Shipping from China to Nouakchott

Africa

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

Cargo handling on the China–Nouakchott lane.

Freight from China into Nouakchott clears through NKC air / Nouakchott sea. Nouakchott is capital and the main port, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

Clearance itself is handled by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 7–15 days.

What the routing looks like in practice

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
Sea gateways used	Nouakchott (Port de l'Amitié), Nouadhibou
Sea transit, China to gateway	28–38 calendar 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

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.

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

Air, sea or overland into Nouakchott?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
✈ **Air Freight**	6–9 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
◫ **Sea Freight**	28–38 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Mauritania gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Nouakchott and 7–15 days of clearance.

Before you book: Nouakchott checklist

- Put the Nouakchott delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight (L×W×H ÷ 6000) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Mauritania duty rate against it yourself.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Nouakchott.

Mode guides for Nouakchott

- ✈ Air Freight to Nouakchott
- ◫ Sea Freight to Nouakchott

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Nouakchott take?

China to the Mauritania gateway is 6–9 business days by air, 28–38 calendar days by sea. 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.

What certification do I need for Mauritania?

For regulated goods, plan for: Certificate of conformity for regulated goods; import declaration through the customs single window. 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.

When is the busiest time on the China–Mauritania 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.

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)

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.

- Sanitary Ware Building Materials & Construction Products
- Pallet Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products

- Conveyor Belts Plastics, Rubber & Packaging
- Electronic Components Electronic Components & Semiconductors
- Computer Hardware Telecom, Computing & Data Centre
- Kitchen Appliances Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial
- Home Decor Furniture & Home Products
- Technical Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather
- Wigs & Hair Products Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather
- Fire Alarm Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products
- Restaurant Furniture Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures
- Amusement Equipment Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Shipping from China to Nouakchott, Mauritania: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Nouakchott: gateway NKC air / Nouakchott sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Direction Générale des Douanes de Mauritanie. Transit, documents and restrictions.

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
- ✈ Air Freight
- Sea Freight

Other Cities in Mauritania

- China to Nouadhibou
- China to Rosso
- China to Kiffa

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 →