

stars China alumni study tour to Shenzhen and Guangzhou 2026
From Copycat China to Innovation China

28 June - 1 July 2026

Shenzhen, Futian Shangri-La

Objectives

- Get on-the-ground insights in Shenzhen and Guangzhou – China’s innovation centers – through visits of global high-tech champions, unicorns and start-ups.
- Understand the state of the Chinese economy and the opportunities for foreign business.
- Act as a dialogue forum between China and the world, including a visit to the M+ Sigg Collection in HK, guided by Uli Sigg
- Background Information: [Link](#)

Hint:

China has decided to implement an **unilateral visa-free policy** for ordinary passport holders from 47 countries: [Notice on Visa Exemption Policy](#)

Sunday, 28 June 2026 - Shenzhen

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 15:00 | Welcome Coffee | | Shangri-La |
| 16:00 | Welcome Address | Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland Representative of Government of Shenzhen | Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor |
| 16:30 | Latest Developments of TMT (Technology, Media, Telecommunication) in China | Wilson CHOW Global, Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) Leader, PwC, Shenzhen, China | |
| 17:15 | Networking Coffee | | Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor |
| 17:45 | China and the World: De-risking, De-coupling, Re-connecting | Virginia CHEUNG Director for China and Drucker Relationships, Peter F. Drucker School; former Associate Researcher, Shenzhen University; stars Alumna, Shenzhen, China Uli SIGG Art Collector, Business Leader, Former Swiss Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, North Korea and Mongolia; Member, stars China Advisory Panel, Mauensee, Switzerland Alan YAM China Central Tax Leader, PwC China, Shanghai, China N.N. Moderator: Mark DITTLI Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland | Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor |
| 19:15 | Cocktails and Dinner hosted by PwC Shenzhen | | Jiangsu Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor |

Monday, 29 June 2026 - Shenzhen - Global Champions

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|-------|--|---|
| 07:00 | Individual Breakfast | Shangri-La |
| 08:45 | Departure | Lobby |
| 09:00 | Company Visit: Tencent - Tencent is a world-leading internet and technology company. (https://www.tencent.net.cn/) | Headquarter |
| | Tour of Exhibition Hall | |
| | Q&A session | John LO CFO, Tencent, Shenzhen, China |
| 12:00 | Lunch Buffet | Shenzhen Bay Marriott Hotel 4th Floor WanhuiXuan Restaurant |
| 13:30 | Departure to BYD | |
| 15:00 | Company Visit: BYD - BYD is a high-tech company devoted to leveraging technological innovations. (www.byd.com) | Headquarter |
| | | BYD Showroom |
| | | 3 Main Lab |
| | | Meeting with Top Management |
| 18:00 | Dinner hosted by BYD | |
| 19:30 | Depart. to Futian Shangri-La | |
| 20:30 | Arrival at Futian Shangri-La | Shangri-La |

Tuesday, 30 June 2026 - Guangzhou - Unicorns

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|-------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 06:00 | Individual Breakfast at Hotel and/or take away boxes on bus | | Shangri-La |
| 07:00 | Departure for Guangzhou | | Lobby |
| 09:00 | Company Visit: WeRide - A Leading Global Autonomous Driving Technology company. (www.weride.ai) | WeRide Representatives | Headquarter |
| 11:30 | End of Company Visit | | |
| 12:00 | Lunch | | Shangri-La Guangzhou, 3rd Floor |
| 14:00 | Company Visit: Ehang - EHang is the world's leading advanced air mobility technology platform company. (www.ehang.com) | Ehang Representatives | Headquarter |
| 16:00 | Departure for Shenzhen | | |
| 18:00 | Arrival at Futian Shangri-La | | Shangri-La |
| 19:00 | Dinner | | Jiangsu Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor |

Wednesday, 1 July 2026 - Shenzhen - Start-ups / Spinn-offs

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|-------|--|--|---|
| 07:00 | Individual Breakfast | | Shangri-La |
| 08:00 | Departure for SUSTech | | Lobby |
| 08:30 | Visit of SUSTech: Research.Innovation.Entrepreneurship (www.sustech.edu.cn/en) | | SUSTech Campus |
| | Insights into latest Research at SUSTech | N.N. | SUSTech Campus |
| 09:30 | Investment Opportunities in China/Shenzhen | Linda CAI Head, Corporate Finance China, PwC, Shanghai, China | SUSTech Campus |
| 10:15 | Coffee Break | | SUSTech Campus |
| 10:45 | Presentation of 2 Start-ups | | SUSTech Campus |
| 12:15 | Concluding Remarks | Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland | |
| 12:30 | Lunch with Faculty and Students | | SUSTech Campus |
| 13:30 | Departure for Shangri-La | | |
| 14:00 | Arrival at Futian Shangri-La | | Shangri-La |
| 14:30 | Departure to M+ Hong Kong | | Meeting Point: Hotel Lobby, 1st Floor Shangri-La |
| 17:00 | Guided Tour of the M+ Sigg Collection | Uli SIGG Art Collector, Business Leader, Former Swiss Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, North Korea and Mongolia; Member, stars China Advisory Panel, Mauensee, Switzerland | M+ Hong Kong |
| 19:00 | Apéro riche | | M+ Hong Kong |
| 20:00 | End | | |

The symposium is held under the Chatham House Rules.

stars reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the programme. The full terms and conditions of stars are available here.

17 April 2026

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