

Sea Freight from China to Luganville

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China → Luganville · via VLI air / Luganville sea · clearance by Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu



Cargo handling on the China-Luganville lane.

Freight from China into Luganville clears through VLI air / Luganville sea. Luganville is the second town on Espiritu Santo, and allow +2 days for the inland leg on top of clearance.

The clearing authority is Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu. Historical dwell on this gateway is around 4-10 days, and it lengthens in Sep-Nov.

How this lane actually runs

Vanuatu is served by feeder from Fiji, Auckland or Brisbane, so the sailing schedule rather than the distance sets the transit time. Cyclone season between November and April can disrupt both port operations and inter-island distribution, and it is worth building that into any Q4 or Q1 commitment.

Sea gateways used	Port Vila, Luganville
Sea transit, China to gateway	22-32 calendar days
Gateway serving Luganville	VLI air / Luganville sea
Inland leg to Luganville	+2 days from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	4-10 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov

Import duty and tax position for Luganville

Imports into Vanuatu are cleared by Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu. The headline position is: VAT 15%; duty 0-35% depending on commodity. The de-minimis threshold is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: Biosecurity Vanuatu clearance; import permits for controlled goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Vanuatu: Cyclone season affects reliability from November to April. Biosecurity clearance required for wood packaging. Feeder frequency is the main scheduling constraint.



Handling on the VLI air / Luganville sea routing serving Luganville.

Before you book: Luganville checklist

- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Compare gross weight against volumetric weight ($L \times W \times H \div 6000$) — the higher figure is what gets billed on air and express.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: Biosecurity Vanuatu clearance; import permits for controlled goods.
- Use ISPM-15 treated pallets. Untreated wood is the most common reason otherwise-clean cargo gets held.
- Photograph carton markings and seal numbers before departure — it makes any claim far easier to settle.
- Confirm the consignee in Luganville can act as importer of record — Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu will not release cargo to an unregistered party.

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Luganville take?

China to the Vanuatu gateway is 22–32 calendar days. On top of that, allow 4–10 days of clearance with Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu and a +2 days inland leg to Luganville.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Luganville?

Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu applies: VAT 15%; duty 0–35% depending on commodity. 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 Luganville.

Can you deliver door-to-door in Luganville?

Yes. Delivery to a Luganville address is quoted as one figure covering freight, duty and tax owed to Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu, and the +2 days 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.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Luganville?

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.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Luganville?

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 Port Vila, Luganville. Surcharges apply and space is more limited than for general cargo.

Is sea freight cheaper than air freight into Luganville?

Per kilo, yes — usually by a wide margin. The trade-off is time: 22–32 calendar days by sea versus 6–9 business days by air to the Vanuatu gateway, before clearance and the +2 days inland leg. The crossover point is normally somewhere between 100 and 300 kg depending on the density of your cargo.

Other delivery cities in Vanuatu

- [China to Port Vila](#)
- [China to Santo](#)
- [China to Tanna](#)

[All Vanuatu freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Vanuatu 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 Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu or your broker before you ship.

- [Department of Customs and Inland Revenue](#)
- [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 \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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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.

- [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](#)
- [Agricultural Drones Agriculture & Livestock Equipment](#)
- [Wire & Cable New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Automotive Lighting Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Flooring Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Cartons Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Flexible Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)
- [Capacitors Electronic Components & Semiconductors](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Vanuatu duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu 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 Luganville. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

FCL vs LCL Shipping: When to Switch (Break-Even Point Explained) — Max Antonov. 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 Luganville

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 Vanuatu

✚ 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 Luganville Sea Freight: Rates, Transit and Clearance

Moving cargo to Luganville by sea freight — 22-32 calendar days transit, 4-10 days port dwell, duty assessed by Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, Vanuatu.

Get a Quote

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

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Luganville by Mode

- [All modes — Luganville](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)

Other Cities in Vanuatu

- [China to Port Vila](#)
- [China to Santo](#)
- [China to Tanna](#)

Other Oceania Destinations

- [Shipping to Fiji](#)

- [Shipping to New Zealand](#)
- [Shipping to Papua New Guinea](#)
- [Shipping to Samoa](#)
- [Shipping to Solomon Islands](#)

Customs clearance in Vanuatu

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

[Vanuatu clearance requirements](#) →