

Investigation of bioclimatic performance in specific mountain areas in Greece and evaluation for decision making in tourism development.

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In Greece the most important tourism activity occurs in coastal and island areas. Mountain areas have remained unexploited despite their proximity to urban centers, their satisfactory road network and most of all their natural beauty and their beneficial environmental conditions. A considerable advantage of mountain areas is the bioclimatic conditions that offer thermal comfort to visitors with beneficial influence to their health and their recreation. This study investigates the bioclimatic performance of specific mountain areas in Greece, in order to evaluate their ability for tourism development. For this reason, loggers were located in selected places of the mountainous district of Nafaktia, a region in the west of Greece, at an altitude of 1100 m. Air temperature and relative humidity measurements were recorded simultaneously in every selected place every 15 minutes. Bioclimatic performance of every place was evaluated by bioclimatic indices. In spite of the fact that selected places were very close to each other a striking variation was found with respect to the bioclimatic performance. This variation is a function of every place configuration. Therefore, a differentiated approach of development is required within the specific area. The variations among selected places influence in a different way the offered thermal comfort given by bioclimatic indices. Results can give useful information for the tourism development and landscape planning of the specific area.