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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ANALYSIS OF ACCESSIBILITY AND EXPERIENCE OF SPECIAL FORCES-STYLE TOURISM - TAKING WUHAN EAST LAKE AS AN EXAMPLE

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ABSTRACT

This study examines spatial experiences and perceived accessibility among young participants in "Special Forces-style tourism," a high-intensity, time-compressed travel style prevalent among Chinese youth. Using Wuhan East Lake Scenic Area as a case study, data from 150 valid questionnaires were analyzed through descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and multiple regression to explore relationships among behavioral patterns, spatial accessibility, and experience satisfaction. Results indicate that young tourists exhibit distinct behaviors, prioritizing efficiency, visual consumption, and frequent movement. Satisfaction with natural and cultural landscapes significantly predicted overall experience satisfaction, whereas clarity of internal signage and spatial accessibility had limited statistical influence, suggesting adaptive behaviors under tight schedules. Notably, external transportation convenience was negatively correlated with satisfaction, reflecting tensions between urban infrastructure and perceived crowding or time pressure. This research contributes to debates on youth travel behavior and urban tourism spatial design, highlighting the mediating role of perceived accessibility in high-intensity tourism experiences. The study calls for a nuanced understanding of youth-driven tourism patterns and for spatial strategies that respond to evolving behaviors.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the rapid growth of social media and advances in information dissemination have significantly reshaped tourism behavior. Among Generation Z, who face tight schedules and limited budgets, a new tourism model—"Special Forces-style tourism"—has emerged, combining efficiency and excitement (Sanbao & Kexin, 2024). Coined by netizens, the term refers to completing multiple tourism activities within weekends or short holidays through tight schedules, frequent site visits, and packed itineraries—an "intense, on-the-go experience" (Guo, 2023). This

behavior reflects young people's focus on pace, efficiency, and social media visibility, while signaling both a rejection and reinterpretation of traditional “slow tourism” (Ding et al., 2024).

From the perspectives of behavioral geography and the experience economy (Yu & Wang, 2024), “Special Forces-style tourism” can be viewed as task-oriented sightseeing driven by challenge-based narratives. Despite time compression, it emphasizes route planning, optimized movement paths, and sensory stimulation. Consequently, perceived accessibility becomes a key factor influencing sightseeing quality. Perceived accessibility encompasses traditional spatial factors (e.g., connectivity and travel time) as well as psychological aspects such as cognitive perception, fatigue, directional confusion, and satisfaction with guidance systems (Chuangxin et al., 2024; Ye & Wang, 2024). In high-density, time-constrained “Special Forces-style tourism,” tourists rely heavily on route planning and are highly sensitive to accessibility systems.

Wuhan East Lake, China’s largest urban lake and a national 5A-level attraction, spans a vast area with diverse landscapes, including ecological lakes, forest wetlands, and cultural heritage sites. The East Lake Scenic Area comprises zones such as Moshan, Tingtao, Luoyan, and Ma’anshan Forest Park, with considerable distances between attractions and complex internal circulation. Consequently, engaging in “Special Forces-style tourism” at East Lake entails challenges such as demanding route planning, directional confusion, and insufficient transport links, all of which can reduce tourist satisfaction.

Existing research has largely focused on analyzing the social phenomena and psychological motivations underlying “Special Forces-style tourism.” Zhou Han analyzed the generative logic of this model from a youth cultural perspective, identifying dual motivations: “digital dissemination” and “social display” (Zhou & Wu, 2024). Conversely, studies on the accessibility of urban parks and large-scale attractions have mainly used spatial syntax and GIS path analysis to assess the relationship between facility layout and touring efficiency (Lepetiuk et al., 2023). However, empirical research integrating “Special Forces-style tourism” with accessibility experiences in large urban attractions is scarce, particularly regarding quantitative analysis of behavioral paths, psychological feedback, and perceptual gaps among young frequent visitors.

Therefore, this study takes Wuhan East Lake as the research site and, based on field questionnaire data, systematically analyzes the accessibility experience of visitors engaged in “Special Forces-style tourism.” It aims to deconstruct, from the visitors’ perspective, the intrinsic relationships among behavioral paths, perceptual evaluations, and satisfaction intentions, and to propose spatial optimization and service strategies.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. The Emergence and Development of the ‘Special Forces-Style Tourism’ Phenomenon

“Special Forces-style tourism,” a travel trend that has recently gained popularity on social media, has emerged as a short-distance, high-density, high-intensity travel form shaped by the pressures of fast-paced urban life and fragmented schedules. Originating from internet culture, the term describes tourists who, like “special forces,” aim to visit as many attractions as possible in a short time, emphasizing efficiency, discipline, and social sharing. Since 2023, this travel style has rapidly gained popularity among university students and young professionals, prompting widespread imitation on platforms such as Rednote and TikTok and giving rise to the behavioral

mechanisms of “social media–induced tourism” (Siegel et al., 2023).

“Special Forces-style tourism” exemplifies digital-era tourism behavior, driven by motivations of time efficiency, social exposure, personal achievement, and self-challenge (LI, 2023). From a socio-psychological perspective, scholars contend that this behavior reflects young people's dual needs for control and dopamine-driven excitement (Chang & Lee, 2023). Unlike traditional leisure or in-depth tours, “Special Forces-style tourism” prioritizes dense sightseeing and a sense of accomplishment, closely linked to photography, location tagging, and social media sharing, thereby generating a cyclical dissemination effect.

Although still under theoretical development, the short-term, high-intensity tourism behavior it represents has already created complex challenges for transportation, spatial layout, and service capacity, and has raised questions about the adequacy of traditional satisfaction models (Ding et al., 2024).

2.2. Mechanisms, Connotations, and Spatial Demands of ‘Special Forces’ Behavior

Research on “Special Forces-style tourism” is still in its early stages, primarily focusing on behavioral traits, motivations, and social dimensions. Mechanistically, this behavior comprises three stages: (1) information gathering and planning via online guides and user experiences; (2) intensive route execution involving multiple site visits within limited time; and (3) social feedback sharing through social media for validation. These stages indicate that tourists rely heavily on mobile platforms before the trip, require efficient transport and navigation during the trip, and prioritize feedback and sharing afterward.

Spatially, this form of tourism demands (1) efficient inter-site connectivity, (2) balanced and dense facility distribution, and (3) rapid, convenient transport networks. In large scenic areas or urban parks, insufficiently efficient paths and poor signage often lead to directional anxiety, physical fatigue, and reduced satisfaction (Mieli et al., 2024).

2.3. 2.3. Research on the Usage Behavior and Accessibility of Urban Parks

As open, multifunctional spaces, urban parks have long been central to research in behavioral geography and urban design. Traditional studies emphasize accessibility and equity, commonly measured by straight line distance, walking radius, and path continuity.

Maio et al. (2023) reported that clearer spatial structure and continuous paths are associated with higher usage and improved user satisfaction (Maio et al., 2023). Talal (2021) identified uneven transport node distribution, poor signage, and disorganized layouts as major factors reducing visitor satisfaction in large parks. (Talal & Santelmann, 2021).

More recently, scholars have advanced the notion of “experiential” or “psychological” accessibility, arguing that visitor experience depends not only on physical distance but also on path design, guidance clarity, physical strain, and sensory load (Seyfi et al., 2024).

2.4. Innovative Questions Proposed in This Study

This study raises the following three core research questions:

Has “Special Forces-style tourism” become a prevalent behavioral pattern among young

tourists?

To what extent do accessibility factors influence tourist satisfaction?

Do compressed schedules in "Special Forces-style tourism" diminish overall experience quality and reduce intentions to revisit?

Beyond providing a theoretical overview of youth-led "Special Forces-style tourism," the study proposes spatial intervention strategies for large scenic areas, informed by tourists' perceptual feedback, to enhance the tourism experience. It aims to provide theoretical contributions and practical insights for urban park planning, tourism service optimization, and youth tourism research.

3. METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

3.1. Data Sources and Sample Overview

This study employed a quantitative questionnaire survey focusing on "Special Forces-style tourism" behavior and perceived accessibility. The questionnaire contained 20 items covering demographic information, tourism behavior, transportation modes, spatial perception, and satisfaction. Respondents were tourists visiting the Wuhan East Lake Scenic Area. The survey was conducted between April and June 2025. The survey was conducted from April to June 2025. Data collection combined online distribution with on-site completion, yielding n=150 valid questionnaires.

The sample was predominantly aged 18–25, accounting for over 86% of respondents. Slightly more men than women participated, with most respondents identifying as students or young professionals. This demographic aligns closely with the typical profile of "Special Forces-style tourism" participants, ensuring strong sample representativeness.

3.2. Core Variables and Index System

(1) Core explanatory variable (X): Special Forces-style tourism behavior characteristics (Table 1).

Definition: This variable reflects a "high-density, short-duration, low-cost" behavioral pattern and serves as the primary independent variable in all path models.

Table 1 Core explanatory variable

No.	Variable Title	Variable properties	Scale type
Q6	Cognitive Awareness of Special Forces-style Tourism	Behavioral Antecedent	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q7	Scheduled Duration of the Tour	Action Time Limit	Categorical variable
Q18	Time Density	Intensity of Behavior	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q14	Cost Control	Behavioral Costs	Level 5 Likert Scale

Note: Q 7 involves time classification and requires descriptive statistical analysis.

(2) Mediating Variable (Y_1)

Definition: This composite variable incorporates both external and internal accessibility, acting as a potential mediator between behavior and experience in "Special Forces-style tourism" (Table 2).

Table 2 Mediating Variable

No.	Variable Title	Variable properties	Scale type
Q10	Access External	Accessibility	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q12	Access Internal	Accessibility	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q13	Signage Clarity	Accessibility assistance	Level 5 Likert Scale

(3) Experience Dimension (Final Dependent Variable Y_2)

Definition: The outcome variable capturing tourist experience as influenced by accessibility, serving as the final dependent variable in the path model (Table 3).

Table3 Experience Dimension

No.	Variable Title	Variable properties	Scale type
Q15	Satisfaction With Natural Landscapes	Experience	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q16	Satisfaction With Cultural Landscapes	Experience	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q17	Satisfaction With Facility Landscape	Experience	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q19	Overall Landscape Satisfaction	Experience	Level 5 Likert Scale
Q20	Revisit Intention	Behavioral aftermath	Level 5 Likert Scale

(4) Control Variables

Definition: Demographic variables are included as controls in regression or structural equation models to reduce confounding effects (Table 4).

Table 4 Control Variables

No.	Variable Title	Variable properties
Q1	Gender	Two-class Classification
Q2	Age	Categorical variables, which can be virtualised
Q3	Occupation	Categorical variables, which can be virtualised
Q4	Income	Orderly classification, convertible to continuous or virtual

(5) Auxiliary Variables

Definition: Variables used exclusively for descriptive statistical analysis and excluded from causal path modeling (Table 5).

Table 5 Auxiliary variables

No.	Variable Title	Use Way
Q5	Purpose	Multiple choice question, describing tourist motivation
Q8	Mode_External	Multiple choice question, describing tourist motivation
Q9	Time_External	Categorical variables, describing the current state of accessibility
Q11	Mode_Internal	Multiple choice question, describe behavior within the scenic area

(6) Diagram of Variable Relationships (Figure 1)

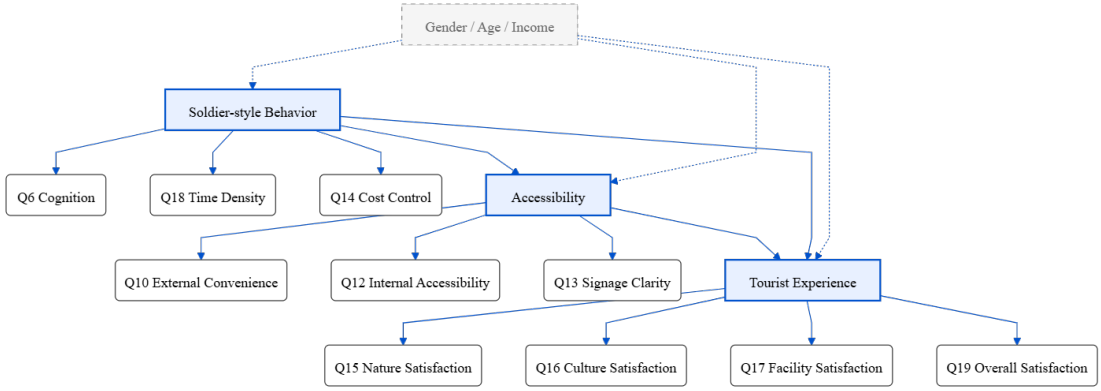

Figure 1: Diagram of Variable Relationships

3.3. Data Processing and Analysis Methods

To examine the mechanisms of accessibility experience in "Special Forces-style tourism," SPSS 25.0 was used for data cleaning, variable construction, and statistical analysis of the survey results:

(1) Variable Coding and Data Preprocessing

All five-point Likert scale items (Q6, Q10–Q20) were uniformly coded as numerical values. The scoring was standardized: 1 = "very satisfied" or "strongly agree"; 5 = "very dissatisfied" or "strongly disagree," ensuring consistent directionality in statistical interpretation. Multiple-choice questions (e.g., Q5, Q7, Q8, Q11) were analyzed via frequency statistics and used solely to characterize behavior patterns, not included in the path model.

(2) Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Means, standard deviations, and range values were calculated for explanatory, accessibility, and experience variables to assess tourists' cognitive levels, behavioral patterns, and satisfaction preferences.

(3) Reliability Analysis

Cronbach's alpha was calculated for three dimensions—Special Forces behavior characteristics, accessibility perception, and experience satisfaction—to assess internal consistency of the scale.

(4) Correlation Analysis

Pearson correlation coefficients were used to examine associations among core variables, assessing both the presence and strength of correlations.

(5) Regression Analysis

A multiple linear regression model was built using Overall Experience Satisfaction (Q19) as the dependent variable. Gender, age, and income were included as control variables. Standardized coefficients (β), significance levels (p-values), and variance inflation factors (VIF) were tested for each predictor. This analysis aimed to test the causal links between behavioral characteristics, accessibility evaluation, and experience satisfaction.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1. Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were conducted on 12 core variables extracted from the questionnaire data. The results are summarized in (Table 6):

Table 6 Descriptive Statistical Analysis

no.	Title	Mean	S.D.	Min.	Max.	Median
Q6	Level of understanding	2.39	1.15	1	5	2.000
Q7	Tour duration (Day)	1.18	0.43	1	3	2.000
Q18	The sense of time pressure	2.38	1.08	1	5	2.000
Q10	External accessibility assessment	2.14	0.87	1	4	2.000
Q12	Internal accessibility assessment	2.19	0.84	1	4	2.000
Q13	Clearness of directional signs	2.17	1	1	5	2.000
Q14	Sense of control over transportation costs	2.31	1.15	1	5	2.000
Q15	Satisfaction with natural landscape	1.69	0.69	1	4	2.000
Q16	Satisfaction with cultural landscape	1.8	0.85	1	4	2.000
Q17	Satisfaction with service facilities	1.96	0.86	1	4	2.000
Q19	Overall satisfaction	1.83	0.8	1	4	2.000
Q20	Re-engagement intention	2.18	1.05	1	5	2.000

The average value of satisfaction with natural landscapes (Q15) is 1.69, the average value of satisfaction with cultural landscapes (Q16) is 1.80, the average value of satisfaction with service facilities (Q17) is 1.96, and the average value of overall tourism experience satisfaction (Q19) is 1.83. These low scores (1 = very satisfied; 5 = very dissatisfied) indicate generally high satisfaction levels. This reflects generally high satisfaction among tourists with natural landscapes, cultural attractions, service facilities, and the overall experience at Wuhan East Lake.

For items such as understanding of “Special Forces-style tourism” (Q6), satisfaction with

transportation costs (Q14), and perceived schedule pressure (Q18), mean scores ranged from 2.30 to 2.39, indicating moderate satisfaction levels.

4.1.1. Predominantly Young Student Group

Age distribution is highly concentrated: 62.86% are aged 18–25, with an additional 7.14% under 18, accounting for over 70% of the youth demographic; in terms of occupation, 'Student' accounts for 62.86%, closely aligning with the age structure. In terms of income, 57.14% selected 'Under 3,000 RMB,' further confirming that the primary demographic consists of students or individuals without fixed incomes, with significant economic budget constraints.

4.1.2. Strong Social Orientation in Travel Motives

Among travel purposes, 'Sightseeing natural landscapes' accounted for a high 77.14%, significantly higher than 'Take photos and check in' (62.86%) and 'Experience cultural landscapes' (31.43%), indicating that check-in sharing is the primary motivation; simultaneously, 'Exercise and Fitness' accounted for 28.57%, reflecting a tendency toward short-term, high-intensity experiences.

4.1.3. Public Transport Dominates, With Controllable Travel Costs

External transport modes are dominated by 'subway' at 52.86%, with "bus" and 'taxi/online taxi' combined at 35.71%, and 'self-drive' at only 30%, consistent with the low-income structure. Arrival times show a 'two-end concentration': 35.71% within 30 minutes and 32.86% over 3 hours, indicating that the scenic area is attractive to both local and long-distance youth markets; however, the high proportion of long-distance visitors also implies accessibility challenges under time and physical constraints (Figure 2).

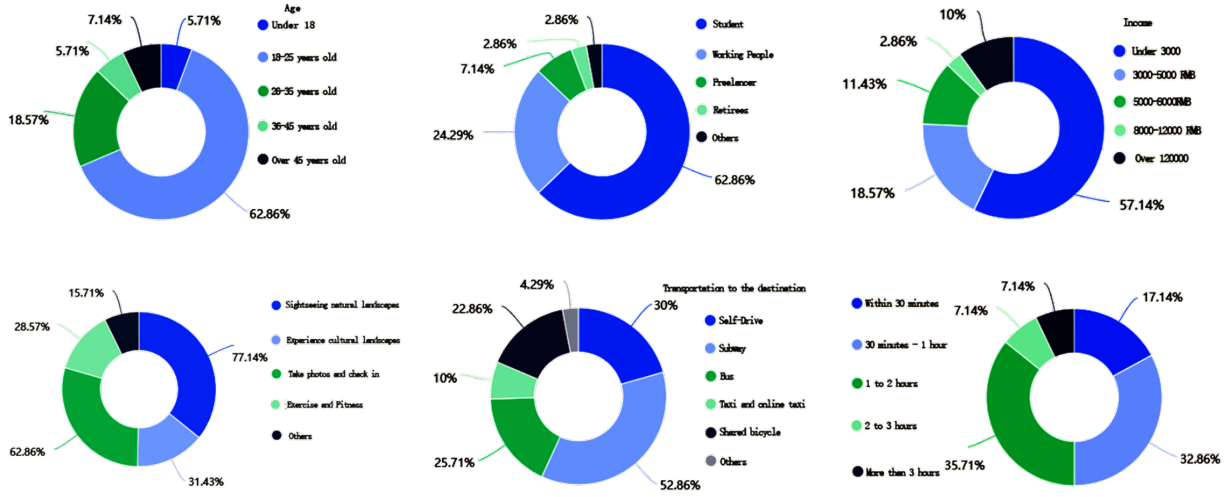

Figure 2: Descriptive Analysis of Basic Information

4.2. Reliability analysis

Based on the questions presented in the questionnaire, except for Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q8, Q9, and Q11 which are comprehensive variables and auxiliary variables (multiple-choice questions), they are not included in the reliability analysis. The reliability analysis of the other

questions is as follows (Table 7):

Table 7 Cronbach Reliability Analysis

Name			
Q1、Gender			
Q2、Age			
Q3、Major			
Q4、Income			
	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted	Cronbach's Alpha
Q6、Understand the extent of " Special Forces-style tourism "	0.663	0.956	0.954
Q10、The convenience of transportation to Wuhan East Lake	0.752	0.951	
Q12、The degree of accessibility between attractions in the scenic area	0.858	0.948	
Q13、Clearness of directional signs	0.831	0.948	
Q14、Satisfaction with transportation costs to Wuhan East Lake	0.808	0.950	
Q15、Satisfaction with the natural landscape of Wuhan East Lake	0.755	0.952	
Q16、Satisfaction with the cultural and scenic features of Wuhan East Lake	0.871	0.947	
Q17、Satisfaction with the service facilities within the scenic area	0.826	0.949	
Q18、Did you feel the schedule was tight during the tour?	0.745	0.952	
Q19、Overall satisfaction with the tourism in Wuhan East Lake?	0.868	0.948	
Q20、Whether they would like to visit Wuhan East Lake or other scenic spots again in a similar "special forces tour" way	0.848	0.947	

Note: The standardized Cronbach $\alpha = 0.958$

Q12 (internal accessibility), Q16 (cultural satisfaction), and Q19 (overall satisfaction) showed high item-total correlations of 0.802, 0.832, and 0.833, respectively. This suggests these items align closely with the overall construct, reflecting strong measurement consistency for accessibility and experience in Special Forces-style tourism.

Q6 (understanding of Special Forces-style tourism) showed a lower correlation of 0.476. This indicates a weak alignment with the overall experience scale. Since “Special Forces-style tourism” is a newly emerging trend, especially popular among young students in recent years, the item is retained for its conceptual relevance despite its lower correlation. The insufficient widespread recognition of this question is an objective fact that can be accepted. The inclusion of this item does not compromise overall scale reliability, and removal is deemed unnecessary.

4.3. Pearson Correlation Analysis

Table 8 Pearson Correlation Analysis

	Mean	S.D.	Q6	Q10	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
Q6、Understanding of "Special Forces-style Tourism"	2.387	1.146	1										
Q10 、 The convenience of transportation to Wuhan East Lake	2.140	0.875	0.548	1									
12 、 The accessibility of the attractions within the scenic area	2.193	0.841	0.591	0.720	1								
13、The clarity of the traffic signs within the scenic area	2.173	1.002	0.514	0.753	0.781	1							
14 、 Satisfaction with transportation costs for tourism	2.307	1.152	0.601	0.629	0.776	0.744	1						
15、Satisfaction with natural landscapes？	1.693	0.695	0.496	0.568	0.711	0.646	0.596	1					
16、Satisfaction with cultural and historical attractions	1.800	0.851	0.575	0.660	0.776	0.765	0.733	0.735	1				
17、The satisfaction level of the service facilities within the scenic area	1.960	0.858	0.589	0.633	0.708	0.672	0.637	0.734	0.852	1			
18、The tightness of the travel schedule	2.380	1.079	0.521	0.569	0.621	0.665	0.656	0.533	0.646	0.618	1		
19 、 The overall satisfaction level of the tourism experience	1.827	0.801	0.608	0.600	0.738	0.724	0.698	0.785	0.865	0.849	0.675	1	
20、The desire to experience "Special forces-style tourism" once again	2.180	1.050	0.611	0.667	0.766	0.723	0.703	0.647	0.724	0.716	0.763	0.764	1

* $p<0.05$ $p<0.01$

Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to examine associations between Q6 (understanding of the model) and variables such as Q10 (external convenience), accessibility of scenic spots within the area (Q12), clarity of traffic signs (Q13), satisfaction with transportation costs (Q14), satisfaction with natural landscapes (Q15), satisfaction with cultural landscapes (Q16), satisfaction with service facilities (Q17), sense of a compact itinerary (Q18), overall tourism experience satisfaction (Q19), and future willingness to participate again (Q20). A total of 11 variables were included in the correlation matrix.

Results showed that Q6 had significant positive correlations with all listed variables (r=0.548, 0.591, 0.514, 0.601, 0.496, 0.575, 0.589, 0.521, 0.608, and 0.611 respectively, *$p < 0.05$) (Table 8). This suggests that understanding the Special Forces-style tourism model is closely linked to positive perceptions of transportation, landscape quality, experience, and revisit intention.

4.4. Descriptive Statistical Analysis

The regression results indicate a good overall model fit. The adjusted R^2 is 0.835 ($R^2 = 0.846$), suggesting that the independent variables explain 84.6% of the variance in overall tourism satisfaction. The F-test is significant ($F = 76.290$, $p < 0.001$), confirming the overall model significance. Collinearity diagnostics show that all VIF values range from 1.904 to 5.506 (below the threshold of 10), with tolerances between 0.182 and 0.525, indicating acceptable multicollinearity levels (Table 9).

Specifically, satisfaction with natural landscapes (Q15, $\beta = 0.263$, $p < 0.01$); cultural landscapes (Q16, $\beta = 0.306$, $p < 0.01$); service facilities (Q17, $\beta = 0.245$, $p < 0.01$); and revisit intention (Q20, $\beta = 0.110$, $p < 0.05$) all positively and significantly predict overall satisfaction.

External transportation convenience (Q10, $\beta = -0.112$, $p < 0.05$) had a significant negative effect on overall satisfaction. This suggests that although transportation in Wuhan is generally convenient, it may reduce satisfaction for Special Forces-style tourists due to crowding or inefficiency.

In contrast, variables such as Q6 (model awareness), Q12 (internal accessibility), Q13 (signage clarity), Q14 (transport cost), and Q18 (schedule pressure) showed no significant effects on overall satisfaction.

Table 9 Linear Regression Analysis results (n=150)

	Unstandardized Coefficients		**Standardized Coefficients**	***t***	***p***	**Collinearity diagnostics**	
	B	Std. Error	*Beta*			VIF	Tolerance
Constant	0.042	0.086	-	0.492	0.623	-	-
Q6、Understand the extent of "Special Forces-style Tourism"	0.049	0.032	0.070	1.533	0.127	1.904	0.525
Q10、The convenience of	-0.112	0.050	-0.122	-2.221	0.028*	2.739	0.365

transportation to Wuhan East Lake							
Q12、The degree of accessibility between attractions in the scenic area	-0.046	0.067	-0.049	-0.686	0.494	4.529	0.221
Q13、Clearness of directional signs	0.062	0.054	0.078	1.156	0.249	4.076	0.245
Q14、Satisfaction with transportation costs to Wuhan East Lake	0.019	0.042	0.027	0.445	0.657	3.347	0.299
Q15、Satisfaction with the natural landscape of Wuhan East Lake	0.263	0.063	0.228	4.192	0.000**	2.663	0.376
Q16、Satisfaction with the cultural and scenic features of Wuhan East Lake	0.306	0.073	0.326	4.170	0.000**	5.506	0.182
Q17、Satisfaction with the service facilities within the scenic area	0.245	0.065	0.262	3.736	0.000**	4.440	0.225
Q18、Did you feel the schedule was tight during the tour?	0.048	0.041	0.065	1.184	0.238	2.700	0.370
Q20、Whether they would like to visit Wuhan East Lake or other scenic spots again in a similar "special forces tour" way	0.110	0.051	0.144	2.164	0.032*	4.012	0.249
R^2	0.846						
Adjusted R^2	0.835						
F	F (10,139)=76.290, p=0.000						
D-W **value**	2.422						

Note: DV = Q19 Overall satisfaction

* p<0.05 p<0.01

5. CONCLUSION AND PROSPECTS

5.1. Conclusion

"Special Forces-style tourism" has become a prevalent behavioral pattern among young tourists, characterized by high intensity, time compression, and strong social orientation. Findings confirm that most visitors to Wuhan East Lake engaging in this tourism style are students or young professionals, motivated mainly by efficiency, visual documentation, and digital sharing.

Perceived accessibility plays an important role in shaping overall tourism experience. Satisfaction with natural and cultural landscapes had a significant positive impact on overall satisfaction, whereas internal accessibility and signage clarity, although moderately rated, were not significant in the regression model. This suggests possible cognitive tolerance or adaptation among young tourists under high-pressure itineraries.

External transportation convenience had a negative effect on overall satisfaction, suggesting that despite Wuhan's generally developed transport system, the expectations and time sensitivity of "Special Forces-style" tourists create tensions between access and perceived experience quality.

Revisit intention was positively associated with experience satisfaction, implying that despite physical fatigue or compressed schedules, a sense of accomplishment or novelty can sustain willingness to repeat similar travel.

These results may indicate a shift in youth tourism from comfort-oriented travel to efficiency- and performance-oriented exploration, calling for renewed focus on experiential design in urban scenic areas.

5.2. Prospects

However, this study has several limitations. First, the sample was drawn from a single location over a short period, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Second, all behavioral and perceptual data were self-reported, which may introduce recall bias or social desirability bias. Third, the absence of objective path-tracking data restricts understanding of tourists' actual spatiotemporal behavior.

Future research should include larger-scale comparative studies across diverse scenic areas, integrate GPS or mobile tracking for route mapping, and develop refined models linking cognitive accessibility, fatigue, and emotional feedback. These directions will further support optimizing spatial planning and service strategies tailored to emerging youth travel patterns.

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CONFLICT STATEMENT

This research is one of the research directions of the doctoral dissertation. There are no other interests or academic conflicts.

COOPERATION STATEMENT

All authors contributed equally to this work and approved the final manuscript.

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