

stars China 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
- Recommended Reading: [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	Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor
16:15	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	<p>Esther BIAN Managing Partner, C3U Venture Capital; stars Alumna, Shenzhen, China</p> <p>Linda CAI Head, Corporate Finance China, PwC, Shanghai, China</p> <p>Dingding CHEN Professor of International Relations, Associate Dean, Institute for 21st Century Silk Road Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou</p> <p>Virginia CHEUNG Director for China and Drucker Relationships, Peter F. Drucker School; former Associate Researcher, Shenzhen University; stars Alumna, Shenzhen, China</p> <p>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</p> <p>Moderator: Mark DITTLI Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland</p>	Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor

Sunday, 28 June 2026 - Shenzhen

19:15 Cocktails and Dinner hosted by
PwC Shenzhen

Jiangsu Room
Shangri-La, 3rd
Floor

Monday, 29 June 2026 - Shenzhen - Global Champions

07:00	Individual Breakfast	Shangri-La
08:15	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	
	Meeting the team	
12:00	Lunch Buffet	tbc
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	
	Meeting with Management	
17:00	Depart. to Futian Shangri-La	
18:00	Arrival at Futian Shangri-La	Shangri-La
19:00	Dinner	Guangdong Room, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, 30 June 2026 - Guangzhou - Unicorns

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
	Welcome Speech	Markus THÜR Consul General, Consulate General of Switzerland, Guangzhou, China	Shangri-La Guangzhou, 3rd Floor
13:30	End of 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	Understanding China: A Wide-Ranging Conversation with Uli Sigg - Art, Diplomacy and Business	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 Moderator: Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfeld, Switzerland	Sichuan Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor
19:45	Dinner		Jiangsu Room Shangri-La, 3rd Floor

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

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	Quanying LIU Tenured Associate Professor, Deputy Head of Dept. of Research, SUSTech, Shenzhen, China	SUSTech Campus
09:30	Investment Opportunities in China/Shenzhen	Linda CAI Head, Corporate Finance China, PwC, Shanghai, China Jackie YAN Chief Economist, PwC, Shenzhen, China Rebecca WONG Partner, PwC China, South China Markets Leader, Shenzhen Office Tax Leader, China	SUSTech Campus
10:15	Coffee Break		SUSTech Campus
10:45	Presentation and Q&A of Start-up 1: AlayaDB.AI	Bo TANG Tenured Associate Professor and PhD Advisor at SUSTech, and Chief Scientist at AlayaDB.AI., Shenzhen, China	
	Presentation and Q&A of Start-up 2: SPIRAL	Chengrun KUANG Co-Founder & CFO of SPIRAL; Former Product Architect at Tencent Cloud and Investment Professional at SCGC, Shenzhen, China	
	Presentation and Q&A of Start-up 3: AI-Driven Quantitative Investment in China	Ke WU Research Associate Professor, SUSTech Southern University of Science and Technology; President, stars Shenzhen alumni chapter, Shenzhen, China	
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	M+ Museum, Hong Kong		M+ Hong Kong
	Welcome Address	Suhanya RAFFEL Museum Director, M+, Hong Kong	M+ Hong Kong

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

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

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](#).

28 June 2026

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