

A Must-Read for Freight Forwarders!

How Much Faster Is CMA's Sakura Express Than Standard Europe Ocean Freight? Everything You Need to Know in One Article!

How Much Faster Is CMA's Sakura Express to Europe Compared with Standard Ocean Freight?

One Route Map Tells the Whole Story!

Recently, a customer exporting furniture to Europe asked me a question:

"Why did someone else's shipment take 48 days to arrive in Europe, while mine was delivered in just 35 days?"

Most people's first reaction is:

Was the vessel simply sailing faster?

The answer is 'no '

Although both services are operated by container vessels, the difference in sailing speed is far smaller than many people imagine.

What really creates the transit time advantage is the **shipping route itself**.

Today, let's use the China–**Rotterdam (Netherlands)** trade lane as an example to show you exactly what makes **CMA's Sakura Express** faster.

01 Two Major Shipping Routes to Europe

① CMA Sakura Express (via the Suez Canal)

Yantian, Shenzhen → Strait of Malacca → Indian Ocean → Red Sea → Suez Canal → Mediterranean Sea → **Strait of Gibraltar** → Rotterdam



Route Advantages:

- ☒ Shorter sailing distance
- ☒ More direct routing
- ☒ Approximately 10,000 km shorter than the Cape of Good Hope route (depending on the origin and destination ports)

② **Standard Ocean Freight (via the Cape of Good Hope – applicable to certain services)**

China Port (Yantian, Shenzhen) → Strait of Malacca → Indian Ocean → Cape of Good Hope (South Africa) → West African Waters → Strait of Gibraltar → Rotterdam



By bypassing the entire African continent, the voyage becomes significantly longer.

This remains the transportation solution adopted by many economy shipping services today.

The biggest difference between these two routes is simple:

* One transits through the Suez Canal.

* The other sails around the entire African continent.

02 How Much Faster Is It?

Many customers believe that:

A fast shipping service simply means the vessel sails faster.

In reality, that's not the case.

The real time savings come from eliminating a substantial portion
of **the voyage distance**.

Using the China–Rotterdam route as an example:

Comparison	CMA Sakura Express	tandard Ocean Freight (Selected Cape of Good Hope Services)
Route	Via the Suez Canal	Via the Cape of Good Hope
Sailing Distance	Shorter	Longer
Overall Transit Time	Approximately 35 - 40 days(subject to vessel schedule)	Approximately 45 - 55 days(subject to vessel schedule)
Transit Performance	More stable	Greater schedule variability

In other words,

Under comparable operating conditions, CMA Sakura Express typically saves approximately 7–15 days compared with certain economy services routing via the Cape of Good Hope.

03 Why Is It More Than Just a Shorter Route?

Besides the shorter sailing distance, four additional factors contribute to faster transit times.

01

Fixed Weekly Sailings

A fixed sailing schedule minimizes waiting time before vessel departure, making shipment planning more predictable.

02

Premium Service Routing

The service is designed to:

- * Reduce transshipment
- * Minimize additional port calls

* Reduce waiting time throughout the journey

03

Higher Schedule Reliability

What cross-border sellers truly need is not an occasional fast shipment—they need every shipment to arrive consistently on schedule.

04

Strong Destination Capabilities in Europe

Even if the vessel arrives on time,

- * Customs clearance is delayed;
- * Container pickup is delayed;
- * Final delivery is delayed;

then the overall delivery will still not be fast, regardless of how quickly the vessel completed its voyage.

04 Why Do We Choose CMA Sakura Express?

Because what our customers truly value is:

Reliable Delivery Performance

Our Europe ocean freight solution offers:

- ☒ Fixed Container Loading Every Wednesday

Weekly fixed loading schedules help secure vessel space in advance, making your shipping plans more predictable and manageable.

- ☒ CMA Sakura Express

Operating via the Suez Canal (subject to the latest service schedule), the route offers:

- * Shorter sailing distance
- * Faster overall transit times
- * Better schedule performance than certain economy services routing via the Cape of Good Hope

- ☒ Europe DDP Service with Customs Clearance & Duty/Tax Solutions

We provide multiple customs clearance options, including:

- * DDP (Delivered Duty Paid)

- * Duty & Tax Paid

- * Self-Tax Clearance Solutions

From:

- * Export customs declaration

- * Import customs clearance

- * Duty and tax processing

to complete logistics coordination — everything is handled through a one-stop logistics solution.

- ☒ Extensive European Local Delivery Network

Door-to-door delivery services are available for:

- * Amazon FBA Fulfillment Centers

- * Overseas Warehouses

- * Commercial Addresses

- * Residential Addresses

Delivering a truly end-to-end door-to-door logistics solution.

05 Conclusion

When it comes to Europe ocean freight,

the key is not how fast the vessel sails.

What really matters is:

A shorter route

A smoother logistics network

More reliable delivery performance

If your cargo has strict delivery deadlines, choosing a mature, stable, premium shipping service is often far more valuable than simply pursuing the lowest freight rate.

Fixed Weekly Container Loading Every Wednesday

CMA Sakura Express

Europe DDP DDU

Helping your cargo reach Europe faster—from China to your destination.