

Air Freight from China to Santiago

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→ Air Freight

China → Santiago · via PTY air / Balboa sea · clearance by Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá



Cargo handling on the China-Santiago lane.

Freight from China into Santiago clears through PTY air / Balboa sea. Santiago is central provincial trading town, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

On the destination side, Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá handles clearance; budget 2-5 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

What you will pay on arrival in Panama

Imports into Panama are cleared by Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá. The headline position is: ITBMS 7%; duty 0-15%, with 0% inside the Colón Free Zone. The de-minimis threshold is USD 100 for courier consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; health registration for food and cosmetics. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Panama: Free Zone re-export and Panamanian domestic import are different regimes — clarify which applies. Canal transit conditions can affect Atlantic-side schedules during low-water periods.

How this lane actually runs

The Colón Free Zone is the largest free port in the Americas and the natural staging point for Chinese goods distributed across Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America. Cargo can sit in the zone duty-free and be re-exported in smaller lots, which is a far more efficient structure than shipping direct to a dozen small markets.

Air gateways used	PTY (Panama City Tocumen)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-6 business days
Gateway serving Santiago	PTY air / Balboa sea
Inland leg to Santiago	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	2-5 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the PTY air / Balboa sea routing serving Santiago.

Pre-shipment checklist for Santiago

- Confirm the consignee in Santiago can act as importer of record — Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; health registration for food and cosmetics.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Put the Santiago delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Santiago take?

China to the Panama gateway is 4–6 business days. On top of that, allow 2–5 days of clearance with Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá and a +1 day inland leg to Santiago.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Santiago?

Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá applies: ITBMS 7%; duty 0–15%, with 0% inside the Colón Free Zone. The de-minimis position is USD 100 for courier consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Santiago.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Santiago?

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

When is the busiest time on the China–Panama 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.

What certification do I need for Panama?

For regulated goods, plan for: Conformity requirements for regulated goods; health registration for food and cosmetics. 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Santiago?

Yes. Delivery to a Santiago address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá, 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.

Other delivery cities in Panama

- [China to Balboa](#)
- [China to Panama City](#)
- [China to Colon](#)
- [China to David](#)
- [China to Tocumen](#)

[All Panama freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Panama 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 Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá or your broker before you ship.

- [Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [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.

- [Smart Home Products Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Refrigeration Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Tableware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Apparel Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Hospital Equipment Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Parking Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Massage Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Arts & Crafts Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Plants Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Direct to Consumer E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)

- [Fasteners Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Pressure Vessels Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Panama duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá 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.

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.

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.

For a wider view of how importing into Panama actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Panama customs regulations](#) is a useful independent read alongside our own lane notes.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Customs Clearance & Export/Import Procedures Explained | International Trade Made Simple — International Trade Talk. 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 Santiago

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 Panama route page →](#)

Freight Rates to Panama

📦 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.

China to Santiago Air Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Santiago by air freight — 4-6 business days transit, 2-5 days port dwell, duty assessed by Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas de Panamá.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Santiago by Mode

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

Other Cities in Panama

- [China to Balboa](#)
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Other Americas Destinations

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- [Shipping to Costa Rica](#)
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- [Shipping to Ecuador](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Panama

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

[Panama clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Panama

- [Ningbo to Balboa Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Ningbo-Colon Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Shanghai to Balboa Container Shipping — 40NOR Rates](#)
- [Shanghai-Colon Sea Freight: Container Rates and Schedule](#)
- [Yantian to Balboa FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Yantian to Colon FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)