

How Long Does Shipping From India to Australia Really Take?

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Sea freight from India to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Fremantle takes about 25 to 36 days port to port, and about five weeks door to door. No carrier we read sails direct, every box changes ship at a hub such as Singapore, Port Klang, Colombo or Tanjung Pelepas, and a missed connection can push a shipment past 50 days.

Key takeaways

- No India to Australia sailing in the three carrier schedules we read was direct. All transshipped in Southeast Asia or at Colombo.
- Nhava Sheva had the lowest medians to the east coast on the main carrier, while Cochin and Mundra did better to Fremantle.
- Pipavav was the slowest Indian gateway for every Australian port we read.
- Quotes of 15 to 21 days usually cite the best single sailing or the ocean leg only.
- Ask for the relay port and the booked mother vessel in writing, not just a day count.

Plan on about 25 to 36 days port to port by sea from India's main container ports to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Fremantle, and about five weeks door to door. No carrier we read sails direct. Every box changes ship at Singapore, Port Klang, Colombo or Tanjung Pelepas, and a missed connection there can push a shipment past 50 days.



That's a longer answer than the "15 to 21 days" you'll see on some freight websites, so here's where ours comes from. On 23 September 2026 we read the public schedules of three carriers for every Indian gateway to the four big Australian ports, re-read two of them on 13 October 2026, worked out the medians ourselves, and set them against what forwarders say happens door to door. The honest caveat: these are carrier estimates for one six-week window. Routings change, so treat them as planning figures, not promises.

SourcingFrom Intelligence

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- 01 **No direct India to Australia call in any schedule we read.** Three carriers, every Indian gateway, every sailing transshipped. One carrier's Australia loops say in print that cargo is "feedered to Australia via Port Kelang or Singapore". (ANL

service schedule, printed 12 Oct 2026, our read of public carrier schedules, 23 Sep 2026, re-read 13 Oct 2026)

02 Pipavav is the slowest Indian gateway for Australia. Median 48 days to Sydney against 31 from Nhava Sheva on the same carrier, because Pipavav cargo relays through Cochin, Colombo or Mundra first. *(Our medians from one carrier's public schedule, 23 Sep 2026)*

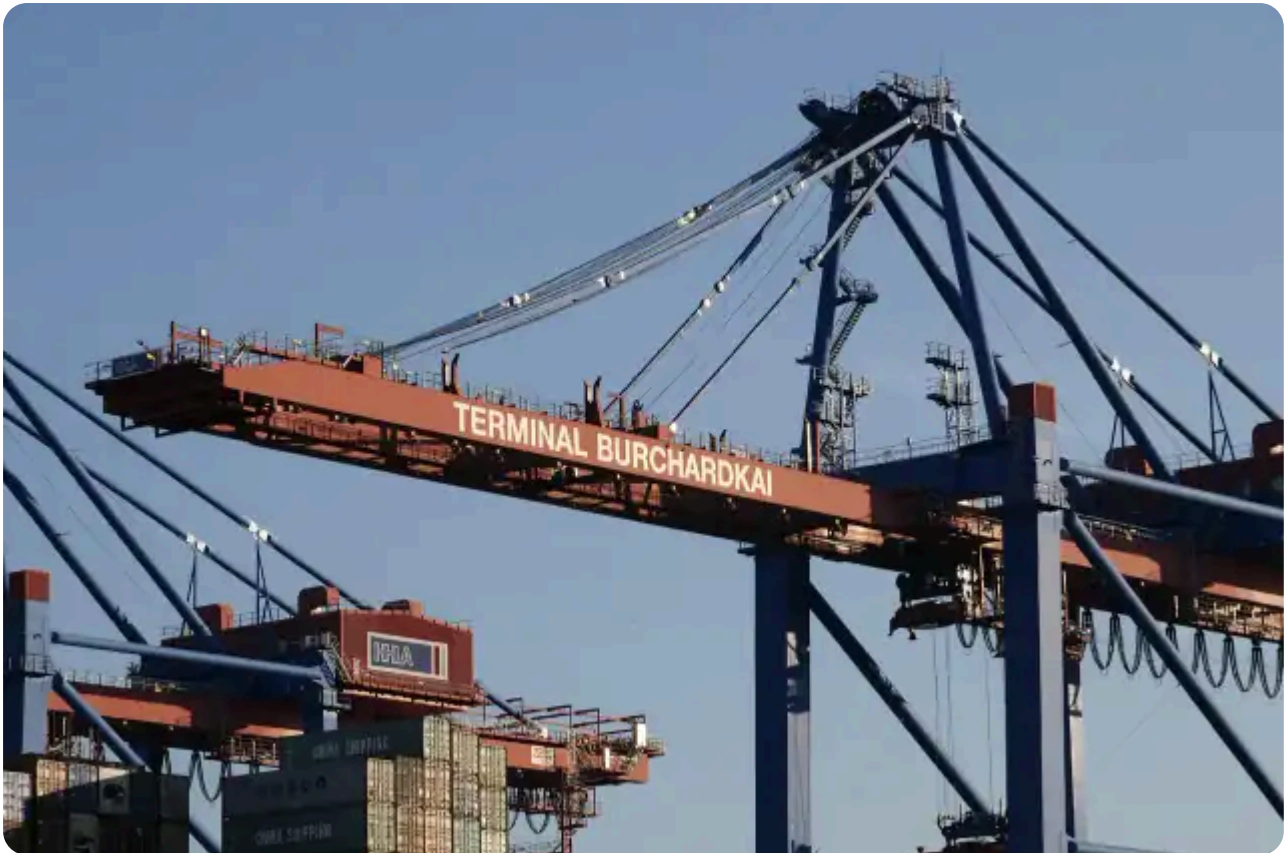
03 Door to door, a forwarder puts Nhava Sheva to Melbourne at about 36 days, and 55 after a reroute. *(LinkedIn, forwarder, Sep 2026)*

What we don't know yet

- ☐ How often an India box misses its hub connection. No carrier publishes it.
- ☐ Transit on carriers whose schedules need a login. We didn't read those.

Is There a Direct Ship From India to Australia?

Not in anything we read. We checked one carrier's full schedule for six Indian gateways, a second carrier's point-to-point tool for twelve India to Australia lanes, and a third carrier's printed service sheets. All of them change ship somewhere in Southeast Asia or at Colombo. The hubs that showed up were Singapore, Port Klang, Colombo and Tanjung Pelepas, with the odd Salalah or Algeciras routing on the slower sailings.



That matters more than it sounds. On a transshipped lane the Indian port is usually the stable part. The time gets lost at the hub, waiting for the next mother ship. An Indian forwarder said in August 2026 that congestion "at major transshipment hubs such as Singapore and Colombo puts pressure on feeder connections" ([LinkedIn, Aug 2026](#)). So when someone quotes you a day count, the first question back is "via where?"

How Many Days to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle?

Here are the medians from the carrier with the widest schedule, departures from 24 September 2026, port to port. The range is in brackets.

From	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Fremantle
Nhava Sheva	31 (25 to 33)	26 (20 to 35)	29 (22 to 30)	44 (15 to 52)
Mundra	35 (29 to 42)	32 (26 to 36)	32 (26 to 39)	31 (21 to 49)
Pipavav	48 (35 to 61)	42 (35 to 55)	45 (32 to 58)	37 (30 to 50)
Chennai	34 (27 to 53)	40.5 (27 to 61)	44 (24 to 64)	43 (22 to 56)
Tuticorin	36 (29 to 51)	41 (30 to 52)	47 (26 to 48)	46 (25 to 56)
Cochin	36 (28 to 49)	35 (28 to 45)	35.5 (25 to 47)	30 (23 to 40)

Source: [the carrier's public interactive schedule](#), read 23 September 2026, our medians, Indicative. When we went back on 13 October 2026 the site answered with a security check, so these are still the September figures.

A second carrier told a slightly different story on the same lanes. Its Chennai sailings ran 28 days to Sydney, 28 to Melbourne and just 21 to Fremantle, and its Nhava Sheva to Fremantle was 25 ([ONE point-to-point schedule](#), two-week window from 13 Oct 2026, our medians). Same ports, different relay, different answer. That's the whole lesson of this lane in one line.



Why Do Some Websites Say 15 to 21 Days?

Usually because they quote the best single sailing, or the ocean leg only, with no hub wait. Look at the ranges above. Nhava Sheva to Fremantle has a sailing at 15 days on the same schedule as one at 52. Quote the 15 and you're technically right and practically useless.

The other gap is port to port against door to door. Add the truck or rail from the factory to the port, the days the box sits between gate-in and sailing, and Australian clearance at the end, which includes biosecurity. That's how a forwarder's "normal" Nhava Sheva to Melbourne becomes "around 36 days" door to door, and "almost 55" when a sailing is rerouted through extra hubs ([LinkedIn, forwarder, Sep 2026](#)). What holds a box at the Australian end is on importing from India to Australia.

Which Indian Port Is Fastest to Australia?

There isn't one winner, and that's the useful bit.

- **East coast (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane):** Nhava Sheva had the lowest medians on the main carrier, with Mundra a few days behind.
- **Fremantle:** the south and Gujarat did better. Cochin at 30 days and Mundra at 31 on the main carrier, Chennai at 21 on the second.
- **Pipavav:** the slowest option for every Australian port we read. If your north Indian supplier talks about Gujarat ports, ask for Mundra by name, not Pipavav. Mundra or Nhava Sheva walks through that choice.

For Tamil Nadu suppliers, the relay often runs through Colombo, which is explained in [why your Tiruppur shipment says Colombo](#).

What Number Should I Put in My Plan?

Ours is simple.

1. Take the top of the carrier's range for your lane, not the median.
2. Add the inland days your forwarder will commit to at the Indian end.
3. Add a week for clearance in Australia.



For Nhava Sheva to Melbourne that's 35 days at sea plus the inland and clearance days, which lands close to the forwarder's five weeks door to door, with room for one slip.

Then get the routing in writing. A quote that says "28 days" with no hub, no service and no date isn't a transit time. Ask for the relay port and the booked mother vessel. If the hub changes after you book, you'll at least know why the date moved. The full background on hubs, rolls and reroutes is in [how sea freight gets to you](#), and what to ask a forwarder before you book is in [choosing a freight forwarder](#).

If you'd rather someone else chased bookings, hubs and the supplier's paperwork, [SourcingSync](#) runs the freight side from India for Australian buyers.

Current Routing, as of 13 October 2026

The main table comes from schedules read on 23 September 2026. The second carrier and the printed service sheets were re-read on 13 October 2026, and every sailing still transshipped, at Singapore or Port Klang. Hub congestion at Singapore, Colombo and Port Klang through August and September 2026 was the main cause of slipped India to Oceania sailings that forwarders reported. Neither the Red Sea nor Hormuz sits on this lane, so Middle East disruption hits Australian cargo mainly through carriers moving ships between services. Check current transit with your forwarder before you book.

FAQ

How long is sea freight from India to Australia? ^

About 25 to 36 days port to port on most sailings we read, with some past 50 days. Allow about five weeks door to door.

Is there direct shipping from India to Australia? v

Which Indian port is fastest to Melbourne? v

Is air faster for small orders? v