

Shipping from China to Prilep

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Europe

China → Prilep · via SKP air / Thessaloniki transit · clearance by Customs Administration of North Macedonia



Cargo handling on the China-Prilep lane.

Prilep is central manufacturing center, and it is served through SKP air / Thessaloniki transit. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by Customs Administration of North Macedonia, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3–8 days.

How this lane actually runs

Thessaloniki is the shortest sea gateway — roughly a half-day road leg to Skopje — which makes North Macedonia one of the easier landlocked Balkan markets to serve. Durrës in Albania is the alternative when Greek capacity tightens.

Air gateways used	SKP (Skopje)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-7 business days
Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Thessaloniki (Greece) or Durrës (Albania)
Sea transit, China to gateway	26-34 calendar days plus inland leg
Gateway serving Prilep	SKP air / Thessaloniki transit
Inland leg to Prilep	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Prilep

Customs Administration of North Macedonia assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Prilep consignees. Current regime: VAT 18%; customs duty 0-20%, with a de-minimis position of EUR 45 for personal consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for North Macedonia: Greek or Albanian transit documentation is required. Free economic zones near Skopje offer duty relief for qualifying manufacturing inputs.



Handling on the SKP air / Thessaloniki transit routing serving Prilep.

Air, sea or overland into Prilep?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4–7 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	26–34 calendar days plus inland leg	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the North Macedonia gateway and excludes the +1 day inland leg to Prilep and 3–8 days of clearance.

Before you book: Prilep checklist

- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the North Macedonia lane.
- Put the Prilep delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Mode guides for Prilep

- → [Air Freight to Prilep](#)
- ☐ [Sea Freight to Prilep](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Prilep take?

China to the North Macedonia gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 26–34 calendar days plus inland leg by sea. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Customs Administration of North Macedonia and a +1 day inland leg to Prilep.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Prilep?

Customs Administration of North Macedonia applies: VAT 18%; customs duty 0–20%. The de-minimis position is EUR 45 for personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Prilep.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Prilep?

Yes. Delivery to a Prilep address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Customs Administration of North Macedonia, and the +1 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.

What certification do I need for North Macedonia?

For regulated goods, plan for: Technical regulations aligned to EU rules for most product groups. 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–North Macedonia 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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Prilep?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 26–34 calendar days plus inland leg by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the North Macedonia 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.

Other delivery cities in North Macedonia

- [China to Skopje](#)
- [China to Bitola](#)
- [China to Kumanovo](#)
- [China to Tetovo](#)

[All North Macedonia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for North Macedonia 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 Customs Administration of North Macedonia or your broker before you ship.

- [Customs Administration of North Macedonia](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Locks & Safes Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Salon Furniture Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Pet Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Umbrellas Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the North Macedonia duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Customs Administration of North Macedonia 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 Prilep. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Marine Insurance Explained - Understand the Cargo Insurance You're Getting — ABTS®. 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 Prilep

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 North Macedonia

⚖ 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.

Prilep, North Macedonia Import Freight: Gateway, Duty & Time

What it takes to land cargo in Prilep, North Macedonia — SKP air / Thessaloniki transit gateway, Customs Administration of North Macedonia 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 Prilep.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Prilep by Mode

- [All modes — Prilep](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)
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Other Cities in North Macedonia

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Other Europe Destinations

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- [Shipping to Malta](#)
- [Shipping to Moldova](#)
- [Shipping to Montenegro](#)
- [Shipping to Norway](#)

Customs clearance in North Macedonia

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

[North Macedonia clearance requirements](#) →