

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

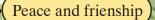
The ships used in the fleets were all manufactured at Baochuan Shipyard. In the seven voyages, there were total of more than 1400 ships started from here.

Loading goods and ready to go

At Taiping Harbor, this is the last stop for Zheng He's fleets before they enter into

the South China Sea. Here, they were loading all the goods they would be sending out as gifts, such as the rare Blue and White Porcelain, silk, gold, etc. Also, prepare food, water, weapons (mostly used for defense purpose) and evreything else needed for long expeditions. Here, they were also waiting for Southwest Monsoon in summer, Northester Monsoon in winter. Monsoon was the main driving force for their fleets.





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During his first voyage, Zheng He arrived in Java when the East and West kingdom are in war. Hundreds of Zheng He's men were accidentally killed by the West King. Many people predicted there would be a war between Ming and the West King, since Zheng He's fleets had advanced weapons prepared, but Zheng He followed Ming Emperor's instruction, "Peace is the key". Not only did they not get into war, but also the two countries built their international friendship for the first time. Trading and gift exchanges later took place