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New horizons North Cyprus

It's unusual for the words 'package holiday' and 'off-the-beaten-track' to appear in the same sentence, let alone the same brochure.

But North Cyprus is not your usual sun holiday. You won't find Starbucks or McDonald's here, and it's outside the Eurozone, making for tasty exchange rates.

North Cyprus specialist Direct Traveller has two packages leaving Belfast on October 17. One, at the three-star LA Hotel, bundles flights with half-board and a pool-view room upgrade for €680pp; while five-star Korineum Golf & Country Club is on a B&B basis at €780pp.

Both are seven nights, with transfers, rep service and a checked bag.

Details: Tel: 0044 208 547 2857,
directtraveller.com.



Get yer boots on El Hierro

El Hierro is "the Cinderella of the Canary Islands", says tour operator Camino Ways.

While the smallest of Spain's Canaries may lack the golden beaches of the eastern isles, its rocky remoteness, juniper forests and highlights such as the Faro de Orchilla lighthouse, which marks the westernmost point of Spain, make it a walker's paradise.

Just over 10,000 souls (and 1,000 volcanoes) call El Hierro home, and, together with its stark Atlantic landscape and slow pace of life, it brings a little something extra to the year-round sunshine.

Camino Ways has seven-day walking holidays throughout winter at €742pp.

Details: Tel: 01-525 2886; caminoways.com.