

Sea Freight from China to Sfax

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☐ Sea Freight

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



Cargo handling on the China-Sfax lane.

Sfax is the second city and industrial port, and it is served through TUN air / Sfax 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 Tunisienne. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 5–12 days, and it lengthens in Sep–Nov.

What you will pay on arrival in Tunisia

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.

How this lane actually runs

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.

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.

Pre-shipment checklist for Sfax

- 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.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Budget for the inland leg: same-day delivery beyond gateway clearance to reach Sfax.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Tunisia duty rate against it yourself.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Sfax take?

China to the Tunisia gateway is 24–32 calendar days. 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.

Which port or airport does cargo for Sfax clear through?

Cargo for Sfax is routed via TUN air / Sfax sea. Sea gateways for Tunisia are Radès, Sfax, Bizerte; air gateways are TUN (Tunis Carthage), MIR (Monastir). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

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.

- [Toys Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Baby Products Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Bathroom Accessories Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [E-commerce Fulfilment E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [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](#)

[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.

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

How to Ship Internationally via Ocean Freight | Step-by-Step Process, Documents & Cost Explained — 10 Min For Supply Chain.

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.

China to Sfax Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Sfax by sea freight — 24-32 calendar days transit, 5-12 days port dwell, duty assessed by Douane Tunisienne.

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](#)

Other Cities in Tunisia

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

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 →](#)