

What are people using old mines tunnels and areas for? Here's how they re-purpose them.

Of course, there's plenty of precious metals to mine on the rich Octave vein, but what about the more than 24 miles of empty tunnels? Some thoughts:

- 1) **Underground research**-The Homestake Mine and others are being converted to underground physics labs, because of the absence of radiation and signals in the tunnel, research findings are accurate.
- 2) **Wild West adventure stop**. Companies in Arizona regularly visit a area gold mines so tourists can see what it was like, even perhaps pan for a little gold.
- 3) **Archive and data storage**-being used around the country to save everything from genealogy data, to classic Hollywood movies, utilizing the constant temperature and humidity of mines.
- 4) **Fallout shelter and safe area**. After all, NORAD watches our defenses from inside Cheyenne Mountain, complete with underground water storage in a lake! ? Millions are being spent on retrofitting old missile sites and silos, but in Arizona this could be the next best thing, and you won't be on the Russians target list!
- 5) **Growing algae for bio-fuel**-a huge emerging industry. U. of Missouri scientists think it's possible in old mines, using new kinds of LED technology for the a light source!
- 6) **Radon medical treatments**-as is being done experimentally by mines near Helena, Montana. Not proven science, though.
- 7) **Wine Cellars**-check out the noted wine storage areas of the Circova Mine in Moldova.
- 8) **Wilderness B &B operation**-Eco-tourism is huge. What about a

foundation hosting geology students who also want to get experience with a small mining operation on the premises!

9) **Possible uses of gold tailings in fertilizers and plant products-** people were surprised when Kitty Litter took off, made from clay, and Ironite for plants. Both waste products from mining but now they make millions. One company is experimenting with adding gold tailings to fertilizer.

10) **Growing plants that love darkness,** and various degrees of humidity-such as mushrooms. Some companies are experimenting with genetic-engineering of plants in mines, where they are not affected by other pollens and contaminants. Plenty of water is accessible in the tunnels.

11) **Brewing beer in Caves.** It was done 13,000 years ago in Israel! Storing cheese and other products where constant air temperature and humidity is an important factor.

12) **Underground hotels-**in Australia's Opal mines, and other world-wide sites.

13) **Innovative and self-sustaining housing prototypes,** such as Arizona's pioneering Arcosanti by Paolo Soleri.

14) **Music underground!** PBS hosted a popular underground bluegrass show from a Tennessee Cave for years. Branson has performances underground at Silver Dollar City. Paul Horn recorded an album inside the Great Pyramid. There is no background noise, interference. Pure notes with no interference. Recording studio?

15) **Historical park** The Chinese government turns many of the former mine sites into "Mineral Parks", attracting large interest. In fact, 70 mining sites in China have been developed into tourist attractions, although on a much larger scale. The Octave is a legend.

16) **Cemetery storage of ashes in urns** Asian countries, where space is limited, store loved one's ashes in niches along the tunnels

17) Movies! Hollywood companies are always scouting for underground locales, where a movie needs a tunnel. Cable companies like Sy Fy have already done series at the Octave Mine and taken Hollywood crews down in the tunnels
And finally, on a larger scale, tunnels in rock are used extensively in Missouri for food storage, by major corporations, such as WalMart and Kraft Foods, who deliver and drive into the caves with semi-tractors underground. Large mines in Kentucky sport a BMX track underground, there's a zipline in mine tunnels in Wales, and even underground cathedrals for worship and amusement parks underground in Europe.

What would you use the tunnels and shafts of the Octave for?