

## **Pyramid of *Khafra*(*Chephren*) (2520-2494 BCE)**

Khafra's pyramid is the most preserved pyramid of the Giza group; it stands close to Khufu's, and in size is almost its twin, for two reasons:

1. It was built on a slightly higher ground than Khufu's.
2. It maintained its summit, while Khufu's pyramid lost its top 10 m (33ft).

### **The Interior of Khafra's Pyramid**

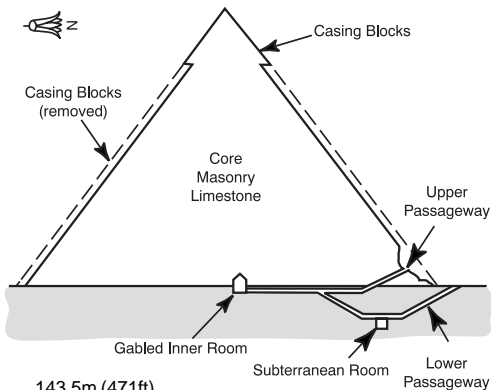
- There are two entrances leading into the pyramid, one directly above the other. The upper passage, 15m(50ft) above ground, is the one we use to enter the pyramid. This narrow polar passage descends at a 25° 55' angle, down into the bed-rock. It levels off, and then continues horizontally to a large limestone room. The walls of the sloping section and part of the horizontal section are lined with red granite, for unknown reasons. The passages are totally void of any inscriptions.

- The only room in this pyramid is hewn out of the rock, and roofed with gabled limestone slabs. These slabs are set at the same angle as the pyramid face. It is totally void of any inscriptions. There is an empty uninscribed, beautiful, polished granite box. The box is set into the floor of the room, up to the level of the lid. When the pyramid was first entered, in 1818 CE, the granite box was found, empty and clean, with the lid broken into two pieces, next to the box.

### **Khafra Pyramid Complex**

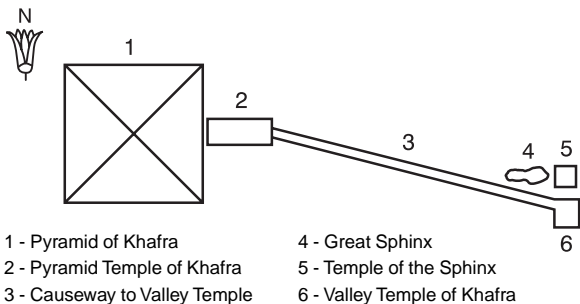
The *Khafra* Pyramid is connected to the following:

- Remains of *Khafra*'s(*Chephren*'s) Pyramid (wrongly known as mortuary) Temple.
- The causeway between the Temple of Khafra and the Valley Temple, which is 500 m (1650 ft) long.
- The Valley Temple of Khafra is a simple but massive structure with no inscriptions whatsoever. Later excavations found statues of Khafra in a pit in this temple.



Height: 143.5m (471ft)  
 Base: 214.5m (708ft) square  
 Mass: 5.3 million tons of solid Limestone  
 Angle:  $53^{\circ} 7' 48''$

### Interior of Khafra's Pyramid



1 - Pyramid of Khafra  
 2 - Pyramid Temple of Khafra  
 3 - Causeway to Valley Temple  
 4 - Great Sphinx  
 5 - Temple of the Sphinx  
 6 - Valley Temple of Khafra

### Profile of Causeway

## **Pyramid of *Menkaura* (*Mycerinus*) (2494-2472BCE)**

This is the smallest pyramid of the three at Giza. Extensive damage was done to the exterior, by a 16th century caliph who decided to demolish all the pyramids.

### *The Interior of Menkaura's Pyramid*

There are two passageways:

1. The upper passageway has its entrance on the northern face of the pyramid, and its entrance is 4m (13ft) above the base of the pyramid. This descending passage is the typical polar (pointing to the celestial pole) type, measuring about 31m (102ft). The sloping section leads into a horizontal passage, which in turn, leads into the first inner room.

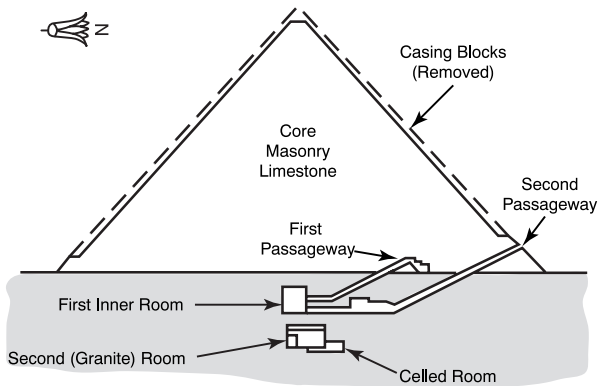
2. The second passageway is cut underneath the original upper passageway. The lower passageway is the one we use to enter the pyramid and it is lined with granite. It is also pointing to the celestial pole. The lower passage leads westward to a staircase, then down to a room containing six niches (called the *Celled Room*.) Still further west, lies the main underground room.

This room is cut out of the bedrock, and is entirely lined with red granite and totally void of any inscriptions.

Its ceiling appears to be vaulted, a perfect barrel vault, but on closer examination, you will find that the ceiling is actually formed of large, tightly fitted granite slabs, laid in facing gables.

This room contained a single basalt chest, with no inscriptions whatsoever. The chest was carried out earlier this century, to be shipped to England, but was lost at sea, off the Spanish coast.

**Outside**, are the excavated remains of Menkaura's Pyramid (wrongly known as mortuary) Temple and, further east, the ruins of his valley temple, still lying beneath the sand.



Base: 108m (356ft) square  
 Height: 67m (218ft)  
 Mass: 0.6 million tons of solid limestone

### Cross Section of Menkaura's Pyramid

## The End of the Pyramid Age

Menkaura Pyramid was the last genuine stone pyramid. Shepseskaf (2472-2467 BCE) followed Menkaura, and built what is commonly known as Mastabat Fara'un, located in Southern Saqqara. After Shepseskaf died, the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty ended. The kings of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty paid attention to their funeral complexes, but the pyramids that they built were just heaps of rubble.

The inner structures of these later ungentine pyramids have the normal spacious passages, offering rooms and other funerary features found in both earlier and later tombs. There is not the slightest doubt that these later structures were built to serve as tombs, and nothing but tombs.