**Great Pyramid at Giza**

The Great Pyramid of Giza, located about ten miles southwest of Cairo, was built as a burial site for Egyptian pharaoh Khufu in the 26th century BCE. Standing at 481 feet high, the Great Pyramid was not only the largest pyramid ever built, but it also remained one of the tallest structures in the world until the late 19th century. Impressing visitors with its massiveness and beauty, it's no surprise that the Great Pyramid at Giza is considered one of the [Seven Ancient Wonders of the World](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-seven-wonders-of-the-world-4147695). Amazingly, the Great Pyramid has withstood the test of time, standing for over 4,500 years; it is the only Ancient Wonder to have survived to the present.

## **Khufu**

Khufu (known in Greek as Cheops) was the second king of the 4th dynasty in ancient [Egypt](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-did-ancient-egyptians-call-egypt-118072), ruling for about 23 years in the late 26th century BCE. He was the son of Egyptian Pharaoh Sneferu and Queen Hetepheres I. Sneferu remains famous for being the very first pharaoh to build a pyramid.

Despite fame for building the second and largest pyramid in Egyptian history, there's not a lot more that we know about Khufu. Only one, extremely tiny (three-inch), ivory statue has been found of him, giving us just a glimpse at what he must have looked like. We know that two of his children (Djedefra and Khafre) became pharaohs after him and it is believed that he had at least three wives.

Whether or not Khufu was a kind or evil ruler is still debated. For centuries, many believed that he must have been hated because of stories that he used the stolen labor of enslaved people to create the Great Pyramid. This has since been found untrue. It is more likely that the Egyptians, who viewed their pharaohs as god-men, found him not as beneficent as his father, but still a traditional, ancient-Egyptian ruler.

## **The Great Pyramid**

The Great Pyramid is huge, covering a little over 13 acres of ground. Each side, although not exactly the same length, is about 756-feet long. Each corner is nearly an exact 90-degree angle. Interestingly, each side is aligned to face one of the cardinal points of the compass; north, east, south, and west. Its entrance lies in the middle of the north side.

The structure of the Great Pyramid is made from 2.3 million, extremely large, heavy, cut-stone blocks, weighing an average of 2 1/2 tons each, with the largest weighing 15 tons. It is said that when [Napoleon Bonaparte](https://www.thoughtco.com/napoleon-bonaparte-biography-1221106) visited the Great Pyramid in 1798, he calculated that there was enough stone to build a one-foot-wide, 12-feet-high wall around France.

It is said that the whole project took 30 years to complete—10 years for preparation and 20 for the actual building. Many believe this to be possible, with the chance that it could have been built even faster.

The workmen who built the Great Pyramid were not enslaved, as once thought, but regular Egyptian peasants who were conscripted to help with building for about three months out of the year, i.e. during the time when the Nile floods and farmers were not needed in their fields.

## **What About Those Other Two Pyramids**

The Great Pyramid at Giza now sits with two other pyramids. The second one was built by Khafre, Khufu's son. Although Khafre's pyramid appears larger than his father's, it's an illusion since the ground is higher under Khafre's pyramid. In reality, it is 33.5-feet shorter. Khafre is believed to have also built the Great Sphinx, which sits regally by his pyramid.

The third pyramid at Giza is much shorter, standing only 228-feet high. It was built as a burial place for Menkaura, Khufu's grandson and Khafre's son.

They help protect these three pyramids at Giza from further vandalism and disrepair, they were added to the [UNESCO](https://www.thoughtco.com/unesco-history-and-overview-1435440) World Heritage List in 1979.

## **Top 10 Facts about the Pyramids of Giza**

It is estimated that 2.3 billion bricks were used to make the pyramid, the exact dimensions are not known as they were in Egyptian units.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and the greatest pyramid of the three pyramids that are found there.

It is one of the seven wonders of the world and was built for Pharaoh Khufu of the eighth dynasty between 2580 and 2560 BC.

The pyramid contains chambers specifically made for the king and queen, the Robbers’ Tunnel, a modern opening gate, the Grand Gallery, and a huge vacuum deep inside the pyramid.

The pyramid of Giza is more fascinating compared to the other pyramids making it a favorite tourist destination. Most of Egypt’s’ revenue from tourism is gained from the numerous visitors to this pyramid.

Here are some top 10 facts about the Pyramids of Giza.

* The pyramids of Giza were the first to be built. ...
* The great pyramid was constructed after the red pyramid. ...
* The pyramids of Giza have shrunk. ...
* The interior of the pyramid has three chambers. ...
* The chambers of the pyramid are empty. ...
* Skilled masons built the pyramid.

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| **The Great Pyramid of Giza** |
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| The Great Pyramid of Giza in March 2005 |
| [**Khufu**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khufu) |
| **Coordinates** | [29°58′45″N 31°08′03″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Great_Pyramid_of_Giza&params=29_58_45_N_31_08_03_E_region:EG_type:landmark_scale:2000)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [29°58′45″N 31°08′03″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Great_Pyramid_of_Giza&params=29_58_45_N_31_08_03_E_region:EG_type:landmark_scale:2000) |
| **Ancient name** |

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[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Pyramid_of_Giza#cite_note-FOOTNOTEVerner2001189-1)*ꜣḫt Ḫwfw***Akhet Khufu**Khufu's Horizon |
| **Constructed** | c. 2600 BC ([4th dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_dynasty_of_Egypt)) |
| **Type** | [True pyramid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid) |
| **Material** | Mainly [limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone), mortar, some [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) |
| **Height** | * 146.6 m (481 ft) or 280 [cubits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubits) (*originally*)
* 138.5 m (454 ft) (*contemporary*)
 |
| **Base** | 230.33 m (756 ft) or 440 cubits |
| **Volume** | 2.6 million m3 (92 million cu ft) |