

Sea Freight from China to Ciudad del Este

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□□ Sea Freight

China → Ciudad del Este · via ASU air / Montevideo transit · clearance by Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay



Cargo handling on the China–Ciudad del Este lane.

For buyers shipping into Ciudad del Este, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Ciudad del Este is the free-trade re-export city on the Brazilian border; cargo enters through ASU air / Montevideo transit, and allow +3 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 5–12 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

How this lane actually runs

Paraguay is served by the Paraná-Paraguay river barge system from Montevideo or Buenos Aires, one of the longest inland waterway movements used in regular commerce. Ciudad del Este on the Brazilian border operates a re-export regime that has made Paraguay a redistribution point for Chinese consumer electronics into Brazil and Argentina — a genuinely distinctive feature of this lane.

Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Montevideo or Buenos Aires, then Paraná river barge to Asunción
Sea transit, China to gateway	35-48 calendar days including the river leg
Gateway serving Ciudad del Este	ASU air / Montevideo transit
Inland leg to Ciudad del Este	+3 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	5-12 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

What you will pay on arrival in Paraguay

Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Ciudad del Este consignees. Current regime: IVA 10%; Mercosur common external tariff 0-35%, with a reduced regime for goods re-exported through Ciudad del Este, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: INTN conformity for regulated goods; import registration required. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Paraguay: River barge schedules are seasonal and low water can suspend service. The Ciudad del Este re-export regime has its own tax treatment — confirm which regime applies before quoting.



Handling on the ASU air / Montevideo transit routing serving Ciudad del Este.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Confirm the consignee in Ciudad del Este can act as importer of record — Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Ciudad del Este 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.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Paraguay duty rate against it yourself.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Ciudad del Este take?

China to the Paraguay gateway is 35–48 calendar days including the river leg. On top of that, allow 5–12 days of clearance with Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay and a +3 days inland leg to Ciudad del Este.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Ciudad del Este?

Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay applies: IVA 10%; Mercosur common external tariff 0–35%, with a reduced regime for goods re-exported through Ciudad del Este. 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 Ciudad del Este.

When is the busiest time on the China-Paraguay 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 Ciudad del Este?

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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Ciudad del Este?

Yes. Battery cargo by sea moves under UN3480/UN3481 with an MSDS, and the dangerous-goods documentation is prepared as part of the booking into Landlocked — via Montevideo or Buenos Aires, then Paraná river barge to Asunción. Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

What certification do I need for Paraguay?

For regulated goods, plan for: INTN conformity for regulated goods; import registration required. 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.

Other delivery cities in Paraguay

- [China to Asuncion](#)
- [China to Encarnacion](#)
- [China to San Lorenzo](#)
- [China to Luque](#)

[All Paraguay freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Paraguay 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 Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay or your broker before you ship.

- [Dirección Nacional de Aduanas](#)
- [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.

- [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](#)
- [Industrial Boilers General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Solar Panel New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Lithium Battery New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Paraguay duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Dirección Nacional de Aduanas de Paraguay 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 Ciudad del Este. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Sea Freight from China: How to import from China to your country via Ocean Shipping — SINO Shipping. 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 Ciudad del Este

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 Paraguay

📦 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.

Sea Freight to Ciudad del Este, Paraguay: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Sea Freight from China to Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. Transit 35–48 calendar days including the river leg to the gateway, 5–12 days dwell, +3 days inland. Duty, documents and packing.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Ciudad del Este by Mode

- [All modes — Ciudad del Este](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Paraguay

- [China to Asuncion](#)
- [China to Encarnacion](#)
- [China to San Lorenzo](#)
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Other Americas Destinations

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- [Shipping to Ecuador](#)

Customs clearance in Paraguay

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

[Paraguay clearance requirements →](#)