

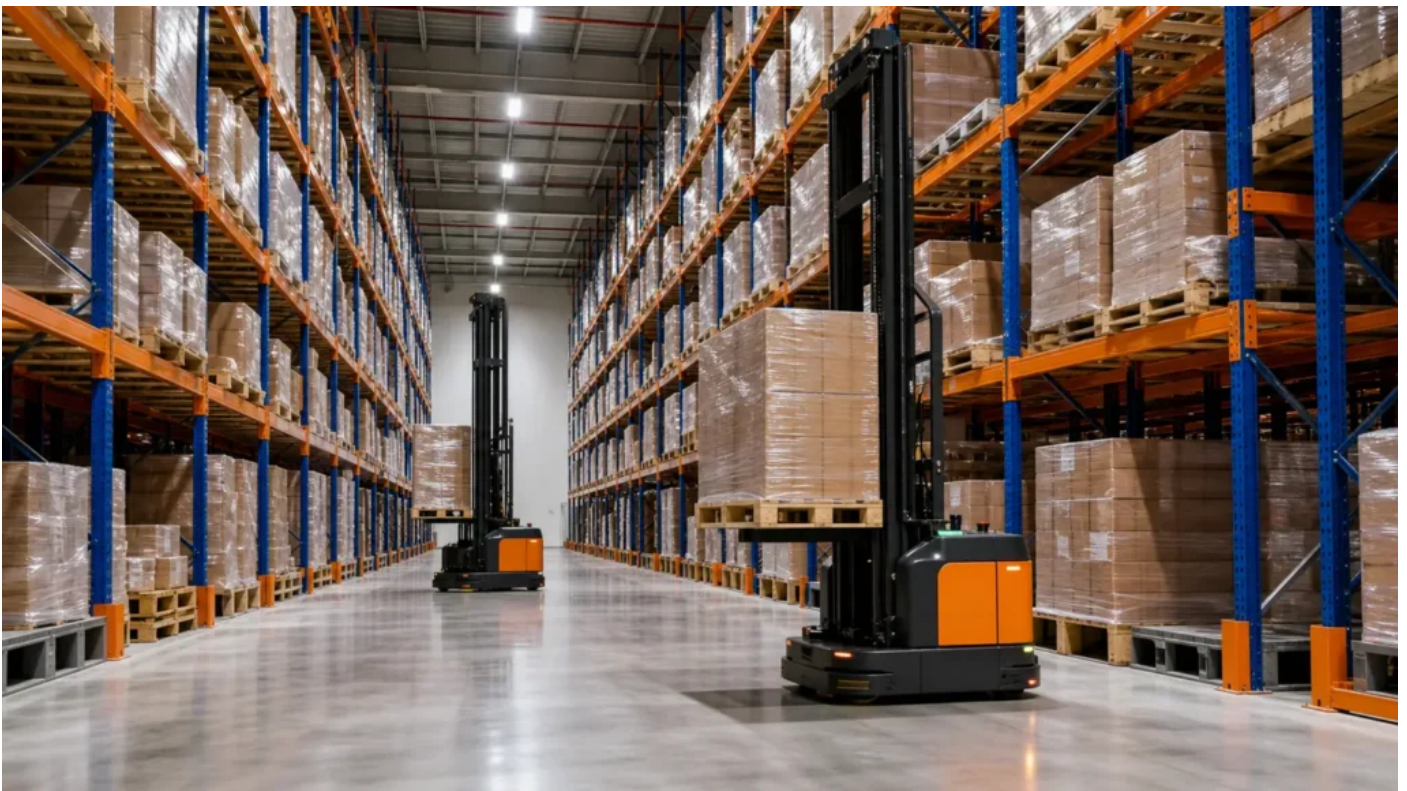
Shipping from China to Karachi

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South Asia

China → Karachi · via KHI air / Karachi sea · clearance by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue)



Cargo handling on the China-Karachi lane.

For buyers shipping into Karachi, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Karachi is the port city handling most national import volume; cargo enters through KHI air / Karachi sea, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

On the destination side, Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) handles clearance; budget 5-12 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

What the routing looks like in practice

Karachi handles the overwhelming majority of Pakistan's sea volume, with Port Qasim as the second option. The China-Pakistan FTA phase II gives meaningful duty relief on a long list of tariff lines, but only against a properly issued certificate of origin. Regulatory duty on consumer goods changes with each federal budget, so verify the current rate rather than reusing last year's landed-cost model.

Air gateways used	KHI (Karachi), LHE (Lahore), ISB (Islamabad)
Air transit, China to gateway	3–6 business days
Sea gateways used	Karachi (KICT/QICT), Port Qasim, Gwadar
Sea transit, China to gateway	14–22 calendar days
Gateway serving Karachi	KHI air / Karachi sea
Inland leg to Karachi	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	5–12 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

What you will pay on arrival in Pakistan

Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Karachi consignees. Current regime: Sales tax 18%; customs duty 3–20% plus additional customs duty and regulatory duty on many consumer lines; withholding income tax on imports, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: PSQCA standards mark for regulated goods; import against a bank contract or letter of credit for most commercial cargo. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Pakistan: Import payment normally has to route through a bank contract or LC, which constrains DDP structures. Regulatory duty and additional customs duty are revised frequently. Used goods and many consumer categories face import bans or heavy surcharges.



Handling on the KHI air / Karachi sea routing serving Karachi.

Air, sea or overland into Karachi?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
➔ Air Freight	3-6 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
🚢 Sea Freight	14-22 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Pakistan gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Karachi and 5-12 days of clearance.

Before you book: Karachi checklist

- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight (L×W×H ÷ 6000) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Put the Karachi delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep-Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Pakistan lane.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Mode guides for Karachi

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

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Karachi take?

China to the Pakistan gateway is 3–6 business days by air, 14–22 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 5–12 days of clearance with Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) and a same-day inland leg to Karachi.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Karachi?

Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) applies: Sales tax 18%; customs duty 3–20% plus additional customs duty and regulatory duty on many consumer lines; withholding income tax on imports. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Karachi.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Karachi?

Yes. Delivery to a Karachi address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue), and the same-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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Karachi?

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

Which port or airport does cargo for Karachi clear through?

Cargo for Karachi is routed via KHI air / Karachi sea. Sea gateways for Pakistan are Karachi (KICT/QICT), Port Qasim, Gwadar; air gateways are KHI (Karachi), LHE (Lahore), ISB (Islamabad). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Karachi?

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.

Other delivery cities in Pakistan

- [China to Port Qasim](#)
- [China to Lahore](#)
- [China to Islamabad](#)
- [China to Rawalpindi](#)
- [China to Faisalabad](#)
- [China to Sialkot](#)

- [China to Multan](#)
- [China to Peshawar](#)
- [China to Gujranwala](#)
- [China to Quetta](#)

[All Pakistan freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Pakistan 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 Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) or your broker before you ship.

- [Pakistan Customs — Federal Board of Revenue](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965-970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)

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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.

- [Footwear Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Furniture Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Display Stands Retail, Display & Commercial Fixtures](#)
- [Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Baby Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Bathroom Accessories Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [E-commerce Fulfilment E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Bearings Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Automation Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Electronics Manufacturing Equipment Specialised Production Machinery](#)
- [Generators New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Pakistan duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) 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.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

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.

If this is your first shipment into Pakistan, the [Pakistan Country Commercial Guide](#) covers the practical import environment in more depth than a rate page reasonably can, and it is written by a party with no stake in your booking.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Karachi. 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 Karachi

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 Pakistan route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Pakistan

📦 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 Karachi, Pakistan: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Karachi: gateway KHI air / Karachi sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue). Transit, documents and restrictions.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Karachi by Mode

- [All modes — Karachi](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Pakistan

- [China to Port Qasim](#)
- [China to Lahore](#)
- [China to Islamabad](#)
- [China to Rawalpindi](#)
- [China to Faisalabad](#)
- [China to Sialkot](#)
- [China to Multan](#)
- [China to Peshawar](#)

Other South Asia Destinations

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

Route Page

- [Pakistan DDP route details →](#)
- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Pakistan

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

[Pakistan clearance requirements](#) →

Priced routes to Pakistan

- [Shanghai to Port Qasim Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Shekou to Karachi Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)
- [Shekou-Port Qasim Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shipping a Container from Shanghai to Karachi: Cost & Transit](#)