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Pyramid of Menkaure **Giza Plateau, Egypt**

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Menkaure's Pyramid

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Pyramid of Menkaure)

Menkaure's Pyramid, located on the Giza Plateau on the southwestern outskirts of Cairo, Egypt, is the smallest of the three Pyramids of Giza. It was built to serve as the tomb of the fourth dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Menkaure.

Contents

- 1 Size and construction
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Size and construction

Menkaure's Pyramid had an original height of 65.5 meters (215 feet). It now stands at 62 m (203 ft) tall with a base of 105 m (344 ft). Its angle of incline is approximately 51°20'25". It was constructed of limestone and granite.

Age and location

The pyramid's date of construction is unknown, because Menkaure's reign has not been accurately defined, but it was probably completed sometime during the 26th century BC. It lies a few hundred meters southwest of its larger neighbors, the Pyramid of Khafre and the Great Pyramid of Khufu in the Giza necropolis.

Coffin and Sarcophagus

Richard William Howard Vyse, while surveying the pyramid in a 1924 investigation by Harvard University and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, discovered in the upper antechamber the remains of a wooden anthropoid coffin inscribed with Menkaure's name and containing human bones. This is now considered to be a substitute coffin from the Saite period, and radiocarbon dating on the bones determined them to be less than 2,000 years old. Deeper into the pyramid Vyse came upon a beautiful basalt sarcophagus, rich in detail with a bold projecting cornice. Unfortunately this sarcophagus now lies at the bottom of the Mediterranean, sinking with the *Beatrice* as she made her way to Great Britain.^[1] It is one of only a handful of extant Old Kingdom sarcophagi. The anthropoid coffin, however, was successfully transported on a separate ship and may be seen today at the British Museum.

Further reading

- Verner, Miroslav, *The Pyramids – Their Archaeology and History*, Atlantic Books, 2001, ISBN 1-84354-171-8

Menkaure's Pyramid

Menkaure



The Pyramid of Menkaure

Type True Pyramid

Height 65.5 meters (215 feet)

Base 105 m (344 ft)

Slope 51°20'25"

References

- ↑ [1] (http://www.zahihawass.com/egyptian_hist_dev_giza.htm) History of Giza

External links

- NOVA Online – Pyramids: Menkaure's Inside Story (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/explore/menkaurestory.html>)
- Satellite images of Menkaure's Pyramid (<http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=29972576&x=31128085&z=18&l=0&m=s>) - at WikiMapia = Google maps + wiki

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Categories: Articles with unsourced statements | 26th century BC architecture | Giza Plateau | Ancient Egyptian pyramids

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EXHIBIT I_B-2: The [Giza Egypt Plateau Complex](#) South Eastern View Photograph



(FROM HANCOCK AND BAUVAL, [THE MESSAGE OF THE SPHINX](#) BY, 1996, PICTURE 21)

EXHIBIT NOTES:

- This southeastern view of the [Giza Plateau Complex](#) shows the [Sphinx Rock Sculpture](#) in the middle foreground with its **Sphinx** and **Valley Temples** in front, the **Great Pyramid** (Khufu) to its background to the right, the **Second Pyramid** (Khefere) with cap stones in the middle background and the **Third Pyramid** (Menkare) to the left left background. [The three Pyramids](#) lie on a 45 degree diagonal from the Great Pyramid southwest to the Second Pyramid with the Third Pyramid offset forward to the east. The **Giza Plateau Complex** was designed and built by the [Ancient Egyptian Mystery School of On \(Annu\)](#) as its [Aten Path](#) Initiation center and main campus.