

Sihcao Dajhong Temple

四草大眾廟

Sihcao Dajhong Temple is most famous as the original seat of worship of Chen You, the only native-born Taiwanese to be deified at the command of an emperor of China.

四草大眾廟奉祀主神為鎮海元帥，原名陳酉，為史上唯一經清朝皇帝封為神祇的臺灣人。



Early History of Sihcao Dajhong Temple | 歷史沿革

The actual origins of the temple are lost to history. The first known mention in the Chinese written record occurs in 1700, when the Kangxi Emperor wrote a directive ordering the rebuilding of the temple. However, a Dutch map from the 17th century shows a temple at the location, and it is quite possible that a temple of some sort existed even before that time.

Sihcao Dajhong Temple is located on what used to be Beishanwei Island, which straddled Tainan's Luerhmen and Anping Harbors before the area silted in. Initially inhabited by the Pingpu tribe, this strategic location was later occupied by the Dutch, who were finally ousted by Ming Dynasty General Koxinga in 1661-1662.

In its earlier years, the temple rose to prominence as a site to bury and pay respects to Chinese soldiers killed in the war between Koxinga and the Dutch as well as to people who had drowned or been lost at sea. The name of the temple, which loosely translates to the Temple of the People, reflects this early history.

四草大眾廟的起源至今仍不詳，最早的文書記錄載於清朝年間，康熙帝於1700年下旨修建。但是在十六世紀由荷蘭人繪製的地圖上就有標記出此處有一座廟宇，專家認為四草大眾廟甚至更久以前就已立足此地。四草大眾廟早年祭祀鄭成功時期臺灣第一戰陣亡烈士以及開臺先民。四草大眾廟所在地北汕尾島原，原為鹿耳門及安平港一帶。早年為平埔族居住地，後歷經荷蘭人開墾，1661至1662年間鄭成功擊敗荷蘭人後佔領。四草大眾廟於鄭荷之戰時期為悼念戰亡英魂以及出海溺斃百姓之地，因此才有「大眾廟」之稱。

Chen You, Jhenghai Yuanshai (Marshall of the souls at sea) | 鎮海元帥

Later, during the Qing Dynasty, the temple took on even greater significance as the center of worship of Chen You, the "Great General." Chen You started life as a porter in Tainan. He was known for his extraordinary strength; legend has it that when the ship of a Qing official was stranded on shore, he single-handedly pushed the boat into the water when an entire group of people had been unable to do so.

Later, serving in the Qing military, Chen was instrumental in putting down the short-lived 1721 rebellion against Qing rule led by Jhu Yi-Guei. As time passed, his loyalty and scrupulous honesty in his administration of military affairs led to him being promoted to the highest-ranked Taiwanese officer in the Qing dynasty. Unfortunately, his enemies carried out a whisper campaign against him in an attempt to cause him to lose favor with the emperor.

With his honor impugned, Chen committed suicide by drowning. According to reports, his body floated across the shallow lagoon to the island. When the emperor received the news, he decreed that Chen should be deified and honored with the title Jhenghai Yuanshai (Marshall of the souls at sea), with Sihcao Dajhong Temple as his seat of worship. Over the years, worship of the Great General has spread, and his effigies have been enshrined in over three hundred temples in Taiwan and elsewhere.

清代開始，四草大眾廟奉祀主神為鎮海元帥。相傳鎮海元帥名陳酉，原為從事牛車搬運的臺灣人，力大如牛，僅靠一臂之力便能將擱淺的船隻推回海裡。後來陳酉從軍，平定朱一貴事件有功，為人正直、忠義肝膽，成為清朝臺人武官中地位最高者。但因治軍甚嚴，招致奸官陷害，因而鬱結投海而亡，遺體飄至四草。乾隆皇帝獲悉，諡封陳酉為鎮海大元帥，坐鎮四草大眾廟，從此百姓廣為奉拜，鎮海大元帥的神像也廣布於三百多座廟宇。

The Temple as a Center of Local Worship | 在地信仰的中心

Sihcao Dajhong Temple is the main temple of Tainan's Taijiang area. The temple has undergone several enlargements and renovations, and many other gods have been enshrined in the temple over the years, including Guanyin (the Goddess of Mercy), Mazu (the Goddess of the Sea), Jhu Sheng Niang Niang (the Goddess of Childbirth), Lady Linshuei, and Fu De Jheng Shen (Village Deity). Local people come here to pray and seek direction for their careers, education, marriages, childbearing, and more.

四草大眾廟為台江地區的主要廟宇，幾經多次修整擴建，陸續有多位神明入廟坐鎮，如觀音、媽祖、註生娘娘、臨水夫人，與福德正神。當地人經常於此問事業、學業、婚姻、生子等。

Nearby Points of Interest | 附近景點

In 1917, the Japanese, who occupied Taiwan at the time, started up a salt industry which is still in operation today. The traditional-style salt fields are a beautiful sight to see.

The nearby Sihcao Wetlands were set aside by the Tainan City government in 1994 for the preservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill and other endangered migratory and local wetlands species. Visitors can enjoy a quiet boat ride down the Sihcao Tunnel, an old canal roofed over by mangroves, or a longer boat trip on the lake and through the wetlands area. The wetlands preserve is only a short walk from the temple.

1917年，日本人於臺灣建立製鹽業，當時開闢的順安鹽田至今仍保有傳統製鹽業的特色與風情。附近另有四草濕地，是臺南市政府為保育黑面琵鷺等濕地保育類動物而劃定的保護區，現場開放四草紅樹林隧道供民眾搭船遊憩。從四草大眾廟步行即可抵達濕地保育區(四草隧道)。

Our Culture, Our Temple

