gateways used	KUL (Kuala Lumpur), PEN (Penang), BKI (Kota Kinabalu)
Air transit, China to gateway	3-5 business days
Sea gateways used	Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas, Penang
Sea transit, China to gateway	5-9 calendar days
Gateway serving Penang	PEN air / Penang Port sea
Inland leg to Penang	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2-4 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the PEN air / Penang Port sea routing serving Penang.

Before you book: Penang checklist

- Put the Penang delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Penang.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep-Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Malaysia duty rate against it yourself.

Air, sea or overland into Penang?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	3-5 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	5-9 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Malaysia gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Penang and 2-4 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Penang

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Penang take?

China to the Malaysia gateway is 3–5 business days by air, 5–9 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 2–4 days of clearance with Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) and a same-day inland leg to Penang.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Penang?

Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) applies: Sales tax 5–10% plus 10% low-value-goods tax on online orders under MYR 500; duty 0–30%, largely 0% under ACFTA. The de-minimis position is MYR 500 (low-value goods sold online are taxed regardless). Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Penang.

What documents does Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) 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 (SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Penang?

Yes. Delivery to a Penang address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), and the same-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 Penang?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via KUL (Kuala Lumpur), PEN (Penang), BKI (Kota Kinabalu). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

When is the busiest time on the China–Malaysia 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.

Other delivery cities in Malaysia

- [China to Pasir Gudang](#)
- [China to Bintulu](#)
- [China to Samalaju](#)
- [China to Lahad Datu](#)
- [China to Sibul](#)

- [China to Sandakan](#)
- [China to Tawau](#)
- [China to Kuala Lumpur](#)
- [China to Shah Alam](#)
- [China to Klang](#)
- [China to Johor Bahru](#)
- [China to Ipoh](#)

[All Malaysia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Malaysia 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 Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) or your broker before you ship.

- [Royal Malaysian Customs Department](#)
- [SIRIM QAS International](#)
- [Port Klang Authority](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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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.

- [Laboratory Equipment Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Locks & Safes Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Salon Furniture Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Pet Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Umbrellas Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Private Label Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Bolts Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [CNC Machines General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Industrial Furnaces General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

- [Solar Inverter New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Energy Storage System New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Building Materials Building Materials & Construction Products](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Malaysia duty position yourself

We publish these figures so you can budget, but the assessment that binds is the one [Royal Malaysian Customs Department](#) makes on your declaration. Where a shipment is large enough that a percentage point matters, check their current tariff guidance rather than ours.

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.

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 Malaysia actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Malaysia 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 Penang. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

[How to Ship Internationally via Ocean Freight | Step-by-Step Process, Documents & Cost Explained — 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 Penang

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 Malaysia route page →](#)

Freight Rates to Malaysia

✚ 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.

Shipping from China to Penang, Malaysia: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Penang: gateway PEN air / Penang Port sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM). Transit, documents and restrictions.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Penang by Mode

- [All modes — Penang](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)
- [📦 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Malaysia

- [China to Pasir Gudang](#)
- [China to Bintulu](#)
- [China to Samalaju](#)
- [China to Lahad Datu](#)
- [China to Sibul](#)
- [China to Sandakan](#)
- [China to Tawau](#)
- [China to Kuala Lumpur](#)

Other Asia Pacific Destinations

- [Shipping to Brunei](#)
- [Shipping to Cambodia](#)
- [Shipping to Hong Kong](#)
- [Shipping to Indonesia](#)
- [Shipping to Japan](#)

- [Shipping to Laos](#)
- [Shipping to Mongolia](#)
- [Shipping to Myanmar](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Malaysia

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

[Malaysia clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Malaysia

- [Shekou-Lahad Datu Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shekou-Pasir Gudang Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shekou-Samalaju Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shekou-Sandakan Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Ship Nansha to Lahad Datu — FCL Container Cost from China](#)
- [Ship Nansha to Tawau — FCL Container Cost from China](#)