

Air Freight from China to Nouakchott

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➔ Air Freight

China → Nouakchott · via NKC air / Nouakchott sea · clearance by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie



Cargo handling on the China-Nouakchott lane.

We move air freight cargo from South China into Nouakchott through NKC air / Nouakchott sea. Nouakchott is capital and the main port, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

The clearing authority is Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 7-15 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

Import duty and tax position for Nouakchott

Imports into Mauritania are cleared by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie. The headline position is: VAT 16%; duty 0-20%, plus statistical fee. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Certificate of conformity for regulated goods; import declaration through the customs single window. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Mauritania: Transshipment dependency means feeder scheduling drives transit. Mining-sector project cargo may qualify for exemption tied to the concession. Confirm the consignee's import registration.

How this lane actually runs

Nouakchott's Port de l'Amitié handles most general cargo, with Nouadhibou serving the mining and fishing sectors. Asian cargo generally transships through Las Palmas, Algeciras or Casablanca, so feeder frequency rather than mainline transit determines the arrival window.

Air gateways used	NKC (Nouakchott Oumtounsy)
Air transit, China to gateway	6-9 business days
Gateway serving Nouakchott	NKC air / Nouakchott sea
Inland leg to Nouakchott	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	7-15 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the NKC air / Nouakchott sea routing serving Nouakchott.

Before you book: Nouakchott checklist

- Confirm the consignee in Nouakchott can act as importer of record — Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Certificate of conformity for regulated goods; import declaration through the customs single window.
- Put the Nouakchott delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Mauritania duty rate against it yourself.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Nouakchott take?

China to the Mauritania gateway is 6–9 business days. On top of that, allow 7–15 days of clearance with Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie and a same-day inland leg to Nouakchott.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Nouakchott?

Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie applies: VAT 16%; duty 0–20%, plus statistical fee. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Nouakchott.

Which port or airport does cargo for Nouakchott clear through?

Cargo for Nouakchott is routed via NKC air / Nouakchott sea. Sea gateways for Mauritania are Nouakchott (Port de l'Amitié), Nouadhibou; air gateways are NKC (Nouakchott Oumtounsy). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Nouakchott?

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

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Nouakchott?

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 Nouakchott?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 28–38 calendar days by sea versus 6–9 business days by air to the Mauritania 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 Mauritania

- [China to Nouadhibou](#)
- [China to Rosso](#)
- [China to Kiffa](#)

[All Mauritania freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Mauritania 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 Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie or your broker before you ship.

- [Direction Générale des Douanes](#)
- [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.

- [Solar Panel New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Lithium Battery New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Bicycle Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Wall Panels Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Corrugated Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Glass Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Electronic Switches Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [IoT Devices Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Home Storage Products Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Fashion Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Laboratory Equipment Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Mauritania duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie 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.

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

Air freight and volumetric weight. What is dimensional, chargeable or volumetric weight? — Train Learn Grow. 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 Nouakchott

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 Mauritania

✚ 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.

Nouakchott Air Freight, Mauritania: Cost, Transit & Customs

Air Freight to Nouakchott: 6–9 business days in transit, cleared by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie, same 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 Nouakchott.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Nouakchott by Mode

- [All modes — Nouakchott](#)
- [Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Mauritania

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Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)
- [Shipping to Burundi](#)
- [Shipping to Cape Verde](#)
- [Shipping to Comoros](#)
- [Shipping to Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
- [Shipping to Djibouti](#)
- [Shipping to Egypt](#)
- [Shipping to Eswatini](#)

Customs clearance in Mauritania

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

[Mauritania clearance requirements →](#)