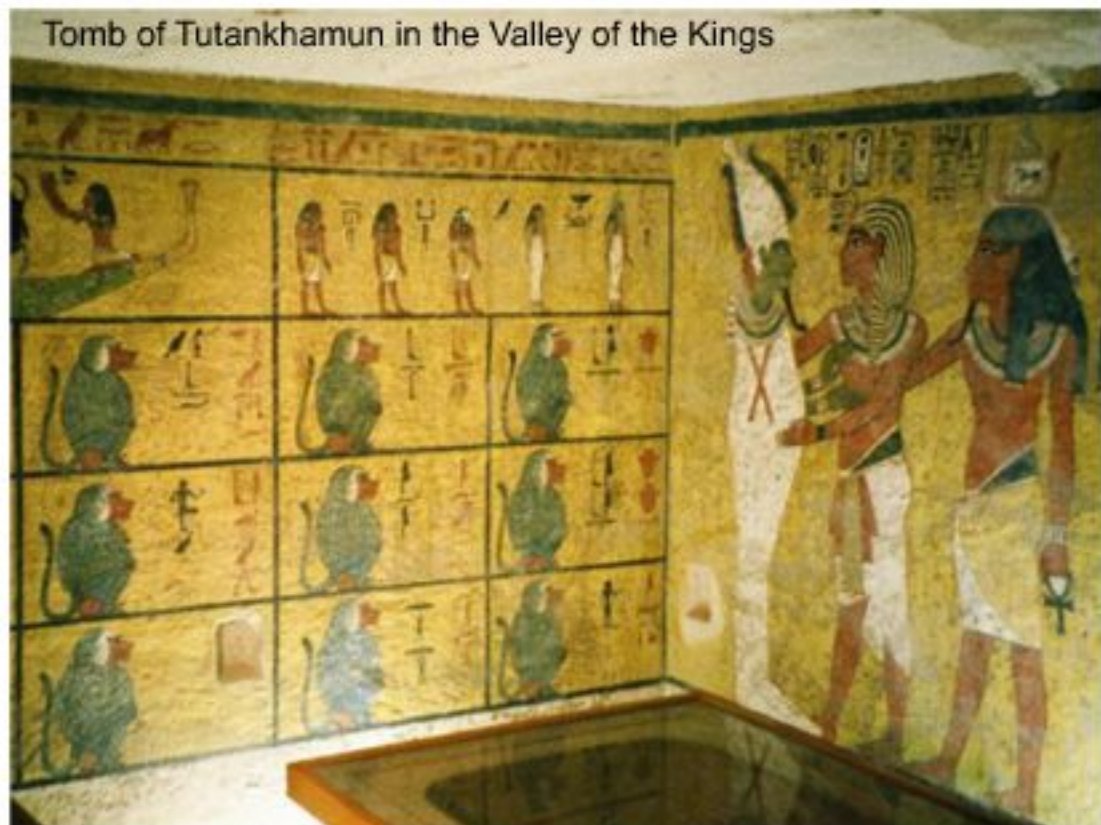


Egyptian Museum's incredible treasures dazzle visitors

By: Ian Stalker

Cairo's Egyptian Museum is inviting those with an interest in the country's Pharaonic past to view some artifacts that have a distinctly golden hue.

Tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings



Tutankhamun's scarab

Among highlights in the central Cairo museum is almost all of the huge number of items that were removed from Tutankhamun's tomb near the interior Egyptian city of Luxor, including his famed

death mask, arguably the most famous archeological artifact in the world.

Many of the objects were gilded or made entirely from gold, a reminder of the prestige that those who reigned as Pharaohs enjoyed.

But, notes Mina Steven of local tour company Sylvia Tours, which works with Ontario tour company GM Tours, the King Tut artifacts – which collectively took some years to remove from his tomb and include a coffin made entirely from





gold – are only one side to the museum, which has a huge number of sarcophagi and other items that aren't as well known as those items that came from Tutankhamen's tomb but which are fascinating nonetheless.

"There's lots and lots to see," Steven says, citing the likes of the Royal Mummies room, where visitors can see the mummies of many ancient Egyptian royals, including Ramses II, whose long

reign oversaw many of the most dramatic reminders of the legacy of the Pharaohs. Some of the mummies – now kept in temperature-controlled glass cases ---- are now only partly swathed, enabling visitors to see aged skin, teeth and tufts of hair. "Lots of people are shocked," Steven adds of the Royal Mummies room. "Some people think it's freaky."

Guide Niveen Abdel Shahid, who's

frequently led visitors through the museum, notes there are reminders of many Pharaohs, including one who credited with bringing chickens to Egypt from Asia, earning him today's moniker of the "Kentucky Fried Chicken of Egypt."

Meanwhile, the museum is only a

few blocks from Tahrir Square, which became famous when it became a rallying point for demonstrators wanting to oust longtime Egyptian ruler Hosni Mubarak in early 2011. "Everybody wants to see that square now," Steven says.

Tuthankhamun
Egyptian
Museum

