

Shipping from China to Hambantota

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South Asia

China → Hambantota · via CMB air / Hambantota sea · clearance by Sri Lanka Customs



Cargo handling on the China-Hambantota lane.

For buyers shipping into Hambantota, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival.

Hambantota is southern deepwater port and industrial zone; cargo enters through CMB air / Hambantota sea, and allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

Clearance itself is handled by Sri Lanka Customs, and typical dwell at the gateway runs 3-7 days.

How this lane actually runs

Colombo is one of the best-connected transshipment ports in the Indian Ocean, so direct South China sailings are frequent and reliable. Import control licensing has been used repeatedly as a foreign-exchange management tool, so the restricted list should be

checked at the time of booking rather than assumed.

Air gateways used	CMB (Colombo Bandaranaike)
Air transit, China to gateway	3–5 business days
Sea gateways used	Colombo, Hambantota, Trincomalee
Sea transit, China to gateway	10–16 calendar days
Gateway serving Hambantota	CMB air / Hambantota sea
Inland leg to Hambantota	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	3–7 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep–Nov

Duty, tax and clearance into Hambantota

Sri Lanka Customs assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Hambantota consignees. Current regime: VAT 18%; customs duty plus PAL (ports and airports levy) 10% and CESS on selected goods, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis.

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

Restrictions and known friction points for Sri Lanka: Import control licenses apply to a shifting list of non-essential goods. CESS and PAL can add materially to the landed cost on consumer items. Confirm the current license position for your HS code before shipping.



Handling on the CMB air / Hambantota sea routing serving Hambantota.

Air, sea or overland into Hambantota?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	3–5 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Sea Freight	10–16 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Sri Lanka gateway and excludes the +1 day inland leg to Hambantota and 3–7 days of clearance.

Pre-shipment checklist for Hambantota

- Budget for the inland leg: +1 day beyond gateway clearance to reach Hambantota.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: SLSI conformity for regulated goods; import control license for restricted categories.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Sri Lanka duty rate against it yourself.
- Confirm the consignee in Hambantota can act as importer of record — Sri Lanka Customs will not release cargo to an unregistered party.

Mode guides for Hambantota

- [➔ Air Freight to Hambantota](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Hambantota](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Hambantota take?

China to the Sri Lanka gateway is 3–5 business days by air, 10–16 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 3–7 days of clearance with Sri Lanka Customs and a +1 day inland leg to Hambantota.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Hambantota?

Sri Lanka Customs applies: VAT 18%; customs duty plus PAL (ports and airports levy) 10% and CESS on selected goods. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Hambantota.

What documents does Sri Lanka Customs 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 (SLSI conformity for regulated goods; import control license for restricted categories). We prepare and file these as part of the service.

Which port or airport does cargo for Hambantota clear through?

Cargo for Hambantota is routed via CMB air / Hambantota sea. Sea gateways for Sri Lanka are Colombo, Hambantota, Trincomalee; air gateways are CMB (Colombo Bandaranaike). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Hambantota?

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

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Hambantota?

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 Sri Lanka

- [China to Colombo](#)
- [China to Gampaha](#)
- [China to Kandy](#)
- [China to Galle](#)
- [China to Negombo](#)
- [China to Jaffna](#)

[All Sri Lanka freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka Customs or your broker before you ship.

- [Sri Lanka Customs](#)
- [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.

- [Automotive Glass Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Doors & Windows Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Paper Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Packaging Materials Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Connectors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [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](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Sri Lanka duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Sri Lanka Customs 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.

If this is your first shipment into Sri Lanka, the [Sri Lanka Country Commercial Guide](#) covers the practical import environment in more depth than a rate page reasonably can, and it is written by a party with no stake in your booking.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Hambantota. 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 Hambantota

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 Sri Lanka route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Sri Lanka

✚ 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.

Shipping from China to Hambantota, Sri Lanka: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Hambantota: gateway CMB air / Hambantota sea, +1 day inland after release, duty assessed by Sri Lanka Customs.

Transit, documents and restrictions.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Hambantota by Mode

- [All modes — Hambantota](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Sri Lanka

- [China to Colombo](#)
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Other South Asia Destinations

- [Shipping to Bangladesh](#)
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- [Shipping to Maldives](#)
- [Shipping to Nepal](#)
- [Shipping to Pakistan](#)

Route Page

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

Customs clearance in Sri Lanka

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

[Sri Lanka clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Sri Lanka

- [Shekou to Colombo FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Ship Shanghai to Colombo — FCL Container Cost from China](#)