

Why Shipping From India to New Zealand Takes 30 Days on One Line and 80 on Another

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Sea freight from India to Auckland takes about 29 to 32 days port to port on a Port Klang relay, and 36 to 39 days to Tauranga. Other routings we read took 51 to 97 days because they relayed through North Asia or Oakland, so the relay your forwarder books decides your transit.

Key takeaways

- There is no direct ship from India to New Zealand. Every schedule we read transships.
- A Port Klang relay gave 29 to 32 days to Auckland from Nhava Sheva or Chennai, and 26 to 29 from Kolkata.
- One carrier's Auckland routings ran 51 to 97 days via Shanghai, Qingdao, Busan or Oakland.
- Ask your forwarder in writing for the relay hub, the mother vessel and what happens if the connection is missed.
- Plan the season on the slow figure until your forwarder proves the fast one.

Sea freight from India to Auckland takes about 29 to 32 days port to port when the carrier relays through Port Klang in Malaysia, and about 38 days to Tauranga. On other carriers' routings the same lane takes 51 to 97 days, because the box goes the long way round, some of it through Shanghai or even Oakland in California. There's no direct service, so the relay your forwarder books decides your transit.



I'm a little obsessed with this lane, because it's the clearest case I know of a single question saving a buyer seven weeks. It's also suddenly relevant, with more New Zealand buyers looking at India under the new trade agreement. Everything here comes from carrier schedules we read on 23 September 2026 and worked through ourselves. We re-read the fast relay and both port schedules on 13 October 2026. The slow carrier's site answered with a security check that day, so its figures are still the September ones. One caveat up front. These are carrier estimates for a short window, and New Zealand services change often, so check the current routing with your forwarder before you book.

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- 01** **A Port Klang relay gives 29 to 32 days to Auckland** from Nhava Sheva or Chennai, and 26 to 29 from Kolkata, across 17 listed sailings each. Tauranga is 36

to 39 days from Nhava Sheva or Chennai. ([ANL KIX southbound schedule](#), [printed 12 Oct 2026](#), *our medians*)

02 Another carrier's Auckland routings ran 51 to 97 days, relaying through Singapore, Shanghai, Qingdao, Busan or Oakland. Median 66 days from Nhava Sheva, 79 from Mundra, 87 from Pipavav. (*Our read of one carrier's public schedule, 23 Sep 2026*)

03 Neither Auckland nor Tauranga showed a vessel with an Indian last port in their published schedules. ([Ports of Auckland](#), [Port of Tauranga](#), *snapshots 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026*)

What we don't know yet

- Whether other carriers run a fast relay on this lane. We read two public schedules for New Zealand, and one carrier's Auckland search would not resolve.

Is There a Direct Ship From India to New Zealand?

No. India to New Zealand is a pure transshipment lane. The published New Zealand service we read marks every Indian call (Nhava Sheva, Colombo, Chennai and Calcutta) as "TRANSHIPPED Via Port Kelang", and the mother ship then calls Auckland, Lyttelton, Wellington, Napier and Tauranga ([ANL KIX schedule](#)). The port schedules at both ends agree. In the Auckland and Tauranga vessel lists we checked, no ship had come from or was going to an Indian port.



So the useful question isn't "is it direct?" It's "where does my box change ship, and what does that hub connect to?"

Why Is One Routing 30 Days and Another 80?

Because some relays head east and some head the wrong way first. A Port Klang relay feeds the box from India to Malaysia and puts it on a ship that runs down to New Zealand. Short, simple, 30 days.

The slow routings we read connected through North Asia (Shanghai, Qingdao, Busan) or, on several sailings, through Oakland on the US west coast before coming back across the Pacific. That's not a mistake on the schedule. It's how that carrier's network joins the Indian services to the New Zealand ones. Your T-shirts might cross the equator twice and visit California before they reach Auckland.

Here's what that carrier's schedule showed for Auckland, departures from 24 September 2026, with the median and range:

From	Median days	Range	Relay hubs shown
Nhava Sheva	66	51 to 80	Oakland, Shanghai, Singapore
Chennai	76	53 to 86	Colombo, Oakland, Shanghai, Singapore
Tuticorin	78	55 to 90	Colombo, Oakland, Qingdao, Shanghai, Singapore
Mundra	79	55 to 89	Oakland, Qingdao, Salalah, Shanghai, Singapore
Cochin	82	54 to 90	Colombo, Oakland, Shanghai, Singapore
Pipavav	87	82 to 97	Busan, Jeddah, Oakland

Source: [the carrier's public interactive schedule](#), read 23 September 2026, our medians, Indicative. Some legs weren't shown without a login.

Put that next to 30 days and you can see why two Kiwi importers buying the same thing from the same city can tell each other completely different stories about India.

Which Indian Port Should I Ship From to New Zealand?

From the published fast relay, Nhava Sheva and Chennai both reach Auckland in 29 to 32 days, and Kolkata is a little quicker at 26 to 29. For a north or west Indian supplier, that points to Nhava Sheva rather than Mundra, which looked slow on the routings we saw. For a south Indian supplier, Chennai. Kolkata suits suppliers in the east, such as the city's own leather makers.

Tauranga adds about a week on the same relay, 36 to 39 days from Nhava Sheva or Chennai, so if your warehouse is in the Bay of Plenty, compare that against Auckland plus the truck.

What Should I Ask My Forwarder?

Three things, in writing, before the goods are packed:

1. **Which relay hub?** If the answer is Port Klang, good. If it's Shanghai, Busan or Oakland, ask why, and whether a Port Klang sailing is available.
2. **Which service and mother vessel from the hub?** This tells you the connection exists, not just the feeder.
3. **What happens if the connection is missed?** On a weekly service, a missed hub connection costs at least a week.

If the supplier's forwarder books the freight, the supplier may not even know which relay it uses. That's one of the reasons we suggest buyers control their own freight, which is set out in [choosing a freight forwarder](#). If you'd like it done for you, [SourcingSync](#) books India freight on the routing you ask for.

Does the Transit Time Change What I Should Buy?

A little. The products New Zealand already buys from India in volume are not urgent goods. India supplied 36.4% of New Zealand's household linen imports (heading 6302) in 2025, up from 27.1% in 2020 (Stats NZ, our analysis). Towels and sheets ride happily on a 30-day boat. Fast fashion with a short season is less forgiving, and an 80-day routing can kill it. Either way, plan the season on the slow figure until your forwarder proves the fast one. The trade agreement, duty dates and New Zealand's border rules are on [importing from India to New Zealand](#).

For a small first order, check the levies too. Since April 2026 New Zealand charges per consignment, and small sea shipments can cost more in fixed levies than air, as the New Zealand page explains.



FAQ

How long does shipping from India to New Zealand take? ^

About 29 to 32 days to Auckland on a Port Klang relay, and 36 to 39 to Tauranga. Other routings we read took 51 to 97 days.

Is there a direct ship from India to Auckland? v

Why did my shipment from India go via the US? v

Is 30 days a safe planning figure? v

