

More Than Just Treasure Voyages

Zheng He's Seven Voyages of Friendship and Culture Exchange

From 1405 to 1433

E U R O P E

A S I A



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N

White Sheep Turkomans
(Iran)

Arabian Peninsula
(Oman)

Exotic animals exchanging and friendship increasing

When Zheng He arrived in Africa, he met with the king and queen of Mogadishu. Zheng He sent Chinese silk, porcelain, and tea as gifts. In exchange, the king gave Ming Dynasty a giraffe, which is called "Qi Lin" by ancient Chinese. The prince of Mogadishu and several diplomats also went back to visit Ming with Zheng He.

Mogadishu
Malindi

Kenya

A F R I C A

Influential hint for future navigators

During ocean navigations, one of the deadly diseases was scurvy. It is proved to be caused by lacking of Vitamine C in human diet. Especially for sailors, fresh vegetables are scarce resources. But during Zheng He's voyages, they brought along with them green beans and soy beans. They sprouted these beans and cooked them as daily dishes. This is one of many reasons that each of Zheng He's voyage could last one or two years.



Zhen He was born in Southwestern China in 1371. He listens to his father telling him folktales and myths about the distant land. He liked adventures and was brave and curious. Later he was selected by the young Prince Zhu Di as his body guard, and promoted to the chief diplomatic officer for the expeditions when Zhu Di became emperor.

Spice exchange

During Zheng He's visits in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, exchanging of goods took place. Ming Dynasty gave the visited countries gold, silk in exchange for all kinds of spices that these countries were famous for, for example: agilawood. Exchanging goods is a great way for these countries to get to know Ming Dynasty, also build diplomatic relationship with Ming Dynasty.



Zheng He's birth place

Ming Dynasty
(China)

Kunming

Bangladesh

Chittagong

Champa
(Vietnam)

Siam
(Thailand)

Qui Nhon

Sumatra
(Indonesia)

Malacca

Semudera

Galle

Kozhikode

Dhofar

Aden

Hormuz

Arabian Sea

Bay of Bengal

South China Sea

East China Sea

Beijing

Nanjing

Changle

Taiping Harbor

First voyage, 1405-1407

Second voyage, 1407-1409

Third voyage, 1409-1411

Fourth Voyage, 1413-1415

Fifth voyage, 1417-1419

Sixth voyage, 1421-1422

Seventh voyage, 1431-1433

Special cities

Major trading sites

Open up Malacca Channel and share well digging skills

Malacca is a very narrow strait. As Zheng He's fleets arrive here, they helped establish Malacca as a channel for later navigations.

Also, as they arrived here, they dug wells in the mountains to collect fresh water; they also shared the well-digging skills with natives in Indonesia. The wells Zheng He's fleets dug are still used today.



During Emperor Zhu Di's administration, Ming Dynasty was in great prosperity. Rapid agriculture and manufacture growth made Ming dynasty very powerful and rich. The Forbidden Palace and the Great Wall were built under his command. Zhu Di was also a visionary and had passion for the unknown land. That was why he commanded Zheng He to explore the sea.

Fundamental decision

Beijing

The origin of seven voyages

Nanjing

Changle

Taiping Harbor

South China Sea

East China Sea

Beijing

Chittagong

Champa

Siam

Delhi Sultanate

Java

Sumatra

Malacca

Semudera

Galle

Kozhikode

Dhofar

Aden

Hormuz

Arabian Sea

Bay of Bengal

South China Sea

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