

Sea Freight from China to Saint-Denis

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☐ Sea Freight

China → Saint-Denis · via RUN air / Port Reunion sea · clearance by Douane française (EU customs territory)



Cargo handling on the China-Saint-Denis lane.

Saint-Denis is capital and the main commercial market, and it is served through RUN air / Port Reunion sea. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Douane française (EU customs territory). Historical dwell on this gateway is around 3–8 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

Duty, tax and clearance into Saint-Denis

Douane française (EU customs territory) assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Saint-Denis consignees. Current regime: Reduced VAT of 8.5% plus octroi de mer — a local dock due of 6.5–60% that is unique to the French overseas departments, with a de-minimis position of EUR 150 for duty; VAT applies from the first euro.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: CE marking under EU rules; French labeling requirements. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Reunion: Octroi de mer is the dominant cost element and varies by product and local production status. EU rules otherwise apply in full, including CE marking and French labeling.

Routing and transit on this lane

Réunion is part of the EU customs territory, so EU tariff and CE marking rules apply — but the octroi de mer dock due, which does not exist in mainland France, can add far more to landed cost than the customs duty itself. Its rate depends on whether an equivalent product is made locally, so classification research genuinely pays here.

Sea gateways used	Port Réunion (Le Port)
Sea transit, China to gateway	24–34 calendar days
Gateway serving Saint-Denis	RUN air / Port Reunion sea
Inland leg to Saint-Denis	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3–8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov



Handling on the RUN air / Port Reunion sea routing serving Saint-Denis.

Pre-shipment checklist for Saint-Denis

- Confirm the consignee in Saint-Denis can act as importer of record — Douane française (EU customs territory) will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Saint-Denis.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: CE marking under EU rules; French labeling requirements.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Put the Saint-Denis 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.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Saint-Denis take?

China to the Reunion gateway is 24–34 calendar days. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Douane française (EU customs territory) and a same-day inland leg to Saint-Denis.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Saint-Denis?

Douane française (EU customs territory) applies: Reduced VAT of 8.5% plus octroi de mer — a local dock due of 6.5–60% that is unique to the French overseas departments. The de-minimis position is EUR 150 for duty; VAT applies from the first euro. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Saint-Denis.

Which port or airport does cargo for Saint-Denis clear through?

Cargo for Saint-Denis is routed via RUN air / Port Reunion sea. Sea gateways for Reunion are Port Réunion (Le Port); air gateways are RUN (Saint-Denis Roland Garros). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Saint-Denis?

Yes. Delivery to a Saint-Denis address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Douane française (EU customs territory), 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.

What certification do I need for Reunion?

For regulated goods, plan for: CE marking under EU rules; French labeling requirements. 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-Reunion 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.

Other delivery cities in Reunion

- [China to Le Port](#)
- [China to Saint-Paul](#)
- [China to Saint-Pierre](#)
- [China to Le Tampon](#)

[All Reunion freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Reunion 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 Douane française (EU customs territory) or your broker before you ship.

- [Douane française](#)
- [Octroi de mer — French overseas dock dues](#)
- [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.

- [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](#)
- [Private Label Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Bolts Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [CNC Machines General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Reunion duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Douane française (EU customs territory) 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 Saint-Denis. 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 Saint-Denis

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 Reunion

✚ 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.

Saint-Denis Sea Freight, Reunion: Cost, Transit & Customs

Sea Freight to Saint-Denis: 24-34 calendar days in transit, cleared by Douane française (EU customs territory), same day to the door. What the rate covers and what it does not.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Saint-Denis by Mode

- [All modes — Saint-Denis](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Reunion

- [China to Le Port](#)
- [China to Saint-Paul](#)
- [China to Saint-Pierre](#)
- [China to Le Tampon](#)

Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)
- [Shipping to Burundi](#)
- [Shipping to Cape Verde](#)
- [Shipping to Comoros](#)
- [Shipping to Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
- [Shipping to Djibouti](#)
- [Shipping to Egypt](#)
- [Shipping to Eswatini](#)

Customs clearance in Reunion

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

[Reunion clearance requirements →](#)