

Sea Freight from China to Penang

China Ocean Freight · chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-malaysia/penang/sea-freight

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Malaysia](#)
4. [Penang](#)
5. Sea Freight

□ Sea Freight

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



Cargo handling on the China–Penang lane.

Freight from China into Penang clears through PEN air / Penang Port sea. Penang is semiconductor and electronics manufacturing hub, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

On the destination side, Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM) handles clearance; budget 2–4 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

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.

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

- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Malaysia duty rate against it yourself.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Penang.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Penang take?

China to the Malaysia gateway is 5–9 calendar days. 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Penang clear through?

Cargo for Penang is routed via PEN air / Penang Port sea. Sea gateways for Malaysia are Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas, Penang; air gateways are KUL (Kuala Lumpur), PEN (Penang), BKI (Kota Kinabalu). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

What certification do I need for Malaysia?

For regulated goods, plan for: SIRIM certification and MCMC label for electrical and radio products; halal certification for food ingredients. 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Penang?

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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Penang?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 5–9 calendar days by sea versus 3–5 business days by air to the Malaysia gateway, before clearance and the same-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 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)

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.

- [Exhibition Display Equipment Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Educational Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Stationery Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [E-commerce E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Malaysia duty position yourself

Treat the landed-cost numbers here as a planning baseline. [Royal Malaysian Customs Department](#) sets the rate that actually gets charged, assessed against your HS classification at the moment of clearance, so their own guidance is worth reading before a large 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 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.

What Is CBM? Sea Freight Volume Explained (Calculate Shipping Cost Fast!) — DDPCHAIN. 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.

China to Penang Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Penang by sea freight — 5–9 calendar days transit, 2–4 days port dwell, duty assessed by Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM).

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](#)

Other Cities in Malaysia

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