

## INSIDER GUIDE

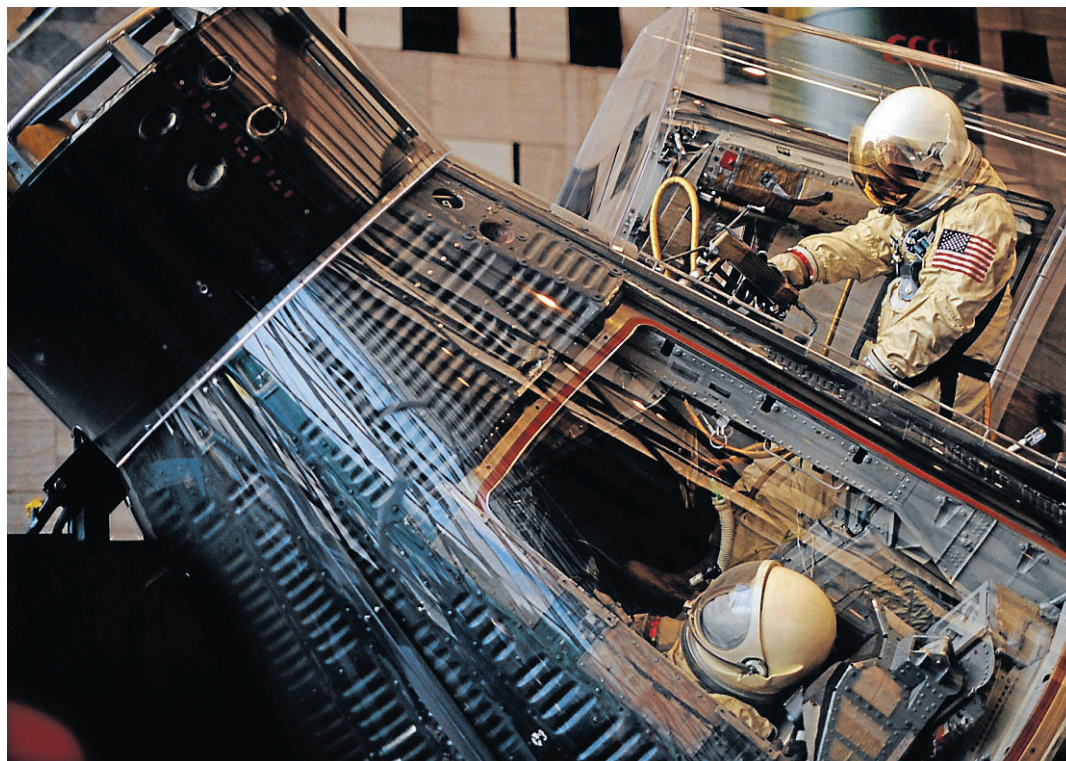
## JUSTIN WOLFERS' WASHINGTON



For Australian economist Justin Wolfers, Washington DC, which houses the institutions of global economic policymaking, is a natural home away from home. Yet Wolfers, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics – whose American partner Betsey Stevenson, with whom he has two children, is an economic adviser to President Barack Obama – says Washington is also ‘a tremendously liveable city’. Wolfers spoke to **John Kehoe**.

## NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

3001 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest  
Small prices have big effects and the relationship of Washingtonians to their zoo demonstrates this. Entry is free, which means that a visit needn't be the centrepiece of a big day trip. Instead, we'll often cycle there just to visit a favourite animal, walk through just because we happen to be nearby, or opt for a spur-of-the-moment decision to just get outside and be active.



## NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

600 Independence Avenue, Southwest

Washington DC is home to the Smithsonian museums, which are extraordinary. But the Air and Space museum is really the one that could only happen in America, with the history of flight, of military weapons during the Cold War and of space exploration. Whether you're a youngster or an ageing cynic, there's something awe-inspiring about big machines.



## NATIONAL MALL

Yes, it's iconic. But it's also spectacular. A two-mile-long (3.2-kilometre) park running through the centre of a major city, surrounded on both sides by monuments and museums, with Congress and Lincoln's imposing figure book-ending the whole thing. But the Mall is also spectacularly democratic – it's not just home to presidential inaugurations, but also protest movements and public concerts. And on any given day of the week you can see dozens of games of kickball, ultimate frisbee or my kids' flying kites.



## ROSE PARK

2609 Dumbarton Street, Northwest

OK, it's just a simple kids' playground, but it's the one closest to our home, so serves as a replacement for a real backyard. And given its location in Georgetown, the mums and dads pushing their kids on the swings are an interesting array of policy wonks, World Bank and IMF-ers, journalists and political advisers. Be careful what you say, or you'll quickly learn just how fast gossip travels in DC.



## DUPONT CIRCLE

1 Dupont Circle, Northwest

It's a small park in the middle of the city, but also the hub of so much activity. As Dupont Circle sits at the top of DC's "Think Tank Row", I walk through it every day and never cease to enjoy the buskers, chess players and colourful characters transacting illegal business.



## C&amp;O CANAL

1057 Thomas Jefferson St, Northwest

It began in a moment of irrational exuberance – the idea being to build a canal linking Washington to Pittsburgh, with pulling barges full of traded goods. Reality – and the railways – hit and it was never completed. But it left in its wake a splendid running course, one of my favourites in DC. It's flat, pretty and goes forever. The furthest I've ever run is a 100-kilometre race, from DC, straight to Harper's Ferry in West Virginia. Fourteen hours later, I still hadn't hit the end of this marvellous running trail.



## DUKEM ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT

1114-1118 U Street, Northwest

I've heard it said that DC is the second-largest Ethiopian city in the world, second only to Addis Ababa. I can't verify the fact, but I can attest to the most vibrant Ethiopian restaurant scene in the Western world. There are plenty of competitors nearby, and so the invisible hand ensures that only the best survive. Bonus: the food is vegetarian-friendly, and my kids love the opportunity to eat with their hands. **W**