

THE WORLD'S LEADING TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

SOUTHEAST ASIA

MAY 2008

16 Dream  
trips

Where to get away  
from it all \*



**BALI**  
**CAMBODIA**  
**THAILAND**  
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# FOUR MORE *GETAWAYS*

## A PRIVATE ISLAND IN *MAINE*

DOWN EAST MAINE is dotted with private islands—Oar, Clapboard, Chanterelle—where couples can play Yankee castaways. One of our favorites is the 1.6-hectare Spectacle Island, a short boat ride from Bar Harbor. The best time to go is June to September.

**WHERE TO STAY** Book **Spectacle Island Estate** (1-647/477-5581; [www.privateislandsonline.com](http://www.privateislandsonline.com); from US\$7,500 per week), a three-bedroom cottage on this spruce-covered spot in Frenchman Bay, well ahead of time. The master suite has spectacular sea views, a four-poster bed and a whirlpool.

**WHERE TO EAT** Catch the boat back to Bar Harbor and have a seafood cioppino with fresh-caught fish or jumbo baked lobsters at La Bella Vita, in the **Harborside Hotel** (55 West St.; 1-800/328-5033; dinner for two US\$90). For an extra fee, the rental agency will stock your fridge prior to your arrival.

**WHAT TO DO** Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island offers rugged hiking trails. The island rental also includes a seaworthy 8-meter powerboat manned by a licensed captain.—SHANE MITCHELL



## A FORTRESS IN *INDIA*

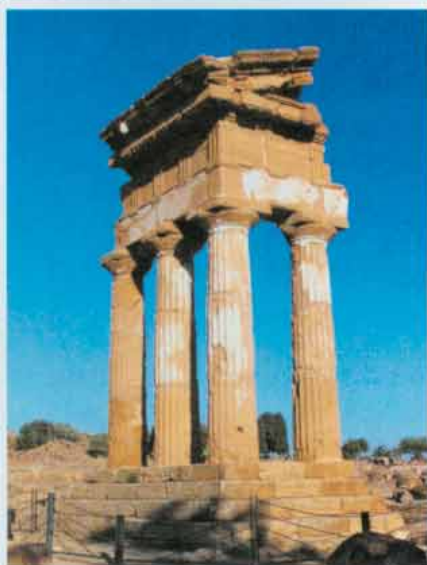
THE CRAGGY ARAVALLI RANGE cuts diagonally across Rajasthan, and on a plateau in its foothills lies the tiny village of Deogarh. Seclusion is clearly the draw here, where you can live like modern-day royalty in an 18th-century fortress.

**WHERE TO STAY** Book the palm-fringed **Fort Seengh Sagar** (Manda Wara; 91-29/0425-2777; [www.deogarhmahal.com](http://www.deogarhmahal.com); from US\$1,205 a night), a four-bedroom island villa set within a moat and accessible by bridge. A sweeping terrace and turreted balconies punctuate the exterior, while the interiors include Indian rosewood beds, red-and-gold quilts and copper washbasins.

**WHERE TO EAT** Executive chef Navneet Suhalkar prepares regional dishes such as *palak halwa*—a purée of spinach cooked in cream—and syrupy pineapple *malpua* (fried pancakes) at the fort's Surya Mahal restaurant.

**WHAT TO DO** A vintage 1930's train descends 550 meters over its 21-kilometer journey from the neighboring town of Mavli to Marwar Junction. In Marwar is Manak Chowk, a square with stores peddling Rajasthani wares such as water color miniatures and embroidered pashmina shawls.—TANVI CHHEDA





#### Sweet Dreams

Clockwise from left: The pool at the Tierra Atacama; the Tierra Atacama's Oriente suite; the Map room at the Tierra Atacama; the Valley of the Temples, in Sicily; Fort Seenagh Sagar, in Rajasthan; the Harborside Hotel, in Maine.

## A DESERT IN CHILE

THOUGH STARK FROM A DISTANCE, the world's driest desert, the Atacama, is an expansive, exotic landscape studded with oases, majestic dunes and thermal pools. This is an ideal destination for those who enjoy hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking.

**WHERE TO STAY** The **Tierra Atacama** (1-800/829-5325 or 56-21263-0606; [www.tierraatacama.com](http://www.tierraatacama.com); from US\$300, including breakfast), steps from the town of San Pedro de Atacama. Inside, the 34 rooms are swathed in natural beiges and browns. There is also a 450-square-meter spa.

**WHERE TO EAT** **Café Adobe** (211 Caracoles; 56-55/851-164; dinner for two US\$23) is a local favorite with a crackling bonfire centerpiece. Try the *lomo a lo pobre*, a traditional Chilean dish of grilled beef served with crispy french fries, sautéed onions and fried eggs.

**WHAT TO DO** The 2.9-kilometer-long Death Valley hiking and biking trail starts in the village, runs through stunning natural salt sculptures and ends with a descent down a sand dune. Tierra Atacama will arrange for a sunrise excursion to El Tatio geyser.—CONNIE MCCABE

## A SICILIAN AGRITURISMO

IN THE HILLS OF SICILY, 4 kilometers from the sea, is the secluded 19th-century farmhouse, Mandranova. It's a working farm, close to the towns of Agrigento, Licata and Caltagirone, where guests can explore centuries-old architecture, open-air vegetable and clothing markets, and traditional ceramic shops.

**WHERE TO STAY** **Mandranova** (Contrada Mandranova, Km 217, Strada Statale 115; 39-091/612-0463; [www.mandranova.it](http://www.mandranova.it); doubles from US\$225) is set on 170 hilly hectares, with stunning views of olive groves from each of the 11 rooms. If the Mandranova is booked, look for more Sicilian *agriturismos* at [www.agriturismo.net](http://www.agriturismo.net).

**WHERE TO EAT** For a romantic night on the town, arrange for a taxi to **La Madia Restaurant** (22 Corso Filippo di Re Capriata; 39-092/277-1443; dinner for two US\$80) in the port town of Licata, 10 minutes away. The perfect meal: chef Pino Cuttaia's *merluzzo*, pine-smoked cod with a hint of orange peel.

**WHAT TO DO** For a dose of history, go north to Agrigento, home to the fifth-century B.C. Valley of the Temples, a collection of seven Doric-style Greek temples.—FAITH WILLINGER

