

## *Tomb · Imprint*

--The Tomb of East King of Sulu, Dezhou, Shandong

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**Abstract:** The Grand Canal, which has been flowing for thousands of years, is beautiful and nature. In Dezhou, Shandong Province, which was prospered by the canal, there is a special village in the city, Beiyong Village, where the descendants of East King of Sulu live there, and they have taken care of the East King's tomb more than 600 years. The tomb of the East King, which has been buried for more than 600 years, tells a story of encounters on the Maritime Silk Road, a history of magnificent friendship and diplomacy, and a friendship that is sustained by mutual trust.

### 1. Introduction

“The clouds and the soul look south, the drizzle and the water flow north”. Looking at the tomb of East King King which is national key cultural relics protection unit, sitting from the north to the south, from south to north are the archway, the imperial stele tower, the Shinto, the Lingen Hall, and the East King's tomb. Among them, the imperial stele was stored in the imperial Stele of the East King of Sulu; after walking through the solemn and solemn shinto that is separated by stone statues on both sides, passing through LingenGate, it is like crossing the vast river of history, embedded more than 600 years ago. In time and space, he walked into China's Ming Dynasty, who was in the “Yongle Flourishing age” of China, and witnessed an important international diplomatic activity in the world's medieval history.

In May of the 15th year of Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (AD 1417), on the vast and misty Pacific Ocean, the East King of Sulu Kingdom Paduka Pahala, the West king Mahala Chigemading and Dang King Baduge Balabo led more than 340 people are sailing along the “Oriental Route” to China. This is actually a return visit to Zheng He's mission to Sulu. They traveled through Boni and Manlajia, and then traveled north along the coast of the Indo-China Peninsula, passed Zhenla, Champa and other places, and then turned to Guangzhou and Quanzhou in China. After more than two months of sailing, they went through hardships and crossed thousands of miles, arrived at Quanzhou Port in Fujian, China in July. After a short break, he traveled northward along the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal from Pukou, via Yangzhou, Xuzhou, Jizhou, Linqing, Dezhou, Cangzhou, Tianjin, Tongzhou and other places, arriving Beijing in early August. Emperor Yongle attached great importance to the visit of the three kings of Sulu, and held a grand meeting at Fengtian Temple, gave a high-level reception and awarded a reward. During the 27 days in Beijing, East King and his entourage not only experienced the extensive and profound Chinese culture, strengthened friendly exchanges with China, but also consolidated their international position

politically and promoted trade exchanges economically.

## 2. The Monument Will Last Forever

According to the scheduled itinerary, after the visit, the Sulu delegation headed south along the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and embarked on a journey back home, passing through Dezhou, Shandong. East King unfortunately died of illness. Ming Chengzu was very grieved. He personally ordered the Ministry of Ritual to write a memorial to the East King. He ordered the Secretary to choose a thick soil and burial with the royal ritual. He gave the posthumous title “Gong Ding”. This Sino-Philippines friendship envoy was in the north of Dezhou.

Dezhou is an ancient city on the canal, and one of the “Four Cauldrons” of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal in the Ming Dynasty. It has the reputation of “Transportation Hub” “Gateway to Beijing”. Ming Chengzu chose this land and water key and beautiful scenery to encamp and bury the East King. In addition to his admiration for his “honesty”, but also to let future generations always remember this messenger of Sino-Philippine friendship. In the 16th year of Yongle (1418), Ming Chengzu’s imperial order built an ancestral temple in front of the tomb of East King, erected a memorial monument, and wrote an inscription, that is, the existing “Imperial of Sulu Kingdom East King Stele”, which will last forever, and the last inscription said: “Although the king died, there are people who don’t die with death, this is a sincere man.” In order to allow future generations to see the face of East King, Ming Chengzu also ordered a public painter to draw a portrait of East King, which was hung in the center of the Mausoleum's Lingen Hall for future generations to admire.

There are eight vermilion columns standing in front of the solemn and solemn Hall of Enemy. There are two side halls on the left and right sides respectively, between the gate, the main hall and the side hall. Connected by a long corridor, red pillars and grey tiles, painted whitewashed walls. To the north of Lingen Hall Temple is the tall, round-shaped Baoding of the East King’s Tomb, the height of which is the highest in the whole Dezhou City Tomb. The green pine and cypress on the high platform and the Chinese acacia under the stage are shaded, and the whole cemetery is lush and peaceful.

About fifty meters southeast of the Lingen Gate, there is the tomb of Princess Kamukin and the two sons Antoulu and Wonhala. The three tombs are next to each other and face the tomb of the East King.

## 3. To Express My Precious Legacy

After the tomb of East King was completed, many Chinese literati stopped to pay tribute to this foreign monarch, such as Gu Yanwu, Wang Shizhen, Tian Wen, etc. These excellent works commemorating the tomb of the East King of Sulu state were handed down from memory, expressing the admiration of Chinese literati and Scholars for the eastern East King and leaving a valuable literary legacy for The East King of Sulu.

## 4. Prosperity and Integration into China

After East King’s burial, Ming Chengzu properly handled his subsequent affairs: the eldest son of East king Du Mahan was inherited the throne and led a delegation to return to the country; the Princess Kamukin and the second son Antoulu, the third son Wonhala and ten followers, stayed in the tomb in China to comfort the dead and show the people who came. From then on, the descendants of East King thrived in the tomb. At first, they took the form of guest residence in China and enjoyed the land property, salary and royal treatment bestowed by the Ming government. In the reign of Emperor Yongzheng of the Qing Dynasty, the descendants of King SuLu officially

“took Wen, and An as their surname and naturalized in Dezhou” and became members of the Qing dynasty, ending the era of guest residence in China and becoming a member of the Big Chinese family. Since then, Wen and An family is a famous qing dynasty, worship Confucian scholars everywhere. At present, the descendants of East King have multiplied to the 22nd generation, with nearly 4,000 people alive. Their footprints are all over the country, showing a pattern of large dispersion and small concentration. This is the result of the gradual integration between the descendants of East King and the local residents. It reflects the inclusiveness of Chinese culture and adds a wonderful touch to the long history of china-Philippines friendly exchanges.

## 5. Inheriting History, Friendship Forever

The history of East King’s visit to China has long been known in China and the Philippines. It has become the common pride of the two peoples. It has also built a colorful bridge of friendship for the two peoples. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines, especially in recent years The people of the country frequently interacted and exchanged and shared the memory of East King.

## 6. Carry on the Past and Set Sail

Hundreds of years apart, thousands of miles away. Hundreds of years ago, the tireless hard work showed a flourishing chapter of friendly exchanges between China and foreign countries. In ancient times, it echoed the diplomatic concept of China’s strong national strength and friendly hospitality; and today, it is the ancient maritime silk. The organic integration of the road and the Belt and Road Initiative is a spiritual connection across time and space, and the history of friendly exchanges is inherited and sublimated today.

## 7. Conclusion

The mighty fleet on the canal more than six hundred years ago and the hardships and glory of the Sulu country’s missions have gone with history. The ancient tomb of East King is still solemn and solemn, and the sparkling canal water is just right. Rippling not far away, they seem to be using more than 600 years of time to prove: The Maritime Silk Road has never been only a carrier of material exchanges and commodity trade. It has created possibilities for exploration and meeting, and encounter, acquaintance, and acquaintance. And urged it to give out new impetus, let people ride horses forward, set sail.

## References

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