WiT Africa 2024 Programme

WiT Bootcamp | Innovation City Cape Town

Programme correct at time of publishing
All times shown are in Central Africa Time (GMT+2)

WiT Bootcamp Programme

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM
Opening Warm-up

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM
Inside Africa's Startup Ecosystem

No one has a better understanding of Africa's tech startup ecosystem than this leading investor who has seen the ups and downs of a continent in the throes of dynamic change. Launch Africa Ventures is Africa's most prominent and active early-stage VC Fund with a portfolio of 130+ tech ventures across 20+ countries. He is also the Co-Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Startupbootcamp AfriTech – the leading multi-corporate backed venture accelerator program in Africa.

Zachariah George
Managing Partner
Launch Africa Ventures

9:30 AM - 10:10 AM
Founders' Tales From The Edge

Meet the pioneers who blazed the trail into the unknown and learn what it takes to crack tough and challenging markets and sectors – from China to the Middle East. We will trace their journey of mistakes and milestones, and take lessons from their story of courage, grit and smarts. What are the human qualities that drive these incredible entrepreneurs?

Moderator:

Yeoh Siew Hoon
Founder
WiT

Panel:

Fritz Demopoulos
CEO
Queen's Road Capital, Hong Kong

Stephan Ekbergh
CEO
Travelstart

Ross Veitch
CEO & Co-founder
Wego

10:10 AM - 10:40 AM
Angels, Incubators & Accelerators: Adding Value To Micro-Businesses

No one knows the local investment landscape better than those with their nose to the ground and skin in the game. Meet the champions who are investing in the African tech startup ecosystem, particularly those that are empowering micro-businesses in travel, and glean first-hand insights from them on what's really sticking and what's not.

Moderator:

Stephan Ekbergh
CEO
Travelstart

Panel:

Shiela Yabo
Head of Ecosystem Development
Ayoba

Natalie Kolbe
Managing Partner
Norrsken22

Zachariah George
Managing Partner
Launch Africa Ventures

10:40 AM - 11:00 AM
Coffee Chat: Transforming car rental with Meili

For nearly 12 years, he was with CarTrawler, the last five of which was as CEO. With his friend and CTO, Bobby Healy, beside him, he drove the company to great success, until Covid came along and derailed everything. Not one to sit still, he and Healy started a new company to transform the way car rental works in the industry, based on lessons learnt at their former company. Meili, founded in 2021, has since raised £15m. We catch up with this seasoned entrepreneur to find out how he and his team want to make car rental easier for travellers everywhere.

Interviewer:

Yeoh Siew Hoon
Founder
WiT

Speaker:

Mike McGearty
CEO & Co-founder
Meili Travel Technology

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM
Trends & Opportunities In Travel Startup Land

We speak to those who keep a watch on the global travel startup landscape and learn from them, the trends they are seeing, the evolution that's happening and the opportunities to be grasped in their respective spaces – from airline distribution to sustainability, hospitality and tours and activities. What are the new pain points to be addressed by aspiring entrepreneurs? What are some of the interesting startups they've seen come up in recent years? What are the pitfalls to watch out for?

Moderator:

Yeoh Siew Hoon
Founder
WiT

Panel:

Timothy O'Neil-Dunne
Managing Partner
T2Impact

Theresa Emerick
Managing Director
NightsBridge

Alessandro Lodigiani
VP Sales, Online, Metasearch & Digital Players
Amadeus

Chee Chong Chan
CEO & Co-founder
GlobalTix

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM
Empowering Communities and Building Micro-Businesses

Wilmé Verwoerd-Witbooi
Program Lead
Airbnb Entrepreneurship Academy, Middle East & Africa

12:00 PM - 12:20 PM
Coffee Chat: Solving Payments in Africa

In October 2020, Africa's leading payments company, Paystack, was acquired by Stripe $200 million. Post-acquisition, it expanded geographically across Africa. Last year, it had to reduce operations outside Africa, trimming operations in Europe and Dubai. In this interview, we catch up with the company which wants to "break all barriers so that African businesses can quickly and easily accept payments from anyone, anywhere".

Interviewer:

Kieno Kammies
Co-founder
Innovation City Cape Town

Speaker:

Shola Akinlade
CEO & Co-founder
Paystack

12:20 PM - 1:00 PM
The WiT Africa Innovation Showcase

What's new, hot and innovative in travel startup land? We put the spotlight on a curated list of startups from outside Africa who will present for 5 minutes, followed by a 3-minute question and answer session with our panel of travel experts.

Dragons:

Zachariah George
Managing Partner
Launch Africa Ventures

Shiela Yabo
Head of Ecosystem Development
Ayoba

Natalie Kolbe
Managing Partner
Norrsken22

Speakers:

Chee Chong Chan
CEO & Co-founder
GlobalTix

Brandon Duffield
CEO
Ticketpro

Lloyd Barkhuizen
Head of Travel
Ticketpro

Dorian Toussaint
Managing Owner
Tousca

James Newman
CFO
Weeva

Dr. Andrea Ferry
Sustainability Standards Bearer
Weeva

1:00 PM
It's A Wrap

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