

by AMANDA CASTLEMAN | photography by EVAN KLEIN



At first glance, Seattle comes across as a bit of a renegade. Its 615,500 inhabitants appear to run off-leash. Many seem more concerned with snowpack and saffron vodka than stock options or society galas. No one bats an eye if a coder brings his dog to work. Or when a creative director telecommutes from a café, over a latte and yam-kale wrap. Long lunches? But of course. This crowd is hard-pressed to resist the lure of the North Cascades mountains or an afternoon paddle in Puget Sound, just steps below the city's skyscrapers. Yet despite its freewheeling Neverland vibe, Seattle has transformed itself from a frontier town into a cultural capital and innovation hub—rivaling even Silicon Valley for entrepreneurial oomph. Now's the time to visit, as this Pacific Northwest hotbed starts to truly hit its stride.

2013 ZDX tours the  
Emerald City

# Seattle / 2.0

Strolling past the landmark Dutch Bike Co. café in Seattle's old Ballard district; the city's latest tourist attraction is a 17-story ferris wheel at the waterfront (right).



# Despite its freewheeling vibe, Seattle has transformed itself from a frontier town into a cultural capital



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Painstaking attention to detail is par for the course at Sitka & Spruce (opposite); houseboats are a long-standing fixture at the pier (left); relaxing coffee break at Dutch Bike Co. (right).



## foodie scene

**Sitka & Spruce**  
This locavore restaurant features foraged ingredients like morels and beach grass. The attention is paying off: chef Matt Dillon just won Best Chef Northwest at the James Beard Foundation Awards. Cozy into a communal table under timber rafters and savor dishes like king salmon with strawberries and pickled rose petals.  
[www.sitkaandspruce.com](http://www.sitkaandspruce.com)

**Little Uncle**  
This kiosk serves two Seattle mainstays in one bite: Thai cuisine and pop-up street-food innovation. Its Capitol Hill takeout window now dishes up lunch and early dinner (till 8 p.m.) Tuesday through Saturday.  
[www.littleuncleseattle.com](http://www.littleuncleseattle.com)

**The Dish**  
Zagat declared this sunny, sweet diner one of America's top 25 breakfast spots. Browse the hot-sauce wall to perfectly spice your Slacker Especial: salsa-

topped eggs scrambled with cheese, tortilla chips and enchilada sauce.  
[www.thedishseattle.com](http://www.thedishseattle.com)

**Top Pot Hand-Forged Donuts**  
This remains a flagship among Seattle's comfort-food concept eateries (essential when the clouds descend). Its retro cafés hammer out designer donuts like the Feather Boa (pink icing and coconut shavings), winning best-in-the-country kudos from AOL, MSN, The Travel Channel and others.  
[www.toppotdoughnuts.com](http://www.toppotdoughnuts.com)

**Tilth**  
The country's toughest certifier pronounced this one of only three "real" organic restaurants in the U.S. Set in a 1910 Craftsman bungalow, Tilth has a vegan menu alongside omnivore offerings like paprika mussels, pork belly with Rainier cherries and risotto with pine nuts, young carrots and dandelion greens.  
[www.tilthrestaurant.com](http://www.tilthrestaurant.com)

Boeing and Microsoft ignited Seattle's transition from Gold Rush greenhorn to technology central. Today, the area houses eight Fortune 500 headquarters, including mega-retailers Amazon, Nordstrom and Starbucks. Other enterprising upstarts sell outdoor gear (REI) and swanky cookware (Sur La Table), redefine real estate (Zillow and Redfin) and spread the gospel of great music to audiences worldwide (KEXP Radio). And Seattle is just getting started. In his 2012 book *The New Geography of Jobs*, economics professor Enrico Moretti says the city's innovation hubs are "poised to become the new engines of prosperity."

But it's not all chutzpah and computer code. Take a drive through the distinct—and fiercely tribal—neighborhoods as they mature into vibrant urban enclaves. Columbia City, home to ethnic eateries and the live-music Beat Walk. Diamond-in-the-rough Georgetown, where art studios and microbreweries pack brick warehouses. The high-tech beehive of South Lake Union, with its condos, streetcars and upscale restaurants. Adjacent to the iconic Space Needle blooms leading-edge architecture, including the Frank Gehry-designed Experience Music Project (EMP), a bold



## arts & culture

**The Seattle Central Library**  
Rem Koolhaas designed this 11-story origami-like steel-and-glass structure. The *New Yorker* critic Paul Goldberger called the 2004 building “the most important new library to be built in a generation, and the most exhilarating.” Ride the chartreuse escalator to the 10th floor for views of Elliott Bay.  
[www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)

**Chihuly Garden and Glass**  
The Northwest put glass on the fine-art map. Its leading light is Dale Chihuly, whose work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. In May, the local luminary opened a 1.5-acre permanent exhibition below the Space Needle, just in time for the landmark’s 50th anniversary. [www.chihulygardenanglass.com](http://www.chihulygardenanglass.com)

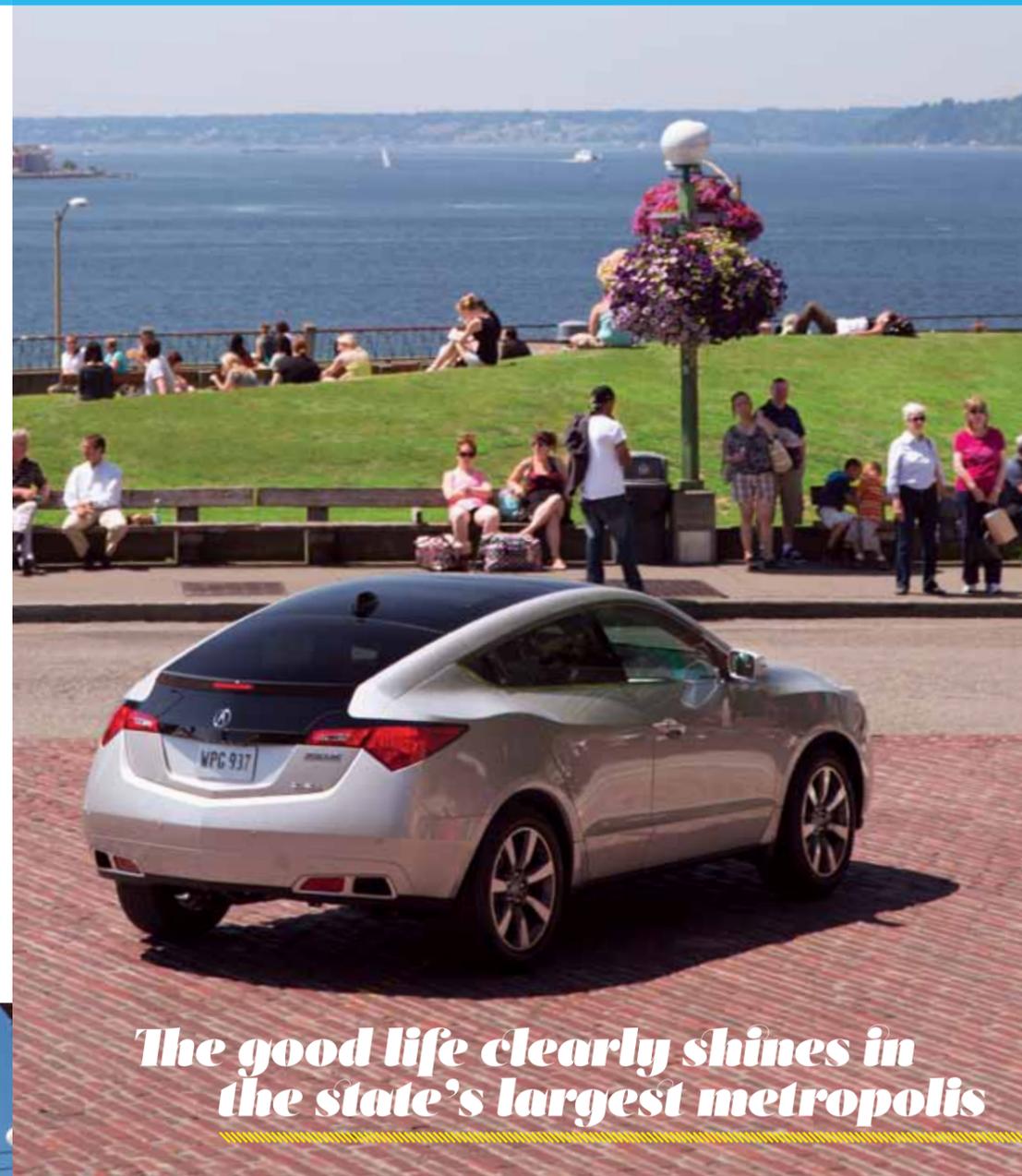
**EMP Museum**  
Founded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and designed by architect Frank Gehry, this sheet-metal structure resembles a smashed electric guitar, especially when viewed from the

**Needle.** Visitors can soak up sci-fi lore and rock memorabilia via technology-intensive multimedia displays. One exhibit even charted Northwest music from Bing Crosby through to Hendrix, Heart, grunge and beyond.  
[www.empmuseum.org](http://www.empmuseum.org)

**Belltown**  
Boutiques, galleries and restaurants pack the downtown waterfront from Pike Place Market to the Seattle Art Museum’s free Olympic Sculpture Park. Fuel your window-shopping at Macrina. A slice of leavened heaven, this bakery reigns in reader polls, thanks to European recipes and long, slow fermentation that produces soulful, artisanal treats.  
[www.macrinabakery.com](http://www.macrinabakery.com)

**Caffè Fiore**  
Caffè Fiore boasts four locations, but the Old Ballard venue wins out for its gorgeous ironwork, smooth espresso pulls and south-facing Adirondack chairs that overlook the see-and-be-seen Ballard Farmers Market on Sundays.  
[www.caffefiore.com](http://www.caffefiore.com)

THIS PAGE: THE PIKE PLACE MARKET CLOCK IS A TRADEMARK OWNED BY THE PIKE PLACE MARKET PDA. COVER LOCATION: COURTESY OF EMP MUSEUM



*The good life clearly shines in the state’s largest metropolis*

monument to the ideas and risk-taking that fuel contemporary culture. About a mile south, 10 million visitors wander past the fish-flingers in Pike Place Market each year, rubbing shoulders with world-class chefs in search of exotic ingredients and farm-to-table freshness.

Let gourmet java fuel your explorations. Cafés occupy almost every corner here at the ground zero of North American coffee culture. Artisanal roasteries, such as Vivace and Herkimer, elevate espresso-pulling to high art, backed by indie cafés like the Dutch Bike Co. in the hip Ballard district.

And when it’s time to dine, Seattle serves up everything from pho to pupusas, but its Northwest-fusion fare best captures the flavor of this bountiful landscape. A bite of the goat cheese tart with kale and foraged mushrooms at Emmer & Rye says it all, especially when paired with one of Washington’s renowned wines, like a McCrea Mourvèdre.

The good life clearly shines in the state’s largest metropolis (even if clouds blanket the city 220 days a year). And when the sun sets, the town that sparked

## outdoor adventure

**Stand Up Paddleboarding**  
This Hawaiian twist on surfing is one of the country’s fastest-growing sports. Grab a board and hit one of Seattle’s beaches, like Alki or Golden Gardens, where the sea, city and mountains merge. For a lesson, turn to Ballard’s Salmon Bay Paddle: its owner Rob Casey wrote the first comprehensive SUP how-to book.  
[www.salmonbaypaddle.com](http://www.salmonbaypaddle.com)

**Concert Cycle**  
Bike the Burke Gilman, a 27-mile urban trail, and stop at Theo Chocolate for a funky fair-trade factory tour. Hard-core cyclists can push out to Woodinville’s Redhook Brewery or the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery, both of which host concert series.  
[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks)

**Paddle In Skyscrapers’ Shadows**  
Loop around Lake Union, kayaking past the Sleepless in Seattle houseboat and glass-artist Dale Chihuly’s studio. On the north shore sprawls Gas Works Park, where emerald lawns and industrial ruins frame the stunning panoramic skyline. Stop nearby at Ivar’s famous replica longhouse for alder-smoked salmon.  
[www.nwoc.com](http://www.nwoc.com)

**Hike the Urban Forest**  
The tawny bluffs and shady glades of Discovery Park include a 534-acre natural area with vistas of the snow-gilded Cascades and Olympic Mountain ranges.  
[www.seattle.gov/parks](http://www.seattle.gov/parks)

You’ll find everything from fresh-cut flowers to fresh-caught fish at bustling Pike Place Market. The Acura ZDX takes the market’s cobblestone streets comfortably in stride. Pioneer Square (opposite, top right).



## nightlife

### Ballard

This onetime home to the Shilshole tribe and former Scandinavian fishing district has been transformed into a chic nighttime destination complete with bars, boutiques and restaurants. Local faves include the Noble Fir (microbrews and small plates) and The Sexton (juleps and Southern-comfort fare). Plus, The Walrus and the Carpenter—an oyster bar that starred in *Travel + Leisure's* list of America's Best Cities For Hipsters (Seattle ranked number 1). [www.myballard.com](http://www.myballard.com)

### Knee-High Stocking Company

Five years ago, Washington licensed craft distilleries. Now Seattle teems with spice-infused cocktails and speakeasies that require special knocks or passwords. At this gin joint, a suspended bartender will serve a drink so dirty it needs a bath, made with scotch aged with mesquite in a Mason jar under the porch. [www.kneehighstocking.com](http://www.kneehighstocking.com)

### Showbox and Crocodile

Seattle keeps the grunge spirit alive with KEXP, the first public radio station to stream CD-quality audio 24/7 on the Internet. Today it has a worldwide fan base but still hosts live performances at local hot spots like The Crocodile and the art deco Showbox at the Market. [www.kexp.org](http://www.kexp.org)

### Triple Door

After lectures and concerts at downtown's glorious Benaroya Hall, Seattleites cross the street to this sleek bar and music venue. Some head straight to the Shimmering Lounge, named for its shimmering 1,900-gallon fish tank (no cover). Pair a Kickback—black-tea vodka brightened by lemon and soda—with Southeast Asian nibbles imported from neighboring Wild Ginger, which Zagat has listed as the most popular restaurant in Seattle since 1997. [www.tripledoor.com](http://www.tripledoor.com)

### The Hideout

Here the city trades its flannel for bohemian rhapsody. Mingle with creatives at this low-key lounge full of art, velvet, mahogany and chandeliers. [www.hideoutseattle.com](http://www.hideoutseattle.com)

### Library Bistro

This classy nook, just off the Alexis Hotel's lobby, takes a page straight out of detective noir. Packed with books—free to read, \$5 to keep—it also boasts a bar stocked with 70 scotch labels and about an equal number of American bourbons and whiskeys. [www.librarybistro.com](http://www.librarybistro.com)



the careers of Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain comes alive with pop, folk, jazz, cabaret, hip hop and all manner of eclectic indie rock. But spend a night wining

and dining in funky Fremont—experiencing its unofficial motto “De Libertas Quirkas” (Freedom to be Peculiar)—to really understand why *Travel + Leisure* readers voted this America's Best City for Hipsters.

For its next act, Seattle plans to reconnect its downtown with Puget Sound, creating a grand promenade between the market and the aquarium. The \$420-million project includes a skating-rink pier and a heated saltwater swimming pool on a barge. Experts hail the new waterfront as one of the city's all-time greatest design projects. And you can bet that clever, quirky, up-and-coming Seattle will pull it all off with its usual low-key grace. 🍷



## seattle scene stealer/ With the features-enriched 2013 ZDX, Acura raises the bar—but not the sticker price

by ARTHUR ST. ANTOINE

When it strode onto the world's automotive stage in the 2010 model year, the all-new Acura ZDX—boasting a 300-horsepower VTEC® V-6, Super-Handling All-Wheel Drive™ (SH-AWD®) and head-turning good looks—quickly sent the automotive press scrambling to find synonyms for “wow!” *Motor Trend* gushed over the “space-race styling,” dubbing the sharply creased handiwork of Acura's Southern California design studio “stunning.” *Car and Driver* had similar praise for the ZDX's cockpit, calling it “epicurean.”

That, ladies and gentlemen, is called making a splash.

Now, for the 2013 model year, Acura is cranking up the dial marked “bold” while adding a host of coveted features—making the ZDX a more compelling and sophisticated ride than ever.

Outside, a revised grille and new wheel-color accents enhance the vehicle's striking presence yet maintain that iconic silhouette. New high-contrast interior designs (such as black with Seacoast) boost the tone from epicurean to downright sexy. Boasting a dramatic “twin-cockpit” layout and astutely arranged controls, the ZDX cabin has been carefully crafted to maximize its man-machine interface, providing an ideal environment for high-performance driving while surrounding its occupants with the rich ambiance of fine leather,

superb craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology.

That technology, by the way, has never been more advanced and extensive. Acura prides itself on maintaining a dialogue with its devoted customers, and when buyers offered a wish list of features they wanted to see on the ZDX, Acura engineers made it happen. So, in addition to such standard luxuries as a rear-view camera, keyless entry and an Acura/ELS Surround Sound audio system, the 2013 ZDX offers such premium added equipment as a Blind Spot Information System (to alert the driver to the presence of vehicles detected nearby that may not appear in the rear-view mirrors); ventilated front seats; front and rear parking sensors; power-folding, auto-dimming side mirrors; plus forward-collision and lane-departure warning systems. In all, it's a significant boost in luxury, safety and convenience. Yet, almost incredibly, Acura engineers have managed to add everything except a price increase. That's right: the ZDX—from the start offering an impressive return on investment—now doubles down with a truly unparalleled combination of user-friendly performance, sophisticated amenities, rakish style and unbeatable value.

Hear that? It's the competition grumbling. Acura, aided by input from its loyal customer base, has just raised the bar once again.

### tech & specs 2013 Acura ZDX

**ENGINE:** 3.7-liter, SOHC, VTEC® V-6 | **TRANSMISSION:** 6-speed automatic with Sequential SportShift and Grade Logic Control | **STEERING:** Torque-sensing, Variable power-assist rack-and-pinion | **BRAKES:** 4-wheel Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist | **DRIVETRAIN:** Super Handling All-Wheel Drive™ (SH-AWD®) | **ADDITIONAL NEW FEATURES:** Parking Sensors (front and rear); Power-folding, auto-dimming, side mirrors; Forward Collision Warning (FCW) System; Lane Departure Warning (LDW) System | **WHEELBASE:** 108.3 inches | **LENGTH x WIDTH x HEIGHT:** 192.4 x 78.5 x 62.8 inches | **FUEL ECONOMY RATING:** (16 City/22 Highway/19 combined)\* | **BASE PRICE:** Please visit [acura.com](http://acura.com) to build and price the perfect ZDX for you.

\*Based on 2013 EPA mileage ratings. Use for comparison purposes only. Your actual mileage will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle.

For more information on the 2013 ZDX and all Acura models, visit [acura.com](http://acura.com).

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