

Shipping from China to Bhairahawa

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South Asia

China → Bhairahawa · via KTM air / Kolkata transit · clearance by Department of Customs, Nepal



Cargo handling on the China-Bhairahawa lane.

For buyers shipping into Bhairahawa, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival.

Bhairahawa is western border trade point; cargo enters through KTM air / Kolkata transit, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

On the destination side, Department of Customs, Nepal handles clearance; budget 5-12 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

Routing and transit on this lane

Nepal has two very different routings. Sea cargo normally moves to Kolkata or Haldia and then crosses at Birgunj under Indian transit rules, which is slow but cheap. The direct land crossings from Tibet at Rasuwagadhi and Tatopani are much shorter but have

limited capacity and are weather- and policy-sensitive. Air via Kathmandu is the reliable option for time-critical goods.

Air gateways used	KTM (Kathmandu Tribhuvan)
Air transit, China to gateway	3–6 business days
Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Kolkata/Haldia (India) or the Rasuwagadhi and Tatopani land crossings from Tibet
Sea transit, China to gateway	18–28 calendar days via Kolkata transit
Gateway serving Bhairahawa	KTM air / Kolkata transit
Inland leg to Bhairahawa	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	5–12 days
Peak season to plan around	Aug–Nov

Import duty and tax position for Bhairahawa

Department of Customs, Nepal assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Bhairahawa consignees. Current regime: VAT 13%; customs duty 5–80% depending on commodity, plus excise on selected goods, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Import license for controlled goods; Nepal Bureau of Standards approval for regulated products. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Nepal: Indian transit adds a separate bonded movement and its own documentation set. Land crossings from Tibet close seasonally and during Nepali and Chinese holidays. Confirm the routing in the quote — the two options differ by weeks.



Handling on the KTM air / Kolkata transit routing serving Bhairahawa.

Air, sea or overland into Bhairahawa?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	3-6 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	18-28 calendar days via Kolkata transit	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Nepal gateway and excludes the +1 day inland leg to Bhairahawa and 5-12 days of clearance.

Before you book: Bhairahawa checklist

- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Bhairahawa.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Nepal duty rate against it yourself.
- Put the Bhairahawa delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Mode guides for Bhairahawa

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Bhairahawa take?

China to the Nepal gateway is 3–6 business days by air, 18–28 calendar days via Kolkata transit by sea. On top of that, allow 5–12 days of clearance with Department of Customs, Nepal and a +1 day inland leg to Bhairahawa.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Bhairahawa?

Department of Customs, Nepal applies: VAT 13%; customs duty 5–80% depending on commodity, plus excise on selected goods.

The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Bhairahawa.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Bhairahawa?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 18–28 calendar days via Kolkata transit by sea versus 3–6 business days by air to the Nepal 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Bhairahawa?

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.

When is the busiest time on the China–Nepal lane?

Space and rates tighten around Aug–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.

What documents does Department of Customs, Nepal 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 goods; Nepal Bureau of Standards approval for regulated products). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Other delivery cities in Nepal

- [China to Kathmandu](#)
- [China to Lalitpur](#)
- [China to Pokhara](#)
- [China to Birgunj](#)
- [China to Biratnagar](#)

[All Nepal freight information →](#)

References & official sources

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

- [Department of Customs, Nepal](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)

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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.

- [Prefabricated Building Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Plumbing Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Injection Molded Parts Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Art Ceramics Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [Base Station Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Electronic Accessories Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Hotel Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Bags Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Consumables Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Exhibition Display Equipment Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Educational Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Nepal duty position yourself

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

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.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Bill of Lading Explained (BOL) | Types, Components & Full Beginner Guide | Shipping Document — 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 Bhairahawa

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 Nepal

✚ 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.

Bhairahawa, Nepal Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Bhairahawa, Nepal — KTM air / Kolkata transit gateway, Department of Customs, Nepal clearance, +1 day onward. Sea and air both covered.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Bhairahawa by Mode

- [All modes — Bhairahawa](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)
- [☐ Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Nepal

- [China to Kathmandu](#)
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Other South Asia Destinations

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- [Shipping to India](#)
- [Shipping to Maldives](#)
- [Shipping to Pakistan](#)
- [Shipping to Sri Lanka](#)

Customs clearance in Nepal

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

[Nepal clearance requirements →](#)