

# Longest royal reigns

Queen Elizabeth II was less than two years from surpassing Louis XIV, the “Sun King”, as the world’s longest-reigning monarch



**Louis XIV**  
(1643-1715)  
France

**72 years,  
110 days**



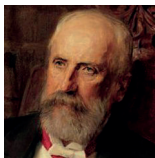
**Queen Elizabeth II**  
(1952-2022)  
UK\*

**70 years,  
214 days**



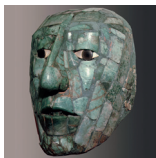
**Bhumibol Adulyadej**  
(1946-2016)  
Thailand

**70 years,  
126 days**



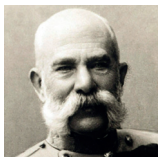
**Johann II**  
1858-1929  
Liechtenstein

**70 years,  
91 days**



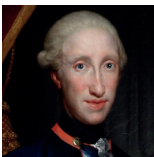
**K'inich Janaab' Pakal I**  
(615-683)  
Palenque†

**68 years,  
33 days**



**Franz Joseph I**  
(1848-67)  
Austria  
(1867-1916)  
Austria-Hungary

**67 years,  
355 days**



**Ferdinand III**  
(1759-1816)  
Sicily  
(1816-25)  
Two Sicilies

**65 years,  
90 days**



**Victoria**  
(1837-1901)  
UK,  
British Empire  
territories

**63 years,  
216 days**



**James I**  
(1213-1276)  
Kingdom of  
Aragon

**62 years,  
319 days**



**Hirohito**  
Empire of Japan  
(1926-47)  
Japan  
(1947-89)

**62 years,  
13 days**



**Pepi II:** Ancient Egyptian pharaoh is often cited as longest reigning monarch in history but precise dates cannot be verified. Acceded around 2278 BC at age six, and is said to have ruled for 94 years

◀ **Queen Ankhesenpepi II holding her son, Pepi II**

\*And 14 Commonwealth realms. †Maya city-state

Pictures: Louvre, Government of Thailand, Getty Images, Newscom, The Princely Collections, Retratos de la Historia, National Portrait Gallery, MNAC, Library of Congress, Brooklyn Museum

Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

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