

Article

Fresh Air–Natural Microclimate Comfort Index: A New Tourism Climate Index Applied in Chinese Scenic Spots

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Abstract: Severe air pollution in China has caused significant tourism transformation for pursuing fresh air in microclimate tourism markets. Contemporary practices simply measure the air freshness of destinations and scenic spots using a single index, i.e., primarily negative oxygen ions (O_2^-). This index cannot comprehensively reveal scenic spots' air freshness degree and determine the dynamic interactions between air freshness and scenic spots' tourism development, thus inducing an illusion of air freshness for the target scenic spots. Meanwhile, the current fresh air index primarily ignores connections with the microclimate index of scenic spots and cannot provide a multidimensional index for scenic spots to take advantage of both air and microclimate resources for diverse tourism products and service production. Therefore, this study proposes a multidimensional index, the fresh air–natural microclimate comfort index (FAI-NMCI), connecting the fresh air index with the natural microclimate comfort index of scenic spots together from transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives. This study utilizes FAI-NMCI to measure four scenic spots of Fujian Province, and reveals in-depth results of scenic spots' air freshness and natural microclimate comfort degree together. The results demonstrate that the four scenic spots in Fujian province of China had different levels of air freshness degree and natural microclimate comfort degree in 2018. The natural scenic spots were mostly distributed in Healing Fresh, Very Fresh, and Super Fresh levels of FAI with the most comfortable and comfortable levels of NMCI. The cultural scenic spots were mostly distributed in Relatively Fresh and Healing Fresh levels of FAI with the most comfortable and comfortable levels of NMCI. Meanwhile, the FAI-NMCI of natural and cultural scenic spots also had significant differences within 24 Jieqi, which will promote dynamic and creative utilization of those resources in microclimate tourism development.

Keywords: fresh air index; natural microclimate comfort index; fresh air–natural microclimate comfort index; scenic spots; Fujian province



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1. Introduction

Air pollution influences tourists' and residents' (potential tourists') health, which will directly or indirectly affect demand in the tourism market [1]. Exposure to air-polluted environments leads to various health problems [2], such as respiratory infections [3,4], asthma [5,6], stroke, and even lung cancers [7]. Additionally, air pollution, especially fog and haze pollution, also impacts the psychological health [8,9] and mental disorders [10] of tourists and potential tourists, which directly increases healthcare expenditures [11], health costs [12], and other socioeconomic burdens [13,14] and socioeconomic costs [15] for tourists and local residents. Meanwhile, the factors of natural microclimate and the comfort of the natural microclimate as a whole also influence tourists' decision-making for specific destinations or scenic spots, impacting tourists' behavior and the constant and dynamic

tourist flow [16] from one region to another because of dynamic natural microclimate changes [17,18]. Under an air pollution background, the increasing fresh air demand of tourists in China has attracted tourists to destinations with fresh air to experience comfort in natural microclimates. Fresh air and natural microclimate together provide friendly, healthy, and comfort natural tourist attractions in the contemporary Chinese tourism market. Air freshness and microclimate comfort degree together as vital environmental information have significantly influenced tourists, destination and scenic spot management, as well as tourism market development, which has seldom been explored by contemporary research and practice.

Actually, the most popular index for measuring air freshness and air quality is the air quality index (AQI), which utilizes primary air pollutant components such as PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, CO, or O₃ to measure air quality. AQI studies have developed according to specific research purposes or considering practical utilization; for example, many studies have explored relationships between the AQI and years of life lost [19] and the aggregated effects of internal indicators at a short-term scale [20]. However, AQI reveals the degree of air pollution situations of cities or some air-polluted areas, such as factories or streets, rather than scenic spots. It also neglects the degree of air freshness through adding indicators of O₂⁻ to measure the health and beneficial degree of fresh air [21]. Moreover, current studies of the fresh air index primarily utilize singular indicators, only O₂⁻, to measure air freshness, without considering air pollutants' influence on the comprehensive air freshness degree [22].

For the natural microclimate of scenic spots, many studies primarily utilize one index or two indexes to analyze and reveal the natural microclimate comfort degree, which can mainly be summarized as the temperature-humidity index (THI) [23], wind-cold index (WCI) [24], index of cloth loading (ICI) [25], and human comfort index (HCI) [26]. However, it is vital to note that current indexes do not consider rain factors to measure the influence of rain volume on the comfort degree, which provides an opportunity to establish a rain comfort index and construct a new comprehensive index including all primary factors of the natural microclimate of scenic spots. Additionally, the natural microclimate comfort degree of scenic spots has seldom been integrated with the fresh air index in contemporary studies due to a lack of comprehensive air freshness data and natural microclimate factor data at the same time, along with the existence of some research barriers.

Integration embraces the power to reveal the actual distribution of real scenic spot air freshness and natural microclimate resources. Based on individual economic development trends of different places, it is essential to point out that the air freshness degree of scenic spots needs to be classified according to WHO standards [27] and actual situations together, which calls for stricter standards of fresh air, with gradual improvement in standards. For more in-depth exploration and development of scenic spots with fresh air and natural microclimate tourism resources, it is indispensable to classify different levels or add more actual levels of air freshness degree and natural microclimate degree in future research because the current classification needs to be developed based on more accurate research.

For sustainable development of destinations and scenic spots with fresh air and natural microclimate comfort resources, this paper establishes a fresh air index (FAI) based on comprehensive identification of fresh air components and the index construction methods and experiences of AQI, constructs natural and cultural FAI according to the different threshold standards, and creatively constructs a natural microclimate comfort index of scenic spots through taking advantage of the current index and adding a rain comfort index, connecting the fresh air index (FAI) and the natural microclimate comfort index (NMCI) together to assess the air freshness degree of destinations and the natural microclimate comfort degree. For in-depth air and microclimate resource distributions in the tourism market, this paper proposes an improved fresh air–natural microclimate comfort index to systematically analyze fresh air resources and natural microclimate comfort resources together in Chinese scenic spots by classifying seven levels of the fresh air index (FAI) and seven levels of the natural microclimate comfort index (NMCI). Based on the comparative advantages of embracing relatively fresher

air, this paper takes four scenic spots of Fujian Province, China, as an example and analyzes the natural and cultural scenic spots' fresh air–natural microclimate comfort degree to promote the sustainable utilization and development of fresh air and natural microclimate comfort resources in the microclimate tourism market.

2. Materials and Methods

This study utilizes the comprehensive index construction method to construct one fresh air–natural microclimate comfort index (FAI-NMCI), then creatively applies this index to four scenic spots of Fujian Province to reveal the actual air freshness and microclimate comfortable degree at the same time.

2.1. Methodology of Fresh Air–Natural Microclimate Comfort Index Construction and Evaluation

2.1.1. Definition and Essence of Fresh Air

Different from polluted air, fresh air not only contains basic air components and air structures, but also contains more beneficial air components, such as negative oxygen ions (O_2^-), which are also treated as “air vitamins” for promoting human health [28,29] and include no harmful, or less harmful air components, such as $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , SO_2 , NO_2 , CO , or O_3 , that are harmless standards. Therefore, fresh air has beneficial and no harmful characteristics and can be simply defined and summarized as follows:

$$\text{Fresh air (FA)} = \text{beneficial air components (BAC)} + \text{no harmful air components (NAC)}$$

According to the aforementioned analysis, fresh air could be summarized as having health essences from protecting and promoting human health perspectives, which could be represented by a higher concentration of healthy air components and a lower concentration of polluted air components.

In this study, negative oxygen ions (O_2^-) were adopted to represent beneficial air components and were selected to reveal general nonharmful air components that severely caused air pollution in China. SO_2 , NO_2 , CO , or O_3 was chosen to represent local special air contaminants in different regions of China. Therefore, to illustrate fresh air in specific scenic spots of China, this study constructed a fresh air structure with selected air components, which can be summarized as follows:

$$\text{Fresh Air} = \text{Beneficial Air Components } (O_2^-) + \text{No Harmful Air Components } \{PM_{2.5}+PM_{10}+(SO_2, NO_2, CO \text{ or } O_3)\}$$

2.1.2. Improved Fresh Air Index of Natural and Cultural Scenic Spots

We compared the contemporary single-factor fresh air index of Fujian, Hubei, and Zhejiang provinces of China, utilizing only negative oxygen ion (O_2^-) degree and $PM_{2.5}$, to assess scenic spots' air freshness (Table 1). The Meteorological Service Center of Fujian Province, China, and the authors of this paper have creatively proposed a comprehensive fresh air index by considering both the healthy air component factor negative oxygen ion (O_2^-) and the low degrees of $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} as general polluted air components that exist in different regions of China, and NO_2 , SO_2 , CO , and O_3 as particular air pollutant factors in specific regions of China, determined by local geological and economic structure features.

The subindices of the beneficial air component IFAIB are expressed as the ratio of the negative oxygen ion (O_2^-) concentration to the 24 h average standard O_2^- level (1000 ions/cm³) (Table 2) recommended by the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines for fresh air [30–32]. That is, IFAIB can be written as:

$$IFAIB = \frac{C_B}{S_B} \quad (1)$$

where IFAIB represents the subindices of the beneficial air component in scenic spots, C_B represents the negative oxygen ion (O_2^-) concentration of scenic spots, and S_B represents the 24 h average standard O_2^- level (1000 ions/cm³) of scenic spots.

Table 1. Comparison of methods and classification of air freshness in different provinces of China.

Measurement Method	Levels	PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg/m ³)	O ₂ ⁻ Concentration (N Ions/cm ³)	Level Evaluation
Measurement method of fresh air in Fujian	Level 1	≤35	1500 ≤ N	Very Fresh
	Level 2	≤35	1000 ≤ N < 1500	Fresh
	Level 3	≤35	500 ≤ N < 1000	Relatively Fresh
	Level 4	≤35	100 ≤ N < 500	General
	Level 5	≤35	0 < N < 100	Not Fresh
Measurement method of fresh air in Hubei	Level 1	≤35	1200 ≤ N	High Concentration, Air Fresh
	Level 2	≤35	500 ≤ N < 1200	High Concentration, Air Relatively Fresh
	Level 3	≤35	300 ≤ N < 500	Middle Concentration, Air Generally Fresh
	Level 4	≤35	100 ≤ N < 300	Relatively Low Concentration, Air Relatively Not Fresh
	Level 5	≤35	0 < N < 100	Low Concentration, Air Not Fresh
Measurement method of fresh air in Zhejiang	Level 1	≤35	0 ≤ N < 50	Not Fresh
	Level 1	≤35	50 ≤ N < 200	Not Fresh
	Level 1	≤35	200 ≤ N < 500	Not Fresh
	Level 2	≤35	500 ≤ N < 900	General
	Level 3	≤35	900 ≤ N < 1200	Relatively Fresh
	Level 4	≤35	1200 ≤ N < 1800	Fresh
	Level 5	≤35	1800 ≤ N < 2100	Fresh
Level 6	≤35	≥2100	Very Fresh	

Table 2. Standard concentration degree of indicators of fresh air components.

Dimension	Indicators	Average Time	Concentration Degree		Unit
			I	II	
Beneficial Air Components	Negative Oxygen Ion (O ₂ ⁻)	24 h mean	1000	1000	ions/cm ³
	Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	24 h mean	50	150	µg/m ³
No Harmful Air Components	Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	24 h mean	80	80	
	Carbon Monoxide (CO)	24 h mean	4	4	mg/m ³
	Ozone (O ₃)	day maximum 8 h mean	100	160	µg/m ³
	Particulate Matter 10 (PM ₁₀)	24 h mean	50	150	
	Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM _{2.5})	24 h mean	35	75	

Notes: Data source from Ambient Air Quality Standards of China (GB3095-2012). The category I region used I concentration degree, and the category II region used II concentration degree. The category I region is the place of natural conservation, famous scenic spots, and other special conservation regions that need special protection. The category II region is the residential regions, the mixed region with commercial, transportation, and residents, the cultural regions, industrial regions, and rural regions.

The subindex IFAI_{pi} of nonharmful air components is expressed as the negative ratio of air pollutant concentrations, C_{pi}, to the recommended short-term Ambient Air Quality Standards of China (GB3095-2012) [33], S_{pi}. That is, IFAI_{pi} can be written as:

$$\text{IFAI}_{pi} = -\frac{C_{pi}}{S_{pi}} \quad (2)$$

where IFAI_{pi} represents the subindices of no harmful air components in scenic spots, C_{pi} represents air pollutant concentrations of scenic spots, and S_{pi} represents the recommended short-term air pollutant concentration standards of scenic spots.

The short-term Ambient Air Quality Standards of China [34] used in natural scenic spots are defined as concentrations with average times of 24 h means of 50 µg/m³ for PM₁₀,

35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for SO_2 , 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for NO_2 , and 4 mg/m^3 for CO, and running an 8 h mean of 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for O_3 . The short-term Ambient Air Quality Standards of China used in cultural scenic spots are defined as concentrations with average times of 24 h means of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM_{10} , 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for SO_2 , 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for NO_2 , and 4 mg/m^3 for CO, and running an 8 h mean of 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for O_3 . The 24 h average standard O_2^- level recommended by the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines for fresh air is 1000 ions/ cm^3 in category I and II regions (Table 2).

The natural and cultural fresh air index is the sum of IFAI_B and the sum of subindices of no harmful air components, IFAI_{pi}, which can be written as:

$$\text{FAI} = \text{IFAI}_B + \sum \text{IFAI}_{pi} = \sum \text{IFAI}_j \quad (3)$$

where FAI refers to the fresh air index, IFAI_B refers to subindices of beneficial air components, $\sum \text{IFAI}_{pi}$ indicates the sum of subindices of no harmful air components, and $\sum \text{IFAI}_j$ indicates the sum of subindices of fresh air components *j*.

The classifications of natural and cultural FAIs of scenic spots and their levels were explored in this paper. According to Table 1, the FAI of natural scenic spots utilizes category I region standards to further explore different threshold levels, while the FAI of cultural scenic spots utilizes category II region standards (Table 2).

According to the China Industrial Technical Regulation on Grade of Air Negative (Oxygen) Ion Concentration (QX/T 380-2017) [32] and Local Technical Regulation on Grade of Air Negative (Oxygen) Ion Concentration of Hubei Province (DB42/T 1198-2016) [30], the concentration degree of negative oxygen ion (O_2^-) increase per 500 ions/ cm^3 will enhance air freshness and have a beneficial influence on human health.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) air freshness grading standard of the negative oxygen ion index, when $1800 \leq \text{O}_2^- \leq 2100$, O_2^- has natural healing power, and when $\text{O}_2^- > 2100$, it has therapeutic and rehabilitation effects [35]. Therefore, on the basis of a higher standard than the WHO standard for negative oxygen ion therapy, this paper proposes that when $2500 \leq \text{O}_2^- \leq 3000$, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , O_3 , NO_2 , SO_2 , and CO decreased in proportion, and the air freshness degree is at the Healing Freshness Level, the resulting air freshness level of the scenic spot reaches the healing standard. Then, when $3000 \leq \text{O}_2^- \leq 3500$ and when $\text{O}_2^- > 3500$, the air could have a more active influence on human health, which could further promote the air freshness degree to very fresh and super fresh levels.

According to the World Health Organization Air Quality Guideline (WHO AQG), a $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} decrease of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ will reduce mortality risk by approximately 3% [31], an O_3 decrease of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ will reduce daily mortality by approximately 0.12–0.25% [31], an SO_2 decrease of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ will reduce daily mortality by approximately 0.09–0.29% [31], a CO decrease of 0.5 mg/m^3 will also reduce mortality risk or health risk [31], and an NO_2 decrease of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ will reduce daily mortality by approximately 0.29% [36].

This paper further classifies the FAI threshold range of natural and cultural scenic spots according to the different standards of natural and cultural scenic spot air quality standards in China and the WHO standards, which are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. The air freshness degree of natural and cultural scenic spots could be classified into seven levels: Not Fresh, General, Fresh, Relatively Fresh, Healing Fresh, Very Fresh, and Super Fresh (Tables 3 and 4).

2.1.3. Improved Natural Microclimate Comfort Index

It is obvious that those indices usually assess two or three factors of natural microclimate, such as THI analyzes temperature and humidity factors, WCI analyzes wind and temperature factors, ICI analyzes wind, temperature, and solar radiation factors, and HCI analyzes temperature, humidity, and wind factors. Therefore, it is a trend in Chinese tourism research to utilize the indices mentioned above to comprehensively analyze the degree of natural microclimate comfort in tourists' destinations [37–40]. However, there is also a lack of consideration of the influence of precipitation factors on the degree of

natural microclimate comfort in contemporary Chinese tourism research. According to climate comfort analysis of scenic spots, when precipitation < 1.0 mm, there is nearly no influence on tourists. When precipitation < 3.0 mm, it is within tourists' precipitation comfort range, which will provide a rainfall microclimate for tourists to experience and appreciate rainfall scenery in scenic spots, while when precipitation > 10.0 mm, tourism will decrease dramatically because large volumes of rainfall make tourists feel uncomfortable and cause them to stop tourism activities and leave scenic spots [41].

Table 3. Threshold range of natural scenic spot FAI levels.

SB		S _{pi}					FAI (Fresh Air Index) In Natural Scenic Spot	Levels
O ₂ (Ion/cm ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	O ₃ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)		
≥3500	≤10	≤25	≤75	≤25	≤55	≤1.5	FAI ≥ 2	Super Fresh
3000	15	30	80	30	60	2	1.2 ≤ FAI < 2	Very Fresh
2500	20	35	85	35	65	2.5	0.4 ≤ FAI < 1.2	Healing Fresh
2000	25	40	90	40	70	3	−0.4 ≤ FAI < 0.4	Relatively Fresh
1500	30	45	95	45	75	3.5	−1.2 ≤ FAI < −0.4	Fresh
1000	35	50	100	50	80	4	−2 ≤ FAI < −1.2	General
<1000	>35	>50	>100	>50	>80	>4	FAI < −2	Not Fresh

Table 4. Threshold range of cultural scenic spot FAI levels.

SB		S _{pi}					FAI (Fresh Air Index) In Cultural Scenic Spot	Levels
O ₂ (Ion/cm ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	O ₃ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)		
≥3500	≤25	≤75	≤85	≤75	≤55	≤1.5	FAI ≥ 2.14	Super Fresh
3000	35	90	100	90	60	2	1.31 ≤ FAI < 2.14	Very Fresh
2500	45	105	115	105	65	2.5	0.48 ≤ FAI < 1.31	Healing Fresh
2000	55	120	130	120	70	3	−0.35 ≤ FAI < 0.48	Relatively Fresh
1500	65	135	145	135	75	3.5	−1.17 ≤ FAI < −0.35	Fresh
1000	75	150	160	150	80	4	−2 ≤ FAI < −1.17	General
<1000	>75	>150	>160	>150	>80	>4	FAI < −2	Not Fresh

Therefore, this paper proposes a rain comfort index (RCI) to assess the comfort degree to which different volumes of rainfall influence tourists in scenic spots. The RCI refers to the influence of rainfall on the extent of human comfort in a natural microclimate environment. According to the Chinese grade of precipitation standard (GB/T 28592-2012) and considering tourism activities usually within a 12 h range, this paper chose a 12 h precipitation standard to measure rainfall levels; that is, drizzle < 0.1 mm, light rain 0.1~4.9 mm, moderate rain 5.0~14.9 mm, and heavy rain 15.0~29.9 mm. Based on the above analysis, this paper defined the comfort range of precipitation as between 0.1 (drizzle) and 10.00 mm (moderate rain) for tourists in scenic spots and then constructed the RCI as follows:

$$RCI = R/R_0$$

where RCI refers to the rain comfort index, R refers to actual rainfall, and R₀ refers to standard rainfall, that is equal to 0.1 mm (drizzle) in this paper. Then, seven levels of RCI of different comfort degrees were classified, which are summarized in Table 5.

By considering all factors of the natural microclimate, this paper proposes the natural microclimate index (NMCI):

$$NMCI = \frac{THI + WCI + ICI + HCI + RCI}{5}$$

Table 5. Threshold range of RCI levels.

RCI Levels	RCI
Very Uncomfortable	≥ 100
More Uncomfortable	$80 \leq \text{RCI} < 100$
Relatively Uncomfortable	$60 \leq \text{RCI} < 80$
Comfortable	$0 \leq \text{RCI} < 30$
Relatively comfortable	$30 \leq \text{RCI} < 40$
Less comfortable	$40 \leq \text{RCI} < 50$
Uncomfortable	$50 \leq \text{RCI} < 60$

By assessing each subindex of the NMCI (THI, WCI, ICI, HCI, RCI) and defining them into their own comfort levels, the results are summarized in Table 6. For subindices of NMCI, such as THI, WCI, ICI, HCI, and RCI, which have their own levels of standards and classification patterns, it is essential to standardize each subindex of NMCI for further calculation of NMCI. This paper summed up and calculated their average comfort levels through reclassifying each subindex of NMCI into seven levels (d, c, b, A, B, C, D) and assigning values (that is, d = 2, c = 3, b = 4, A = 5, B = 6, C = 7, D = 8). Then, the average $\text{THI} + \text{WCI} + \text{ICI} + \text{HCI} + \text{RCI}/5$ value was calculated to determine the final levels of NMCI in Table 7.

When $5 \leq \text{NMCI} < 6$, the NMCI is at the most comfortable level; when $4 \leq \text{NMCI} < 5$, the NMCI is at the comfortable (cool comfort) level; when $6 \leq \text{NMCI} < 7$, the NMCI is at the comfortable (warm comfort) level; when $3 \leq \text{NMCI} < 4$, the NMCI is at the less comfortable (cold less comfortable) level; when $7 \leq \text{NMCI} < 8$, the NMCI is at the less comfortable (hot less comfortable) level; when $2 \leq \text{NMCI} < 3$, the NMCI is at the uncomfortable (very cold uncomfortable) level; when $\text{NMCI} > 8$, the NMCI is at the uncomfortable (very hot uncomfortable) level (Table 7).

2.1.4. Combined Fresh Air–Natural Microclimate Comfort Index

After the construction of the fresh air index (FAI) and the natural microclimate comfort index (NMCI), this paper comprehensively constructed a parallel fresh air–natural microclimate index for assessing the air freshness degree and natural microclimate comfort degree of specific scenic spots in China. This approach utilizes the fresh air index and natural microclimate comfort index to analyze scenic spots and then connects them together to explore fresh air and natural microclimate tourism resources in depth (Table 8).

2.2. Data Source

This study chose four fresh air index monitoring stations within four scenic spots of Fujian Province, China. That is, the Pingnan Baishuiyang-Yuanyang Brook Scenic Spot in Ningde City, the Gutian Conference Site Scenic Spot in Longyan City, the Yongding earth building (Tulou) Scenic Spot in Longyan City, and the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Spot in Nanping City (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Pingnan Baishuiyang-Yuanyang Brook Scenic Spot is a natural scenic spot. It has a total area of 66 square kilometers, integrating streams, peaks, rocks, waterfalls, caves, lakes, and other landscapes. There are more than 10 kinds of national protected animals, such as Silver Pheasant, Python, and Pangolin, which are found in the “Natural Animal and Botanical Garden” (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Gutian Conference Site Scenic Spot is a cultural scenic spot. It is located in the south of Meihua Mountain, with a planned area of 7.6 square kilometers. In October 2015, it was successfully promoted to a national 5A tourist attraction and won the honorary titles of “National Top Ten Excellent Patriotism Education Bases” and “National Red Tourism Classic Scenic Spots” (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Table 6. Threshold range of each NMCI subindex and its corresponding levels and values in the NMCI context.

Subindices 1: THI		Subindices 2: WCI		Subindices 3: ICI		Subindices 4: HCI		Subindices 5: RCI		Levels and Values of NMCI Subindices	
Value Range	Levels	Value Range	Levels	Value Range	Levels	Value Range	Levels	Value Range	Levels	Levels	Values
40 < THI < 45	Cold Uncomfortable	WCI ≥ 1000	Cold Wind	ICI ≥ 1.0	Cold Uncomfortable	25 < HCI < 35	Cold, Uncomfortable	RCI ≥ 100	Very Uncomfortable	d	2
45 < THI < 55	Relatively cold Uncomfortable	800 < WCI < 1000	Relatively Cold Wind	1.5 < ICI < 1.8	Thick coat sweater	35 < HCI < 45	Relatively cold Uncomfortable	80 < RCI < 100	More Uncomfortable	c	3
55 < THI < 60	Cool, Relatively Comfortable	600 < WCI < 800	Cool Wind	1.3 < ICI < 1.5	Coat, thick shin	45 < HCI < 55	Cool, Relatively Comfortable	60 < RCI < 80	Relatively Uncomfortable	h	4
60 < THI < 65	Comfortable	300 < WCI < 600	Comfortable Wind	0.7 < ICI < 1.3	Thin coal shirt	55 < HCI < 65	Comfortable	0 < RCI < 30	Comfortable	A	5
65 < THI < 70	Warm, Relatively Comfortable	200 < WCI < 300	Warm Wind	0.5 < ICI < 0.7	Shirts (long sleeves)	65 < HCI < 75	Warm, Relatively Comfortable	30 < RCI < 40	Relative Comfortable	B	6
70 < THI < 75	Slightly hot, Less Comfortable	50 < WCI < 200	Slightly Hot	0.35 < ICI < 0.5	Shirts (short sleeves)	75 < HCI < 80	Slightly hot, Less Comfortable	40 < RCI < 50	Less comfortable	C	7
75 < THI < 80	Stuffiness, Uncomfortable	−80 < WCI < 50	Hot wind	0.1 < ICI < 0.35	Summer clothes with short sleeves	80 < HCI < 85	Stuffiness, Uncomfortable	50 < RCI < 60	Uncomfortable	D	8

Table 7. Threshold range of NMCI Levels.

Value Range	Levels
$2 \leq \text{NMCI} < 3$	Very cold uncomfortable
$3 \leq \text{NMCI} < 4$	Cold less comfortable
$4 \leq \text{NMCI} < 5$	Cool comfort
$5 \leq \text{NMCI} < 6$	The most comfortable
$6 \leq \text{NMCI} < 7$	Warm comfort
$7 \leq \text{NMCI} < 8$	Hot less comfortable
$\text{NMCI} > 8$	Very hot uncomfortable

Table 8. Threshold range of FAI-NMCI Levels.

FAI Value Range in Cultural Scenic Spot	FAI Value Range in Natural Scenic Spot	FAI Levels	NMCI Value Range	NMCI Levels
$\text{FAI} \geq 2.14$	$\text{FAI} \geq 2$	Super Fresh	$2 \leq \text{NMCI} < 3$	Very cold uncomfortable
$1.31 \leq \text{FAI} < 2.14$	$1.2 \leq \text{FAI} < 2$	Very Fresh	$3 \leq \text{NMCI} < 4$	Cold less comfortable
$0.48 \leq \text{FAI} < 1.31$	$0.4 \leq \text{FAI} < 1.2$	Healing Fresh	$4 \leq \text{NMCI} < 5$	Cool comfort
$-0.35 \leq \text{FAI} < 0.48$	$-0.4 \leq \text{FAI} < 0.4$	Relatively Fresh	$5 \leq \text{NMCI} < 6$	The most comfortable
$-1.17 \leq \text{FAI} < -0.35$	$-1.2 \leq \text{FAI} < -0.4$	Fresh	$6 \leq \text{NMCI} < 7$	Warm comfort
$-2 \leq \text{FAI} < -1.17$	$-2 \leq \text{FAI} < -1.2$	General	$7 \leq \text{NMCI} < 8$	Hot less comfortable
$\text{FAI} < -2$	$\text{FAI} < -2$	Not Fresh	$\text{NMCI} > 8$	Very hot uncomfortable

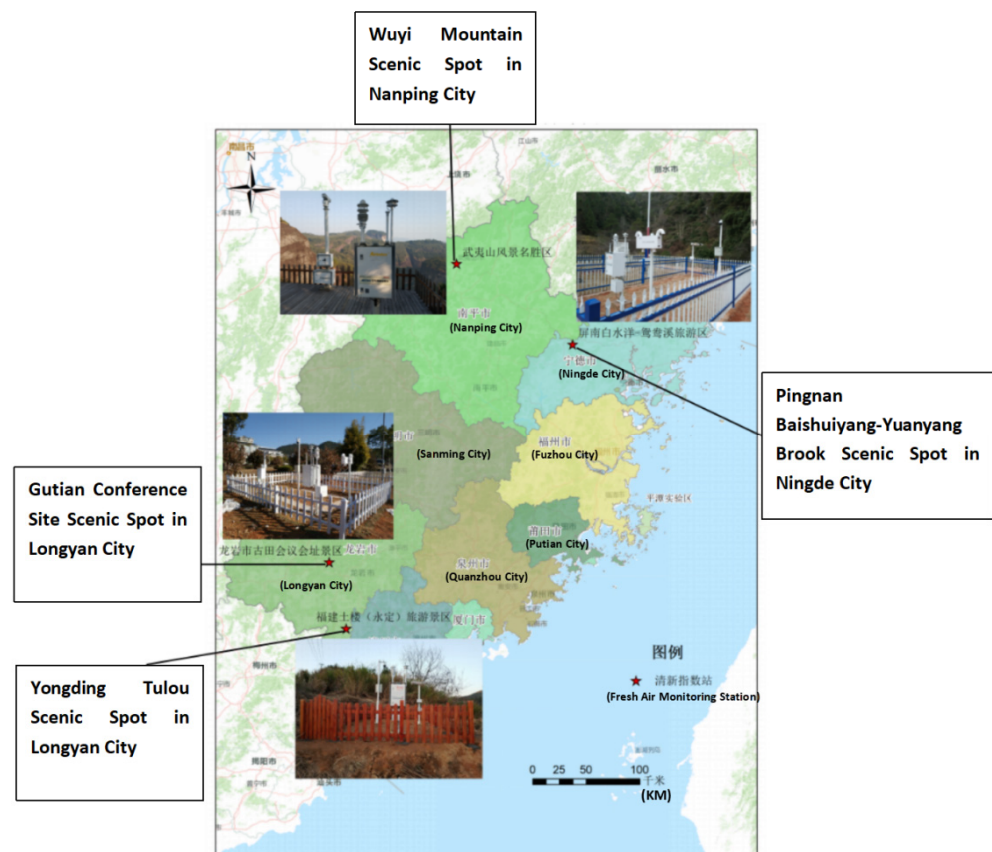


Figure 1. The four scenic spots and their monitoring stations in Fujian Province, China.

Table 9. Four scenic spots and their location information.

Scenic Spots	Site Number	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Located City	Located Specific Site
Wuyi Mountain Scenic Spot	F9269	117.96245	27.6677	408	Nanping City	Wuyi Mountain
Gutian Conference Site Scenic Spot	F7490	116.8376	25.2261	730	Longyan City	Gutian County
Pingnan Baishuiyang-Yuanyang Brook Scenic Spot	F3749	119.058	27.0736	679.2	Ningde City	Ping'nan County
Yongding earth building (Tulou) Scenic Spot	F7590	117.015	24.667	431	Longyan City	Yongding County

Yongding earth building (Tulou) Scenic Spot is a cultural scenic spot. It is a unique magical mountain residential building. It has a long history, unique style, large scale, and exquisite structure. In July 2008, it was successfully listed in the world heritage list (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Wuyi Mount Scenic Spot is a natural scenic spot. It is located at the junction of Jiangxi and northwest Fujian Provinces and at the southeast foot of the north section of Wuyi Mountain vein, with a total area of 999.75 square kilometers. It is a famous scenic spot and summer resort in China (Figure 1 and Table 9).

Since the $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , and O_3 standards in natural and cultural scenic spots have different regulations in practice, this paper attempts to establish natural and cultural scenic spot FAIs to distinguish air freshness evaluations. In addition, natural and cultural scenic spots have different environmental backgrounds and social interaction intensities, which will significantly influence the air freshness degree of scenic spots. Meanwhile, for tourists, the fresher the air in scenic spots, the better the traveling experience, so they could utilize the FAI of natural scenic spots to measure all scenic spots in practice. For destination and scenic spot management, it is vital to distinguish the difference between natural and cultural scenic spots and to evaluate the related and compared freshness within natural scenic spots and cultural scenic spot categories. This paper chose the Wuyi Mountain scenic spot and Baishuiyang scenic spot as natural scenic spots of Fujian Province and the Yongding Tulou scenic spot and Gutian Conference Site scenic spot as cultural scenic spots of Fujian Province.

According to local air characteristics, O_3 is a special air component that influences the local air freshness of Fujian Province. Therefore, data on four indicators, O_2^- , $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , and O_3 , from 1 January to 31 December 2018 were collected. Temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and precipitation data of the four scenic spots were collected from 1 January to 31 December 2018. Therefore, this paper utilized negative oxygen ion (O_2^-), $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , and O_3 data for each day of 2018 of the four scenic spots to calculate their fresh air index (FAI). Then, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and precipitation data were utilized on each day of 2018 to calculate the natural microclimate comfort index (NMCI) of the four scenic spots.

The data for natural microclimate factors were collected from the National Meteorological Information Center of China (<http://data.cma.cn/>, accessed on 1 February 2022) and provided by the Fujian Meteorological Service Center, China (<http://fj.cma.gov.cn/>, accessed on 1 January 2022), and the data for fresh air index subindices were provided by the Fujian Meteorological Service Center, China (<http://fj.cma.gov.cn/>, accessed on 1 January 2022). The data were generated from the four scenic spots' microclimate and air freshness index monitoring equipment. More precisely, one set of negative oxygen ion monitoring stations (model HuaTron FR500) and one set of air index stations (model HuaTron AEI365) were built in the above four scenic spots (Figure 1 and Table 8).

3. Results

3.1. FAI-NMCI of Natural Scenic Spots

In the Wuyi Mountain scenic spot, the FAI levels were mainly distributed in the upper levels; for example, the Super Fresh level was approximately 164 days (accounting for 47%), the Very Fresh level was approximately 67 days (accounting for 19%), and the Healing Fresh level was approximately 56 days (accounting for 16%), which was approximately

287 days in 2018, accounting for almost 82% (Figure 2A). Meanwhile, the NMCI primarily included three levels. The comfortable level was approximately 246 days (accounting for 67%), which also embraced the cool comfort level (168 days, 46%) and the warm comfort level (78 days, 21%). The most comfortable level was approximately 116 days (accounting for 32%), while the less comfortable level was approximately 3 days (accounting for only 1%) (Figure 2B). Therefore, in the Wuyi Mountain scenic spot, the FAI-NMCI was mainly distributed within the upper fresh-comfort range, which was approximately 246 days of upper freshness levels and 362 days of comfort in 2018 (Figure 2A,B).

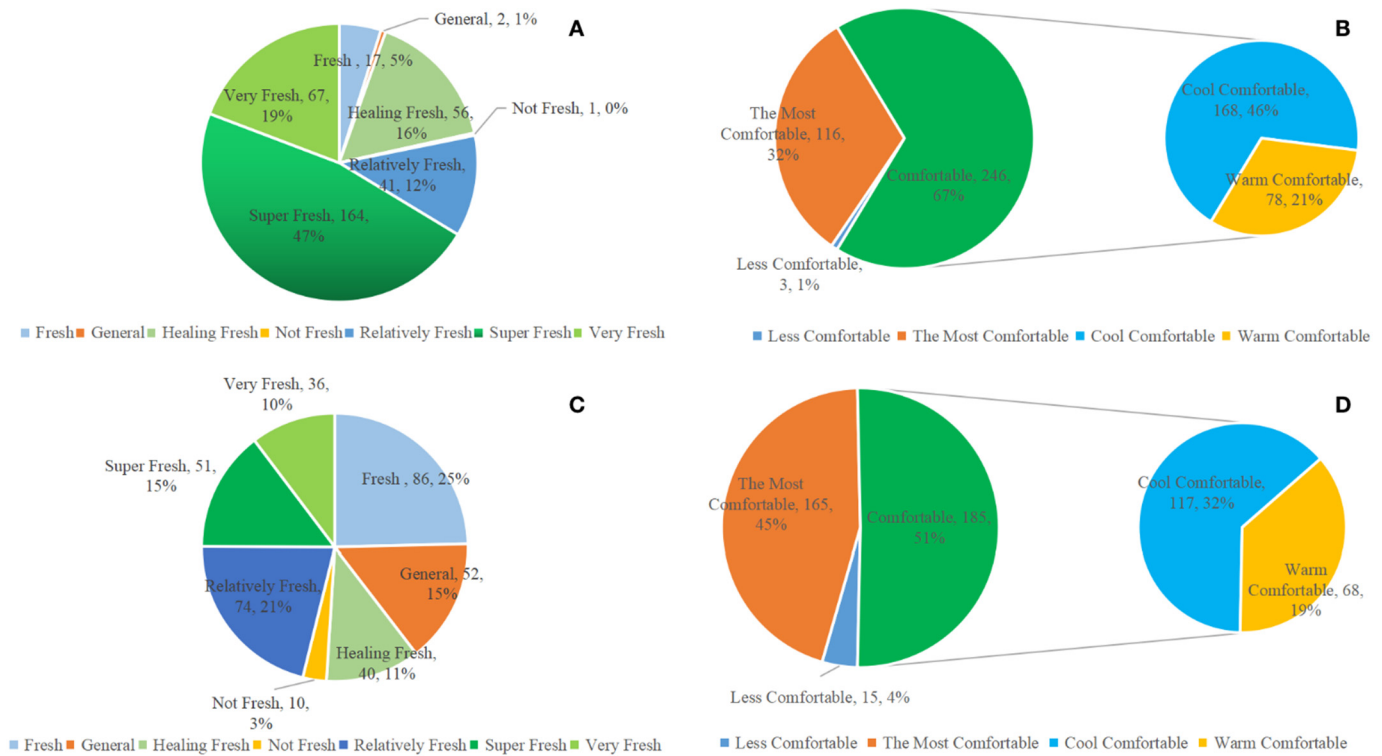


Figure 2. FAI and NMCI levels of Wuyi Mountain (A,B) and Baishuiyang scenic spot (C,D) of Fujian Province, China.

In the Baishuiyang scenic spot, the FAI levels were distributed from the Not Fresh level to the Super Fresh level. More precisely, the Fresh level was approximately 86 days (accounting for 25%), the Relatively Fresh level was approximately 74 days (accounting for 21%), the Super Fresh level was approximately 51 days (accounting for 15%), the Healing Fresh level was approximately 40 days (accounting for 11%), and the Very Fresh level was approximately 36 days (accounting for 10%), which indicated the dynamic fluctuation of FAI in the Baishuiyang scenic spot, and the FAI reached or exceeded the Fresh level for approximately 287 days, accounting for approximately 78.63% (Figure 2C). At the same time, the NMCI was mainly distributed at the comfortable level (185 days, 51%), among which the cool comfort level was 117 days (accounting for 32%) and the warm comfort level was 68 days (accounting for 19%). Meanwhile, the most comfortable level was also in a large proportion (45%) and was approximately 165 days. The less comfortable level was approximately 15 days and accounted for 4% (Figure 2D). Therefore, in Baishuiyang scenic spot, the FAI-NMCI was mainly distributed within the middle fresh-comfort range, which was approximately 160 days of middle freshness and 185 days of comfort in 2018 (Figure 2C,D).

In Wuyi Mountain scenic spot, the FAI mainly fluctuated between -2.69 and 32.7 , that is, it fluctuated between Not Fresh and Super Fresh levels. The NMCI mainly fluctuated between 3.6 and 7.2 , that is, it fluctuated between cold less comfortable and hot less comfortable levels. Within the whole year of 2018, from January to April, the NMCI gradually increased from 4 to 5 (in the cool comfort level), while the FAI was mostly more

than 5 (in the Super Fresh level) in the second half of January, decreased dramatically to -1.87 (in General level) in early February, then slightly increased to Relatively Fresh, Healing Fresh, and Very Fresh levels, and some Super Fresh levels, which also fluctuated in this period. From May to the first half of July, the NMCI increased from 5 to 6 and 6 to 7, which generally entered into the most comfortable level and increased into the warm comfort level in this period, which fluctuated mainly within these two levels; meanwhile, the FAI mainly fluctuated between Fresh and Super Fresh levels and reached the highest FAI of approximately 3.7 in June, which was more than the threshold value of Super Fresh ($FAI > 2$) by approximately 16.35 times. From the second half of July to the first half of September, the NMCI remained at the warm comfort level, while the FAI decreased gradually from more than 5 to lower than 3, although it was also mainly within the Super Fresh level. Then, the FAI increased to more than 5 in the second half of August and increased to more than 20 in the first half of September. From September to October, the NMCI decreased gradually from the warm comfort level to the most comfortable level, while the FAI also decreased to lower levels, such as the Fresh level and Relatively Fresh level, although some days reached the Healing Fresh level and Very Fresh level. When entering November and December, the NMCI decreased from 5 to lower than 4, which is a decrease from the cool comfort level to the cold less comfortable level, while the FAI increased gradually to the Super Fresh level in the middle of November and then decreased dramatically in the second half of November and the first half of December. When the NMCI decreased to the cold less comfortable level in December, the FAI fluctuated, while most fluctuated between the Healing Fresh and Super Fresh levels (Figure 3A).

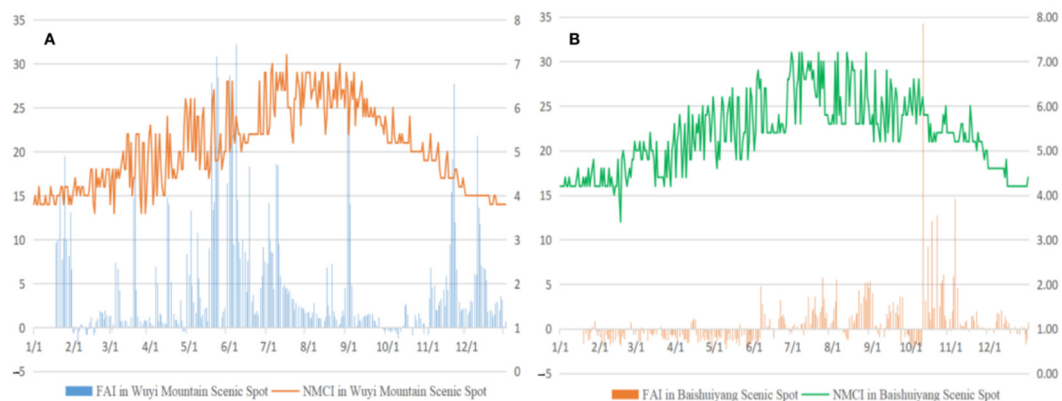


Figure 3. FAI and NMCI of Wuyi Mountain (A) and Baishuiyang scenic spots (B) of Fujian Province on each day of 2018.

In Baishuiyang scenic spot, the FAI mainly fluctuated between -2.83 and 34.27 , which fluctuated between the Not Fresh level and Super Fresh levels, while the NMCI mainly fluctuated between 3.4 and 7.2, which fluctuated between cold less comfortable and hot less comfortable levels. Within the whole year of 2018, from January to early June, the NMCI gradually increased from 4 to nearly 7, namely, it increased from cool comfort to the most comfortable level and then to the warm comfort level, while the FAI was mostly below 0, namely, it fluctuated between the Not Fresh level and the Relatively Fresh level. From the middle of June to August, the NMCI fluctuated and gradually increased from 6 to more than 7, that is, from the warm comfort level to the hot less comfortable level; meanwhile, the FAI increased from 0 to between nearly 5 or more than 5 on some days, which mainly fluctuated between the General level and the Super Fresh level. From September to November, the NMCI fluctuated mainly between 6.5 and 5, which indicated that the natural microclimate fluctuated from the warm comfort level to the most comfortable level from early September to late November. The FAI slightly and gradually increased in September and then decreased drastically below 0 from late September to early October, namely, decreased from the Super Fresh level to the Not Fresh or General level, mainly

during the National Holiday of China (approximately seven-day long holiday). After the seven days of the National Holiday of China, the FAI increased dramatically and reached the highest level of the year (FAI = 34.27), then fluctuated within the Super Fresh level (mainly between 2 and 14). From late November to December, the NMCI decreased below 5 but higher than 4, namely, at the cool comfort level, and the FAI also decreased to a lower level of the year, which primarily fluctuated between the General level and the Healing Fresh level (Figure 3B).

It is essential to point out that the FAI of the Wuyi Mountain and Baishuiyang scenic spots have some higher FAI values, such as more than 30 or even higher, which is primarily because of the higher O_2^- levels and the lower $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , and O_3 levels in scenic spots. When scenic spots have a high O_2^- concentration, it will significantly influence the entire FAI value.

More precisely, within 24 Jieqi of Wuyi Mountain scenic spot and Baishuiyang scenic spot, the FAI-NMCI can be summarized as in Figure 4. For example, it is obvious that in Lesser Cold and Greater Cold Jieqi, both the Wuyi Mountain and Baishuiyang scenic spots were at the cool comfort level, although Wuyi Mountain was at the Super Fresh level and was fresher than Baishuiyang, which was only at the Fresh level. At the start of Spring, the FAI of both Wuyi Mountain and Baishuiyang decreased, which was not because of the decrease in negative oxygen ions (O_2^-) at the two scenic spots but because of the increase in $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} due to the large number of tourists and tourism transportation entering those two scenic spots (Figure 4).

From Rain Water to Spring Equinox Jieqi, although the two scenic spots were also within the cool comfort level, the FAI both experienced a drastic increase from the General to the Super Fresh level in Wuyi Mountain and from the Not Fresh to the Relatively Fresh level in Baishuiyang. In Pure Brightness and Grain Rain Jieqi, Baishuiyang entered into the most comfortable level while Wuyi Mountain remained at the cool comfort level. Meanwhile, for more tourist travel to Baishuiyang, the FAI was at a relatively lower level, that is the General level, than Wuyi Mountain (Super Fresh and Healing Fresh level). At the Start of Summer Jieqi, Wuyi Mountain was at the Super Fresh and warm comfort levels, while Baishuiyang was only at the Fresh level and was still within the cool comfort level. In Grain Full Jieqi, Baishuiyang had increased freshness and became warm. In the Grain in Ear Jieqi, Wuyi Mountain entered the most comfortable level and was in a Super Fresh situation (Figure 4).

3.2. FAI-NMCI of Cultural Scenic Spots

In the Yongding Tulou scenic spot, the FAI levels were mainly distributed in Healing Fresh (159 days, 38%) and Relatively Fresh (74 days, 18%), while they were also distributed in Not Fresh (115 days, 27%). The Super Fresh (29 days, 7%), Very Fresh (31 days, 7%), and Fresh (14 days, 3%) levels were in small proportions (Figure 5A).

The NMCI was distributed in the comfort domain, that is, the most comfortable domain (149 days, 41%), and the comfort domain (216 days, 59%), which included the cool comfort domain (133 days, 36%) and the warm comfort domain (83 days, 23%) (Figure 5B). In the Gutian Conference Site scenic spot, the highest levels of FAI were at the Healing Fresh level (166 days, 48%) with a large proportion, and the Relatively Fresh level (146 days, 42%), while the Very Fresh (24 days, 7%) and Fresh (12 days, 3%) levels had a small proportion, and the Super Fresh level was not reached (Figure 5C). Meanwhile, the NMCI included three levels: the most comfortable (110 days, 30%), and the comfort (250 days, 69%), which embraced the cool comfort level (160 days, 44%) and the warm comfort level (90 days, 25%) (Figure 5D).

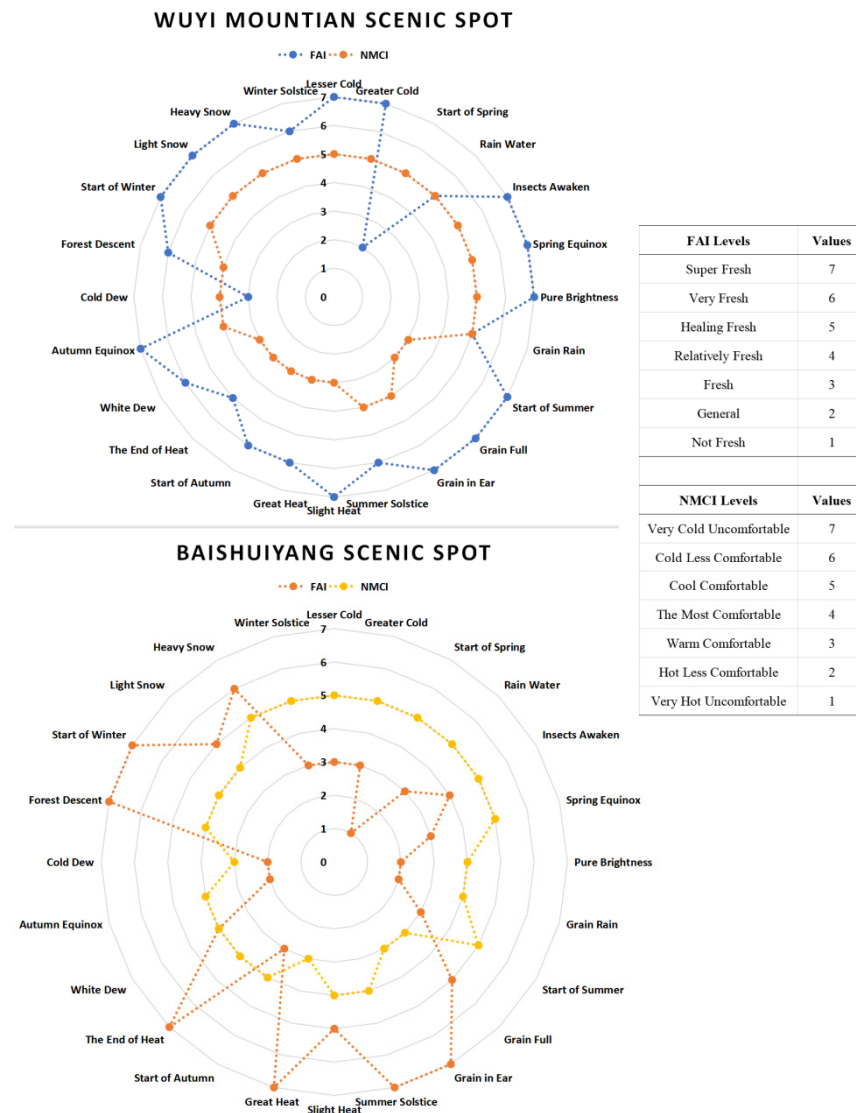


Figure 4. 24 Jieqi FAI-NMCI of Wuyi Mountain and Baishuiyang scenic spots.

In the Yongding Tulou scenic spot, the FAI mainly fluctuated between -0.97 and 14.81 , which fluctuated between Fresh and Super Fresh levels. The NMCI mainly fluctuated between 3.80 and 6.80 , which fluctuated between cold less comfortable and warm comfort levels (Figure 6A). Throughout 2018, the FAI and NMCI of the Yongding Tulou scenic spot experienced dynamic fluctuations. From January to March, the NMCI increased gradually from 3 to above 4, that is from cold less comfortable to the cool comfort level, and the FAI mainly fluctuated between -0.35 and 0.48 , that is mainly at the Relatively Fresh level. From late March to the middle of April, the NMCI continued to increase from 4 to above 5, that is from cool comfort to the most comfortable level. Meanwhile, the FAI increased dramatically above 2 and reached the Very Fresh level and fluctuated into the high level of Relatively Fresh. From May to September, the NMCI fluctuated from 5 to above 6, that is from the most comfortable to the warm comfort level, and the FAI mainly fluctuated within the Relatively Fresh level. When entering October, the NMCI decreased from above 6 to below 5, that is from warm comfort to the most comfortable level. The FAI increased drastically and reached the highest level (14.81) of the year, and most of FAI values were higher than 6 in the second half of October, that is it mainly fluctuated at the Very Fresh level. From November to December, the NMCI decreased from above 5 to below 4, that is from the most comfortable to the cold less comfortable level, while the FAI primarily fluctuated within the Relatively Fresh level until in the middle of December, when it increased dramatically

to more than 12, namely, in the Very Fresh level, then decreased quickly and fluctuated between the Fresh and Relatively Fresh levels (Figure 6A).

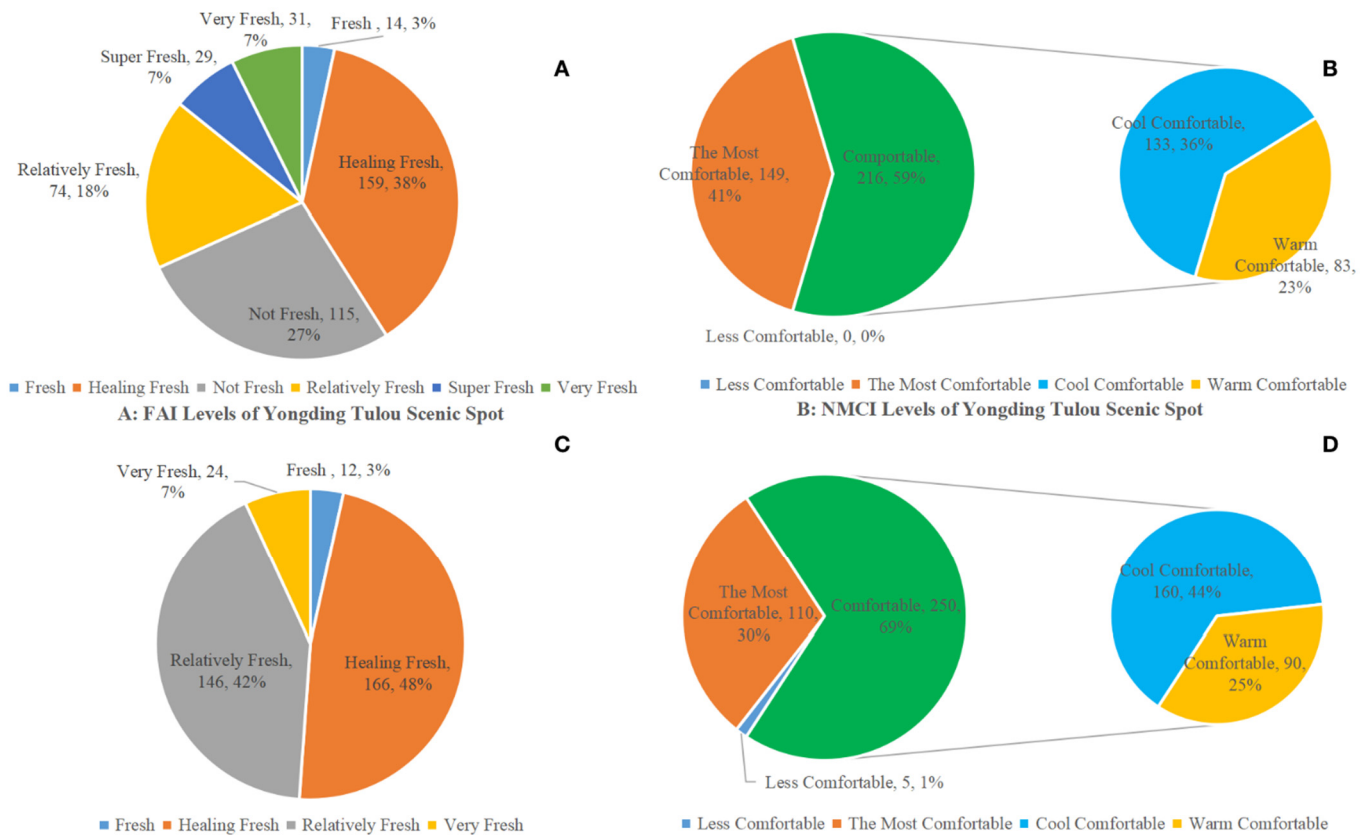
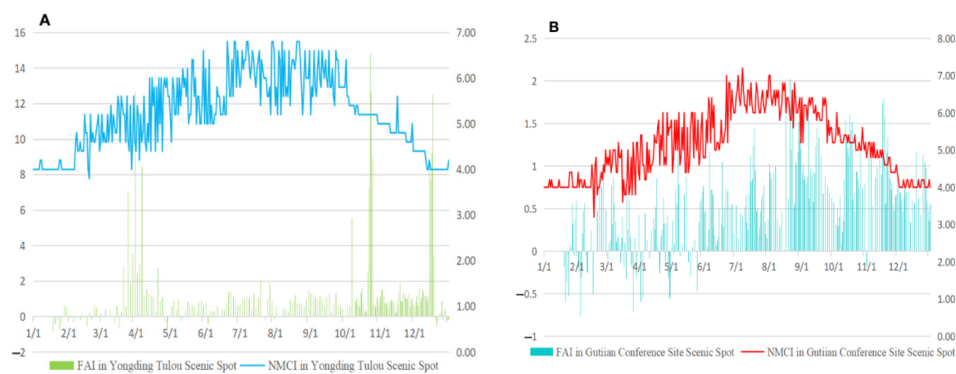


Figure 5. FAI and NMCI levels of Yongding Tulou (A,B) and Gutian Conference Site scenic spots (C,D) of Fujian Province, China.



FAI and NMCI of Yongding Tulou scenic spot

FAI and NMCI of Gutian Conference Site scenic spot

Figure 6. (A) FAI and (B) NMCI of Yongding Tulou and Gutian Conference Site scenic spots of Fujian Province on each day of 2018.

In the Gutian Conference Site scenic spot, the FAI mainly fluctuated between -0.76 and 2.03 , that is it fluctuated between Fresh and Super Fresh levels, while the Super Fresh level was lower than the Yongding Tulou scenic spot by approximately 7 times. The NMCI mainly fluctuated between 3.20 and 7.2 , that is it fluctuated between cold less comfortable and hot less comfortable levels (Figure 5B). For the first five months of 2018, from January

to May, the NMCI increased from more than 4 to more than 6, that is from cool comfort to the most comfortable level, and then to the warm comfort level. The FAI fluctuated between below -0.5 and 1 , that is it fluctuated between the Fresh and Healing Fresh levels. From June to August, the NMCI increased from above 6 to above 7 , that is from warm comfort to the hot less comfortable level. The FAI was mainly above 0.5 and some days even above 1 , that is primarily at the Healing Fresh level. From September to November, the NMCI decreased from above 6 to 5 , that is from warm comfort to the most comfortable level, while the FAI mainly fluctuated between 1 and 1.5 , that is it fluctuated between Healing Fresh and Very Fresh levels. In December, the NMCI decreased and mainly varied between 4 and 4.2 , that is mainly at the cool comfort level, while the FAI also decreased and mainly fluctuated above 0.5 or below 0.5 , that is mainly at the Relatively Fresh and Healing Fresh levels (Figure 6B).

More precisely, within 24 Jieqi of the Yongding Tulou scenic spot and Gutian Conference Site scenic spot, the FAI-NMCI could be summarized as in Figure 7 for satisfying tourists' diverse fresh air-natural microclimate comfort preferences and demands through the provision of proper microclimate tourism products and services in each Jieqi, or different Jieqi with approximately similar air freshness and natural microclimate comfort degrees.

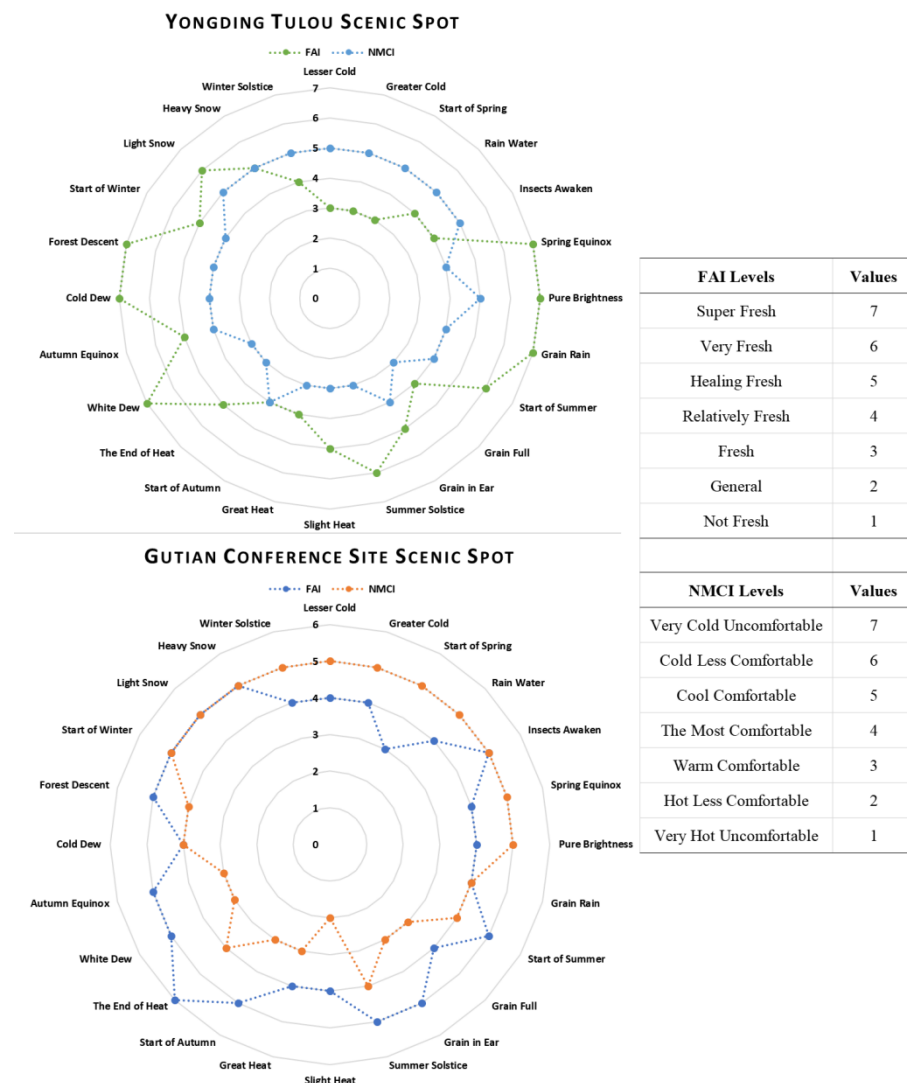


Figure 7. 24 Jieqi FAI-NMCI Index of Yongding Tulou and Gutian Conference Site scenic spots.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

Comparing FAI-NMCI in natural scenic spots of Fujian province, the Wuyi Mountain scenic spot had more days of upper-level air freshness and natural microclimate comfort degree than Baishuiyang scenic spot, which was mainly distributed within the middle fresh-comfort range. In cultural scenic spots of Fujian province, the Gutian Conference Site scenic spot had more days of middle-level air freshness and natural microclimate comfort degree than Yongding Tulou scenic spot, which had even more days of air freshness at the Not Fresh level.

Comparing fluctuating ranges of FAI of the four scenic spots in Fujian Province, the natural scenic spots had wider FAI fluctuation ranges, which was primarily determined by the higher concentration of negative oxygen ions and lower concentrations of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and O₃, while, the cultural scenic spots had relatively shorter FAI fluctuation ranges, which was profoundly influenced by the relatively lower concentration degree of negative oxygen ions and higher concentration degree of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and O₃.

Comparing fluctuating ranges of NMCI of four scenic spots in Fujian province, the NMCI mainly fluctuated between 3.20 and 7.2, which indicated that their natural microclimate comfort degree primarily fluctuated between cold less comfortable and hot less comfortable levels, except the Yongding Tulou scenic spot, which fluctuated between cold less comfortable and warm comfort levels.

In short, the four scenic spots in Fujian Province of China had different levels of air freshness degree and natural microclimate comfort degree in 2018. The natural scenic spots were mostly distributed in Healing Fresh, Very Fresh, and Super Fresh levels of FAI, with the most comfortable and comfortable levels of NMCI. The cultural scenic spots were mostly distributed in Relatively Fresh and Healing Fresh levels of FAI, with the most comfortable and comfortable levels of NMCI. Meanwhile, the FAI-NMCI of natural and cultural scenic spots also had significant differences within 24 Jieqi, which will promote dynamic and creative utilization of these resources in microclimate tourism development.

Therefore, the fresh air–natural microclimate of scenic spots has become a vital tourist attraction in the contemporary Chinese tourism market under the background of severe air pollution. Tourists with different physiological and psychological conditions will be more suited to different levels of air freshness and natural microclimate comfort levels, such as elderly tourists, pregnant women tourists, and children tourists will be vulnerable to polluted air environments and require more fresh and comfortable natural microclimates, such as Super Fresh and the most comfortable level of scenic spots, which has more negative oxygen ions (O₂[−]) and lower PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and O₃, with a more comfortable temperature, humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and precipitation.

Moreover, the dynamic fresh air–natural microclimate fluctuation revealed by FAI-NMCI of scenic spots will properly indicate the air freshness and natural microclimate comfort degree information for both the demand side and the supply side of the tourism market, which will profoundly promote fresh air–natural microclimate tourism resources' distribution and redistribution, accelerate fresh air–natural microclimate in-depth tourism resources combination and integration from a creative microclimate tourism development perspective, and further drive fresh-microclimate tourism development in destinations and scenic spots with comparative advantages of fresh air and a comfortable natural microclimate for triggering their in-depth transformation and improvement.

From a theoretical contribution perspective, this paper constructed the FAI-NMCI to harmoniously combine air resources and microclimate resources together, which could empirically evaluate air and microclimate tourism resource values for tourists, the tourism market, and the society as a whole. Moreover, it could figure out overlapping study areas of air tourism, climate tourism, health tourism, ecological tourism, and so forth, which have significant theoretical innovation through transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary integration research in China's tourism market. This is a new research trend that has seldom been explored by researchers and could become an important research domain for future multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and interdisciplinary exploration.

From a socioeconomic practical application perspective, the creation and utilization of FAI-NMCI is significant for fresh air and comfortable microclimate tourism resources' distribution and redistribution in the tourism market. Meanwhile, it could also become a vital health tourism market indicator, which simply reveals the air freshness degree and microclimate comfort degree for tourists and some potential tourists pursuing health tourism experiences and long-term health-improving vacations. FAI-NMCI could indicate a scenic spot's air freshness and microclimate comfort levels specifically on different days of a year, which also could be calculated and summarized into 24 Jieqi, 12 months, 4 seasons, and so forth. Under contemporary China's high-quality tourism development background, this could provide accurate information not only for demand and supply sides of the tourism market but could also become an important and comprehensive index for related governmental management and NGOs.

The limitation of this paper is we only applied the FAI-NMCI to four scenic spots of China because of data collection limitations and the short time construction of the air freshness index infrastructure, with only 1–2 years of data sources. This new index has only been applied in Fujian Province rather than other provinces of China, which need to be explored in the future. This index could reveal not only the natural conditions of tourism resources but could also indicate tourism practices, tourists' and destinations' social behavior patterns, as well as socioeconomic development patterns of some destinations, which could be explored through introducing multidisciplinary methods in future research.

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