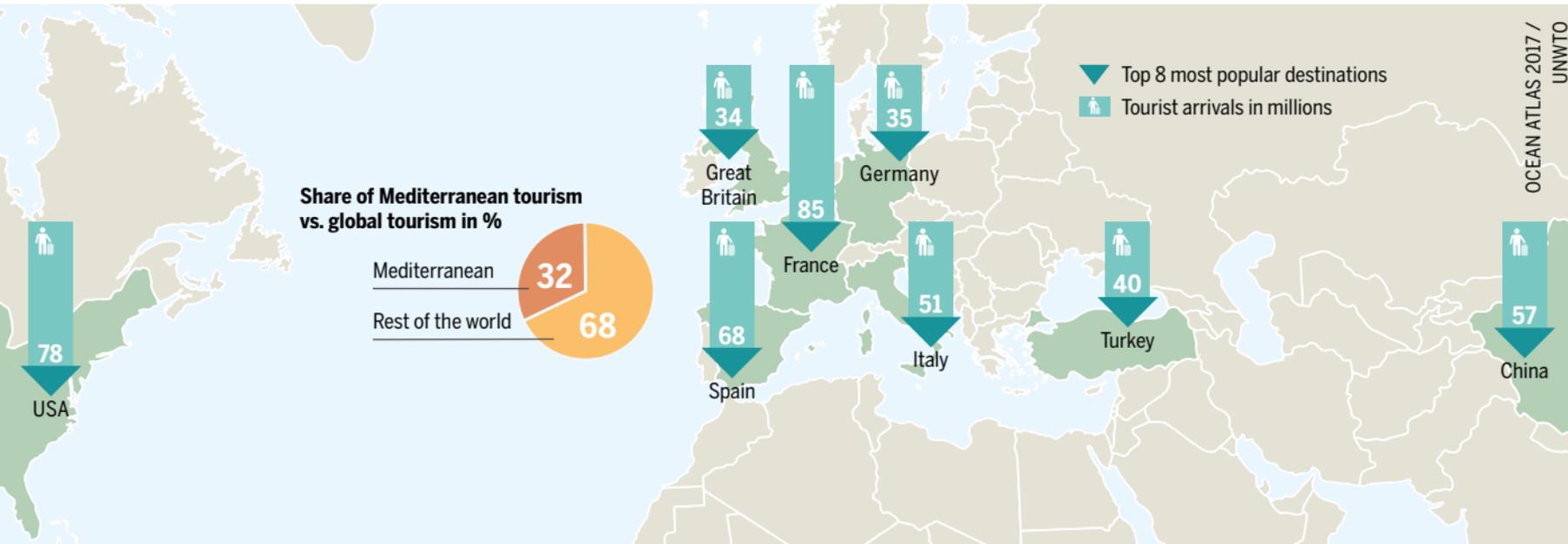


One-Third of the World's Tourists Travel to the Mediterranean



The Mediterranean is the most popular destination for tourists from around the world. This causes a number of problems for the region that individual tourists don't see. Air travel and increased traffic increase CO₂ emissions in the region. The expansion of infrastructure, like hotel complexes and marinas, reduces available open space and leads to the urbanization of the regions around the Mediterranean.

Since every tourist wants comfortable accommodation, pressure on natural resources like fresh water increases. At the same time huge quantities of wastewater and garbage result. The many tourists are also a strain on the beaches and dunes because the more people who gather there, the more the negative effects of the crowds of people on the ecosystems are amplified.