

Mediterranean commute



Just the ticket

Flexible working, fast internet, frequent flights and cheaper private-school fees are encouraging more people to relocate, says Arabella Youens

CONNECTIVITY is the major factor when you're considering the long-distance commute to the UK, says Hugo Thistlethwayte of Savills (020-7409 8876): 'You've got to look to somewhere where the planes are still flying over the winter.'

Then, it's a question of finding good schools, a lively expatriate scene and an airport—such as Florence—that's 'a pleasure to fly in and out of', adds Jeremy Onslow-Macauley of Casa & Country (00 39 055 747 7720). Here are our top five locations.



↑ **Mallorca** With plenty of flights daily, even during winter, Palma is ideally positioned. In the past 20 years, it's turned itself into a charming cosmopolitan capital with top-class restaurants and services
Commute to London 2 hours, 20 minutes
Schools Those following the British curriculum include The Academy and Bellver International College



↑ **Lisbon** Generous residency visas have led to an influx of those involved in technology and start-ups (it will soon be the world's largest hub for the latter)
Commute 2 hours, 50 minutes
Schools A host of options teaching international and Portuguese curricula



↑ **Monaco** As a result of recent changes regarding residency, more and more people are living full-time in the principality, which is having a positive impact all round—restaurants, shops, clubs and social lives are all busier
Commute 2 hours
Schools The International School of Monaco, which follows the International Baccalaureate programme



↑ **Geneva** One of the best places in which to bring up a family in Europe—lakes in the summer, skiing in the winter and you can live in the countryside and be at the airport within minutes
Commute 1 hour, 30 minutes
Schools The bilingual International School of Geneva



↑ **Florence** It's long been an option favoured by the intelligentsia, but the recent introduction of the flat-rate tax for high-net-worth individuals has expanded its appeal
Commute 2 hours, 15 minutes
Schools The International School of Florence is one of the oldest in Europe