

GCC Recommended Discharge Ports and Routes

The recommended alternative routes and ports, as advised by relevant Trade Missions and aligned with current carrier advisories amid ongoing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and related Gulf/Red Sea challenges, prioritize secure, viable options with reefer capabilities and bonded trucking support for maintaining cold-chain integrity.

| GCC Country | Recommended Discharge Ports | Primary Sea Route from Pakistan | Onward Transport | Key Notes for Perishables (Cold Chain) |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Oman | Sohar (priority), Salalah (secondary — check status) | Direct from Karachi via Arabian Sea (shortest & safest) | Local delivery or minimal trucking | Fastest & lowest-risk option. Minimal delay. Reefer handling excellent at both ports. |
| UAE | Khor Fakkan (Sharjah — priority), Fujairah | Direct feeders from Karachi to Gulf of Oman coast | Short bonded road trucking (1–4 hours to Dubai/Abu Dhabi) | Best overall choice. Shortest total transit time. |
| Saudi Arabia | Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdullah Port (KAAP) | Direct via Arabian Sea → Red Sea (Bab el-Mandeb) | Inland trucking/rail via Saudi corridors to any destination | Saudi actively promoting Red Sea as lifeline. High capacity & dedicated corridors. Ideal volume route. |
| Qatar | Khor Fakkan/Fujairah (UAE) or Sohar (Oman) | Sea to bypass port + multimodal | Bonded trucking via UAE/Saudi (~500–700 km, 1–2 days) | Use UAE/Oman gateways + land bridge. Customs facilitation in place. Maintain cold chain during trucking. -Jeddah Port is also the good option |
| Kuwait | Jeddah (primary) or Khor Fakkan/Sohar | Sea to bypass port + multimodal | Bonded trucking via Saudi (~1,000–1,300 km, 2–4 days) | Saudi corridors recommended. Longer overland leg — critical temperature control essential. |
| Bahrain | Jeddah (preferred) or Khor Fakkan/Sohar | Sea to bypass port + multimodal | Trucking to eastern Saudi + King Fahd Causeway | Efficient via Jeddah + short final leg. Saudi land corridors + causeway work seamlessly. |