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## Annals of Tourism Research

Volume 29, Issue 2, April 2002, Pages 439-456

# Touring mines and mining tourists

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0160-7383\(01\)00041-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0160-7383(01)00041-X)

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## Abstract

Potosí, a colonial city in the highlands of Bolivia, was once the glory of the Spanish empire, with the richest mines in South America. The city's working silver mines, established in 1545, are a distinctive tourism attraction. Unlike in many other mining communities, tourists in Potosí visit actual operations rather than museums or restored mines. Tourism provides an opportunity for Quechua miners to present their own narratives, emphasizing the tragedy of Spanish conquest. This article examines tourist–local interactions in Potosí, and especially the use of tourism as a vehicle for narrating an indigenous discourse, while also comparing these mine tours with similar operations in other parts of the world.

## Résumé

Le tourisme des mines et les avantages du tourisme. Potosí, ville coloniale dans les montagnes de la Bolivie, était autrefois le premier titre de gloire de l'empire espagnol, avec les plus riches mines de l'Amérique du Sud. Les mines d'argent, qui fonctionnent depuis leur établissement en 1545, sont une attraction touristique essentielle. À

depuis leur A(OT)abissement en 1545, sont une attraction touristique exceptionnelle. A€ la diffÃ©rence des autres communautÃ©s miniÃ¨res, PotosÃ± offre aux touristes l'occasion de visiter une vraie exploitation plutÃ´t qu'un musÃ©e ou une mine restituÃ©e. Le tourisme offre aux mineurs Kechua l'occasion de prÃ©senter leurs propres rÃ©cits, qui soulignent la tragÃ©die de la conquÃªte espagnole. Le prÃ©sent article examine les interactions entre touristes et habitants Ã PotosÃ± et met en valeur le rÃ´le du tourisme comme vÃ©hicule de la narration du discours indigÃ¨ne, tout en comparant la visite de ces mines avec des opÃ©rations semblables ailleurs dans le monde.



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## Keywords

Bolivia; Latin America; indigenous people; heritage; mines

## Mots-clÃ©

Bolivie; AmÃ©rique latine; peuple indigÃ¨ne; patrimoine; mines

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