

Shipping from China to Sfax

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Africa

China → Sfax · via TUN air / Sfax sea · clearance by Douane Tunisienne



Cargo handling on the China-Sfax lane.

For buyers shipping into Sfax, the practical question is not the ocean or flight time but what happens after arrival. Sfax is the second city and industrial port; cargo enters through TUN air / Sfax sea, and the inland leg is same-day, so the clearance date is effectively the delivery date.

The clearing authority is Douane Tunisienne. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 5–12 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

Duty, tax and clearance into Sfax

Douane Tunisienne assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Sfax consignees. Current regime: VAT 19%; duty 0–36%, plus consumption tax on selected goods, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

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

Restrictions and known friction points for Tunisia: Offshore versus onshore company status changes duty treatment entirely. Foreign-exchange authorisation can delay settlement. Technical control applies to electrical and consumer goods.

What the routing looks like in practice

Radès handles most container volume, generally with Asian cargo transshipped through Malta, Gioia Tauro or Marsaxlokk. Tunisia's offshore manufacturing regime, used heavily by textile and automotive suppliers, gives duty relief on inputs that are re-exported — confirm which regime the consignee is operating under before quoting.

Air gateways used	TUN (Tunis Carthage), MIR (Monastir)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-7 business days
Sea gateways used	Radès, Sfax, Bizerte
Sea transit, China to gateway	24-32 calendar days
Gateway serving Sfax	TUN air / Sfax sea
Inland leg to Sfax	Same day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	5-12 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the TUN air / Sfax sea routing serving Sfax.

What to sort out before the cargo leaves China

- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep-Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Put the Sfax delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Technical control certificate for regulated goods; import authorisation for controlled categories.
- Plan around the China-side windows too: Chinese New Year and Golden Week both compress capacity on the Tunisia lane.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Tunisia 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.

Air, sea or overland into Sfax?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4-7 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
☐ Sea Freight	24-32 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Tunisia gateway and excludes the same-day inland leg to Sfax and 5-12 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Sfax

- [✈ Air Freight to Sfax](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Sfax](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Sfax take?

China to the Tunisia gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 24–32 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 5–12 days of clearance with Douane Tunisienne and a same-day inland leg to Sfax.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Sfax?

Douane Tunisienne applies: VAT 19%; duty 0–36%, plus consumption tax on selected goods. 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 Sfax.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Sfax?

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

When is the busiest time on the China–Tunisia 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.

What certification do I need for Tunisia?

For regulated goods, plan for: Technical control certificate for regulated goods; import authorisation for controlled categories. 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.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Sfax?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 24–32 calendar days by sea versus 4–7 business days by air to the Tunisia gateway, before clearance and the same-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 Tunisia

- [China to Tunis](#)
- [China to Sousse](#)
- [China to Bizerte](#)
- [China to Kairouan](#)
- [China to Gabes](#)

[All Tunisia freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Tunisia 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 Tunisienne or your broker before you ship.

- [Douane Tunisienne](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)
- [IPPC — ISPM 15 wood packaging standard](#)

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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.

- [Bearings Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Automation Equipment General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Electronics Manufacturing Equipment Specialised Production Machinery](#)
- [Generators New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Prefabricated Building Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Plumbing Products Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Injection Molded Parts Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Art Ceramics Glass & Ceramic Products](#)
- [Base Station Equipment Telecom, Computing & Data Centre](#)
- [Electronic Accessories Consumer Electronics & Smart Devices](#)
- [Hotel Furniture Furniture & Home Products](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Tunisia duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Douane Tunisienne 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 Sfax. 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 Sfax

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 Tunisia

✚ 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 Sfax, Tunisia: Cost & Transit

Shipping to Sfax: gateway TUN air / Sfax sea, same day inland after release, duty assessed by Douane Tunisienne. Transit, documents and restrictions.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Sfax by Mode

- [All modes — Sfax](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
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Other Cities in Tunisia

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- [China to Sousse](#)
- [China to Bizerte](#)
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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 Tunisia

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

[Tunisia clearance requirements →](#)