



# Seattle

Explore the thriving spa scene in this West Coast wonderland, where not even rainy weather can dampen spa-goers' spirits.



## PINS AND NEEDLES

The Space Needle isn't the only sharp object in town. **Chopstix** acupuncture studio is a pagoda-style practice designed to relieve stress and illness through acupuncture. Once clients enter the doors of the Asian-inspired oasis, founder Christian Hunt aims to give them a quiet zone in which to relax, something different from the more traditional acupuncture clinics with cold white walls and excess noise. The studio also offers body scrub and massage services. Treatments are influenced by Hunt's education at the Seattle Institute of Oriental Medicine. Sessions include the use of Japanese Komenuka Bejin products, Chinese herbal remedies, and Komenuka's key ingredient of rice bran in her handmade sweet and sour scrub, along with ginseng, turbinado sugar, and other exotic elements. Chinese liniments, oils, and plasters are also available for clients to take home. Hunt offers a bit of both of her areas of expertise with The Combo (prices and times vary), a special treatment that combines acupuncture and deep tissue massage, with a Q&A session to begin. For spa-goers who are needled by the pressures of everyday living, Chopstix points them in the direction of improved health and happiness.—*Aparna Arjunan*

