

Shipping from China to Novi Sad

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Europe

China → Novi Sad · via BEG air / Bar transit · clearance by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia



Cargo handling on the China–Novi Sad lane.

We move freight cargo from South China into Novi Sad through BEG air / Bar transit. Novi Sad is northern industrial and university city, which shapes the kind of cargo that moves on this lane and how it should be packed.

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

Routing and transit on this lane

Serbia signed a free trade agreement with China that entered into force in July 2024, phasing most tariffs to zero — the first such agreement with a Central European country. That makes correct origin documentation unusually valuable here. Serbia is landlocked, so sea cargo lands at Bar, Rijeka, Thessaloniki or Constanța and moves inland under transit.

Air gateways used	BEG (Belgrade Nikola Tesla)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-6 business days
Sea gateways used	Landlocked — via Bar (Montenegro), Rijeka (Croatia), Thessaloniki (Greece) or Constanța (Romania)
Sea transit, China to gateway	28-38 calendar days plus inland leg
Gateway serving Novi Sad	BEG air / Bar transit
Inland leg to Novi Sad	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3-8 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

What you will pay on arrival in Serbia

Imports into Serbia are cleared by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia. The headline position is: VAT 20%; customs duty progressively reduced to 0% on most goods under the China-Serbia free trade agreement in force since July 2024. The de-minimis threshold is EUR 50 for personal consignments.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Serbia: FTA preference requires a valid certificate of origin; without it standard duty applies. Transit through a neighboring country adds a bonded movement step. Rail from China via the northern corridor is an option for full loads.



Handling on the BEG air / Bar transit routing serving Novi Sad.

Air, sea or overland into Novi Sad?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4–6 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Sea Freight	28–38 calendar days plus inland leg	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed
□ Rail Freight	28–38 calendar days plus inland leg	inland destinations where sea is slow and air is expensive

Transit shown is China departure to the Serbia gateway and excludes the +1 day inland leg to Novi Sad and 3–8 days of clearance.

Pre-shipment checklist for Novi Sad

- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Serbia duty rate against it yourself.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Serbia lane.

Mode guides for Novi Sad

- [➔ Air Freight to Novi Sad](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Novi Sad](#)
- [🚂 Rail Freight to Novi Sad](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Novi Sad take?

China to the Serbia gateway is 4–6 business days by air, 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg by sea. On top of that, allow 3–8 days of clearance with Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia and a +1 day inland leg to Novi Sad.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Novi Sad?

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia applies: VAT 20%; customs duty progressively reduced to 0% on most goods under the China–Serbia free trade agreement in force since July 2024. The de-minimis position is EUR 50 for personal consignments. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Novi Sad.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Novi Sad?

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.

When is the busiest time on the China–Serbia 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.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Novi Sad?

Yes. Delivery to a Novi Sad address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia, 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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Novi Sad?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg by sea versus 4–6 business days by air to the Serbia 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 Serbia

- [China to Belgrade](#)
- [China to Nis](#)
- [China to Kragujevac](#)
- [China to Subotica](#)

[All Serbia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Serbia 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 the Republic of Serbia or your broker before you ship.

- [Customs Administration of Serbia](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [WCO — Harmonized System nomenclature](#)
- [IMO — IMDG Code for dangerous goods by sea](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Industrial Furnaces General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Solar Inverter New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Energy Storage System New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Building Materials Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Construction Hardware Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Plastic Products Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Ceramic Tableware Glass & Ceramic Products](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Serbia duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia 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.

Watch: the process behind this route

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

Ocean Freight 101 - What Is LCL Ocean Freight — Flexport. 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 Novi Sad

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 Serbia

☞ 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.

Novi Sad, Serbia Freight from China: Transit & Customs

Cargo from China to Novi Sad, Serbia clears through BEG air / Bar transit. Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia assesses duty and tax; the inland leg adds +1 day.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Novi Sad by Mode

- [All modes — Novi Sad](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)
- [🚂 Rail Freight](#)

Other Cities in Serbia

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Other Europe Destinations

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- [Shipping to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Shipping to Cyprus](#)
- [Shipping to Iceland](#)
- [Shipping to Malta](#)
- [Shipping to Moldova](#)
- [Shipping to Montenegro](#)
- [Shipping to North Macedonia](#)

Customs clearance in Serbia

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

[Serbia clearance requirements →](#)