

Sea Freight from China to Novi Sad

China Ocean Freight · chinaoceanfreight.com/china-freight-to-serbia/novi-sad/sea-freight

1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Serbia](#)
4. [Novi Sad](#)
5. Sea Freight

□ Sea Freight

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.

For buyers shipping into Novi Sad, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Novi Sad is northern industrial and university city; cargo enters through BEG air / Bar transit, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

On the destination side, Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia handles clearance; budget 3–8 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

What you will pay on arrival in Serbia

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Novi Sad consignees. Current regime: VAT 20%; customs duty progressively reduced to 0% on most goods under the China-Serbia free trade agreement in force since July 2024, with a de-minimis position of 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.

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.

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



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

Before you book: Novi Sad checklist

- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Confirm the consignee in Novi Sad can act as importer of record — Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia will not release cargo to an unregistered party.
- Put the Novi Sad delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Serbia duty rate against it yourself.
- Check the de-minimis position (EUR 50 for personal consignments) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Novi Sad take?

China to the Serbia gateway is 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg. 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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Novi Sad?

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 Bar (Montenegro), Rijeka (Croatia), Thessaloniki (Greece) or Constanța (Romania).

Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

What certification do I need for Serbia?

For regulated goods, plan for: Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference. 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.

What documents does Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia require?

A commercial invoice with HS codes, a packing list, the bill of lading or air waybill, a certificate of origin where it lowers duty, and any product certification (Serbian technical regulations largely aligned to EU rules; certificate of origin required to claim FTA preference). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

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.

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 \(PI 965–970\)](#)

Page data last reviewed: 8 □ 2026.

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.

- [Air Conditioning Equipment Home Appliances, HVAC & Commercial](#)
- [Kitchenware Furniture & Home Products](#)
- [Home Textiles Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Leather](#)
- [Medical Device Medical, Laboratory & Precision Instruments](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment Fire, Safety & Traffic Products](#)
- [Beauty Equipment Beauty, Personal Care & Wellness](#)
- [Inflatable Products Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Flowers Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Retail Products E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Sheet Metal Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Storage Tanks Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Electric Motors General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)

[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.

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 Novi Sad. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — 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.

Sea Freight to Novi Sad, Serbia: Transit Time, Duty & Clearance

Sea Freight from China to Novi Sad, Serbia. Transit 28–38 calendar days plus inland leg to the gateway, 3–8 days dwell, +1 day 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 Novi Sad.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Novi Sad by Mode

- [All modes — Novi Sad](#)
- [→ Air Freight](#)
- [🚂 Rail Freight](#)

Other Cities in Serbia

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

Other Europe Destinations

- [Shipping to Albania](#)
- [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](#) →