



THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT



September 9, 2026

Chinese shipping company Sea Legend's container ship Dubai Tower arrived in the UK after sailing from Ningbo via Russia's Northern Sea Route. This marks the first scheduled seasonal service on the Arctic route.



The voyage took

25 days,

and Sea Legend plans eight seasonal sailings during the 2026 Arctic navigation season.

“

A previous trial voyage between Ningbo and Felixstowe was completed in around **20 days**, compared with roughly **40 days** via the Suez Canal.

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Source: ABC News, September 10, 2026.

THE ROUTES AT A GLANCE



ARCTIC ROUTE VS. SUEZ

	Arctic Route	Suez Route
Transit time	~20-25 days	~40 days
Operating window	Seasonal (Aug – Oct)	Year-round
Current scale	8 planned sailings in 2026	Established global network
Main challenges	Ice, weather, Infrastructure & geopolitics	Chokepoint / regional security



THE BOTTOM LINE

Shorter does not always mean easier.

The Arctic route offers a faster connection, but it is still limited by seasonality, weather and infrastructure. For now, it is an additional option rather than a new standard Asia-Europe route.



BERKMAN EXPERTISE: TURNING MARKET DEVELOPMENTS INTO SOLUTIONS



MONITOR

We track emerging trade routes, regulatory updates and market developments.



ANALYZE

We assess the commercial viability and operational impact for different shipping options.



ADVISE

We provide tailored recommendations based on your cargo profile, timelines and risk appetite.



DELIVER

We coordinate with our global network to arrange the most reliable and cost-effective solutions for your supply chain.



KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR SHIPPERS

1

BALANCE SPEED AND RELIABILITY

The Arctic route is faster, but Suez remains more stable and predictable.

2

WATCH SEASONALITY

Limited to the summer navigation window, with changing ice and weather conditions.

3

CONSIDER YOUR CARGO NEEDS

Different cargo types may require different routing strategies.

4

STAY INFORMED

We will keep you updated on service changes, capacity and market developments.

5

PLAN AHEAD

The Arctic route adds flexibility, but it requires careful planning and close coordination.



Need tailored solutions for your shipments?

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Our experts are ready to assist you.

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