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Travel Daily AU

First with the news

Fri 12 Mar 10

Page 1

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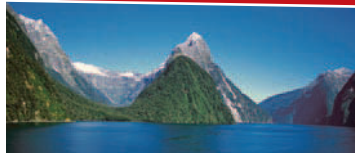
Comms problems

MSC Cruises has advised that its on-line booking systems will be down for a few hours today due to overseas maintenance.

Also, Natural Focus Safaris/African Wildlife Safaris is having some problems with phone lines and should be contacted via email to info@awsnfs.com.

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QFlink goes international

QANTAS regional offshoot Qantaslink has signalled its intention for its first international route, with QF lodging an application with the International Air Services Commission for Q400 capacity between Cairns and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

The carrier plans to begin operating on the route from Jul, with the move following further fleet expansion for QantasLink.

"The business sector between Australia and Papua New Guinea continues to grow, and we are pleased to offer our customers the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits of the Qantas network on our premium QantasLink aircraft," said QF spokesman David Epstein.

He said 12 return flights were planned each week, comprising 888 seats in total, with the move

seeing Qantas operate its own aircraft into PNG for the first time since 2002.

Currently Qantas codeshares with Air Niugini on its Port Moresby flights from Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney.

The International Air Services Commission is inviting applications for some or all of the capacity sought by Qantas, with a closing date of 26 Mar.

The Qantas move follows the IASC's reauthorisation late last year of the variable block allocation code share pact with Air Niugini until 30 Jun 2012

Have you registered?

WE'RE now just hours away from kicking off the 2010 National Rugby League season.

Travel Daily's hugely popular NRL footy tipping comp is back again and we already have hundreds of industry tippers registered.

This year we have some incredible prizes on offer, incl a trip for two to Malaysia, courtesy of AirAsia and PARKROYAL Penang, two economy class tickets to Dubai, courtesy of Emirates and two nights accom at a Travelodge Hotel of choice in Australia.

Last year's tippers hailed the inaugural TD comp as one of the "best comps they'd been involved in," and rightly so as it's FREE to enter and there's also amazing weekly prizes available.

The competition is tough, but as the saying goes, "You've got to be in it to win it," and there's only a few hours left to sign up.

Join for free and register your tips for Round 1 now at nrl.traveldaily.com.au.

Abu Dhabi pics

TD is currently touring Abu Dhabi with a group of lucky Aussie agents as part of the first ever Mega Famil conducted by the Abu Dhabi Tourist Authority.

We've taken some great photos of the participants in various Abu Dhabi locations, and they're now online on the photo pages at www.traveldaily.com.au.

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AF KLM agent site

AIR FRANCE KLM has today launched a new website to help travel consultants sell flights on the carriers.

As part of the launch agents who register on the site will have the opportunity to win a trip to Europe - details on page eight.

Viva! domestic out

VIVA! Holidays has released its 2010-11 domestic brochure range with product from across the country - more info on page 7.

Today's Travel Daily

Travel Daily today has five pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- AA Appointments
- Air France KLM
- Qantas Holidays

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH present

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Fri 12 Mar 10

Page 2

EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas
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10 GOOD REASONS TO VISIT NEW CALEDONIA

4 It's Great Value

The Australian dollar is at a high against the local currency

Aircalin International Airline of New Caledonia

CLICK HERE FOR THE OTHER 9 REASONS

Aussie cruise push

CRUISE Down Under will launch a refreshed brand for Australian cruising at the upcoming Seatrade cruise trade show in Miami.

The organisation, which aims to attract more cruise ships to make calls in Australia, will be exhibiting at the show alongside Cruise New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tourism Queensland and New Caledonia Tourism South.

QF/EY codeshare grows

ETIHAD and Qantas have expanded their codeshare agreement, with the EY code set to be placed on more domestic Australian flights - including on the key Sydney-Melbourne route.

The pact now includes flights from Sydney to Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Canberra, Hobart and Melbourne, as well as from Brisbane to Cairns.

"The expansion of this codeshare agreement with Qantas reaffirms our commitment to passengers around the world who are flying to Australia and want to visit towns and cities outside the key gateways," said Etihad ceo James Hogan.

The new routes expand the flights available under the initial codeshare agreement which

kicked off a year ago, and include services from Sydney to Brisbane, Cairns, Adelaide and Auckland as well as Melbourne-Adelaide.

This announcement follows the news last week that the QF-EY agreement is also being expanded to include road transfers from Abu Dhabi to Dubai and Al Ain in the Middle East.

MEANWHILE Etihad also today announced special St Patrick's day prices for flights between Australia and Dublin, with a companion fare leading in at \$1691 per person return when booking in pairs in Coral class.

Double daily EK LHR double deckers

EMIRATES will add a second Airbus A380 to its London Heathrow schedule, with the superjumbo to be deployed on flight EK003 each day in addition to the daily EK001 from Dubai.

The move is effective 01 Jul, and comes along with other route expansion for Emirates this year including new flights to Tokyo, Amsterdam, Prague, Madrid and Dakar.

AIRFRANCE  KLM 

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Details on last page



Window Seat

A NEW airport in Japan has commenced operations, but it's having a slow start with just one daily flight currently scheduled.

Ibaraki Airport, Japan's 98th airport, is about 80km northeast of Tokyo and has been developed with the aim of attracting budget airlines as an alternative to Haneda and Narita airports.

But so far things are a bit quiet, with the only service being an Asiana flight to Seoul.

Domestic carriers JAL and ANA have so far shunned Ibaraki because they're both focusing on cutting unprofitable routes rather than developing new ones.

NAKED boatmen could be returning to a tourist beauty spot in China, as part of a plan to revive visitation.

An ancient custom in the region involves the nude helpers hauling tourist boats through the Shennongxi Stream Gorge in Hubei province.

But visitor numbers have plummeted since 2000 when the naked boatmen were told to cover up to avoid offending women and children.

"Many tourists come here to see the naked boat trackers and they are disappointed to see them dressed," said a local official, who has volunteered to be the first one to drop his pants.

However he's been accused of seeking economic growth in the region at the cost of its dignity.

Apparently the nudist tradition originated hundreds of years ago because the boatmen's coarse clothing chafed in the water.

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CHC numbers rise

CHRISTCHURCH Airport in NZ today reported its best Feb on record, with 141,922 passengers passing through the airport.

The airport handled an average of 18,025 movements a day over the month, the first time it had surpassed 18,000 daily pax.

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RENAULT EURODRIVE

Travel Daily AU
First with the news

Fri 12 Mar 10 Page 3

EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas
E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au Ph: 1300 799 220

State-of-the-art
in-flight entertainment.

QATAR
AIRWAYS القطرية

Travel Daily AU
First with the news
on location in
Abu Dhabi

Today's issue of **TD** is coming
to you from Abu Dhabi,
courtesy of the Abu Dhabi
Tourism Authority

LOCATED two and a half hours
west of Abu Dhabi and then a
30min ferry ride from the mainland
lies the island of Sir Bani Yas - a
once private Royal Nature
Reserve of Sheikh Zayed Bin
Sultan Al Nahyan.

Sir Bani Yas is not only the
largest island in the UAE, it's also
home to a variety of wildlife living in
the Arabian Wildlife Park.

In the 1970s, Sheikh Zayed
envisioned an endangered wildlife
conservation zone and
revegetation program on the
island, resulting in the 4,200
hectare park, which takes up over
50% of the entire island.

Guests staying at the luxurious
Anantara Desert Islands Resort &
Spa can take in a game drive,
where they have the chance to see
native animals such as the Arabian
oryx or Arabian gazelle and hyena.

There's even a chance for
visitors to spot a cheetah or a
giraffe, with our group enjoying a
number of fabulous wildlife
encounters - for pics and more see
page 5 and traveldaily.com.au.

SYD defends itself

SYDNEY Airport has responded to a damning ACCC airport monitoring report released yesterday, saying it's out of date.

The report covers the period Jul 08-Jun 09, with the airport saying that since then it had achieved a range of milestones including opening the expanded departures level, a new outbound hall, new security screening areas and expanded restaurant options.

In the report, ACCC Chairman Graeme Samuel said that of the airports covered (ADL, BNE, MEL, PER and SYD), the performance of Sydney was "of greatest concern" with indications that the airport had "increased profits by permitting service quality to fall below that which the airlines reasonably expect."

Cruising cash king

CARNIVAL Corporation ceo Micky Arison has had a pretty good year, according to the latest rankings of the world's wealthy by US business magazine *Forbes*.

Arison has come in 189th on the list this year, with a net worth of US\$4.4 billion - up more than \$1.5 billion in the last 12 months.

As one *USA Today* blogger quipped upon reading the report, "floating all you can eat buffets is a perfect recession-proof business model for these times."

BA just has great taste



LAST night saw the opening of the Taste of Sydney festival, a four day event with British Airways as one of the key sponsors.

Running up until the 14 Mar the festival showcases both food and wine of all categories for visitors to buy - or just enjoy sampling!

A highlight is workshops at 'Planet Cake' which last night had guests kneading icing and rolling it out, to make decadently beautiful cupcakes that you could

take home.

At El Toro Loco ordering a Paella a la Meastre customers were greeted by a great yell of appreciation causing a sense of excitement within the tented walls of this stall, before being dared to try to drink Sangria from the spout of the glass bottle.

Nicole Backo, BA Regional Commercial Manager South West Pacific - pictured above with Thomas Scruby, BA Marketing Development Manager SWP - told *TD* last night that BA may increase their support of this event next year, with the carrier a major sponsor of similar festivals in Auckland, Dubai and London.

Pictured at left is Maestre, Manager at El Toro Loco, taking the Sangria challenge at his Paella stand during last night's official event opening.



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The Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) is the government body which coordinates the marketing and promotion of Samoa as a tourism destination internationally.

Expressions of interest are invited from experienced and results-driven professionals for the position of Australia Market Representative.

The closing date is Friday 19 March 2010.

Please email dwayneb@samoa.travel for more information.

www.samoa.travel



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Travel Specials*, *Travel Daily's* Friday feature. If your firm has released a travel special you'd like to make the industry aware of send the details to specials@traveldaily.com.au.

Mantra Group is offering Awesome Autumn deals from Hervey bay to Sunshine Coast. The **Mantra Mooloolaba Beach** is \$210 per room pn for a one bedroom apartment including hot or continental breakfast. **BreakFree Grand Pacific** on the Caloundra waterfront starts at \$159 per room pn in a one bedroom apartment with garden views and a breakfast starter pack. The luxurious **Peppers Pier Resort** in Hervey Bay has specials from \$235 per room per night in a one bedroom suite including breakfast.

Helen Wong's Tours has introduced a range of **Shanghai and World Expo** packages lasting eight days and six nights. Priced from \$1800pp twin share from SYD and \$2150 from MEL. Packages include airfares to China, 6 nights accom in a 4 star hotel inc breakfast, a three day expo pass with transfers, two lunches and one dinner, English speaking guides, a Chinese visa for Australian passport holders, and a travel kit including a 424 page Odyssey China book and travel bag. Shorter packages are also available; for more info call 1300 788 328.

Toberua Island Resort in Fiji is offering an amazing Stay 8 Pay 4 deal for bookings before 31 Mar and travel before 30 Sep. The small intimate privately owned boutique resort caters for families and couples looking for a true island experience. For more information go to www.toberua.com.

Muri Beach Club Hotel Rarotonga, Cook Islands is offering a stay 5 pay 3 deal (can also be extended to stay 10 pay 6) plus a 2 for 1 scooter hire. Pay for one day and get one day free, with a minimum of 5 days hire. Sale is valid until 31 Mar and for travel until 30th Sep. Visit muribeachclubhotel.com

Sick on Jetstar flight

HALF a dozen Jetstar passengers and crew became sick on a flight from Brisbane to Mackay yesterday, complaining of nausea and light headedness about one hour into the flight due to a chemical-like smell.

The plane was grounded for five hours for inspection and was later cleared to resume service.

Tiger resort boost

TIGER Airways is expanding its services between Singapore and the Thai resort destinations of Krabi, Phuket and Hat Yai.

From 20 Apr flights to Krabi and Hat Yai will move to daily, while Singapore-Phuket will increase by two flights per week to double daily - as well as 20 weekly Singapore-Bangkok services.

Polar discounts

BENTOURS has announced early bird savings of 18% on a range of Hurtigruten voyages from its 2010-11 Antarctic program.

The discount applies for bookings made before 30 Apr - with a further 10% saving for clients who have been on a Hurtigruten voyage in the last three years.

More info 1800 221 712.

UK travel manifesto

THE Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has released its first manifesto, outlining a range of key issues affecting the UK travel industry.

ABTA is calling for a dedicated tourism ministry in the government, as well as increased airport capacity across the country and reform of the Air Passenger Duty impost which particularly penalises long-haul travellers to and from the UK.

CEO Mark Tanzer also wants more reform of consumer protection, saying the document "puts the issues we're fighting on in black and white."

"ABTA is serious about taking the concerns of travel agents and tour operators right to the heart of Government," he added.

New Disney pass

DISNEY is set to release a new 'premiere passport' product which is a ticket valid at all of its theme parks in the USA.

The special pass comes with no blackout dates, and was announced at the company's annual general meeting by ceo Robert Iger yesterday.

The move follows feedback from investors, and prices for the all-parks pass haven't yet been released.

Travel Daily AU
First with the news

Fri 12 Mar 10 Page 4

EDITORS: Bruce Piper and Guy Dundas
E-mail: info@traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily AU
First with the news
on location in
Mammoth Lakes

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mammoth Lakes courtesy of California Tourism.

Mammoth Mountain is California's highest ski area. Snow comes early and stays late with the ski season running from early Nov. to late May, receiving an average of 10m of snow each year!

Mammoth Mountain has something for everyone with steep chutes, wide open bowls, treed slopes, off-piste terrain, groomed cruisers, parks and pipes.

The mountain is so large that there are four day lodge areas as a starting point for a days skiing.

Eagle Lodge is close to town and a great area for families. Canyon Lodge located in town is accessible by shuttle, car or gondola from The Village. The Mill is a favourite with locals, with its Californian BBQ lunch and lounge chairs to rest on sunny days, while Main Lodge has Gondola access to the summit.

Non skiers can also take a ride to the top for panoramic views of the Mammoth Lakes area.

Mammoth offers a huge variety of accommodation. For ski in, ski out Juniper Springs Resort is a great option located at Eagle Lodge.

There is a free shuttle service that runs between the main areas of town and the mountain lodges, so access is a breeze.

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Garuda Indonesia

* Ex SYD/MEL/PER for sale until 31 Mar 10, valid for travel from 15 Mar - 15 Nov 10. Prices at 2 March 10 incl taxes & subject to currency fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges apply

SQ splashes out

SWIMMING Australia today announced that Singapore Airlines is now the official international airline for the Australian Swim Team, with a three year partnership deal set to commence from next Tue 16 Mar.

Long necking it in the UAE



ABOVE: Just like in Africa, safari drives in the late afternoon in Abu Dhabi raise the chances of spotting some wild life for guests staying at resorts on Sir Bani Yas.

This group of travel agents and wholesalers taking part in the first Abu Dhabi mega family spotted gazelle, peacock, oryx, hyena, cheetah and giraffe,

during a special visit to the Royal Nature Reserve on the UAE island of Sir Bani Yas.

Pictured on their afternoon game drive, *from left* front are: Kon Kavalais, Grecian Tours, guide Zireb; Melissa Masi, Creative Holidays and Lauren Penfold, ADTA.

Back row: David Burt, Flight Centre; Liz Graham, Etihad Airways, Claire Davies, ADTA; Jane Rowley, World Travel Professionals; and Emily Heath, Flight Centre Burwood.

BI Perth change

ROYAL Brunei Airlines has advised of a recent change in the management of its Perth office, with the departure effective 26 Feb of the carrier's Sales and Marketing Manager WA Kate Black.

The Perth operation is currently under the management and direction of Paul Lim, BI's National Sales Marketing Manager.

Secure air cargo

NEW laws have been approved by parliament to strengthen the security regime on air cargo with the implementation of measures outlined in last month's Aviation Security package.

To date only parcels could be checked by aircraft operators when it was certain they were being transported by air, meaning an operation might have to certify a large consolidated shipment packed by someone else in the supply chain.

The new laws not only allow parcels to be scrutinised before they reach the airport but they will also expand the number of industry participants that can check and certify cargo.

Win a luxury trip to Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority is giving one Travel Daily reader and their guest the chance to visit and experience the rich culture and hospitality of this charming Arabian Gulf emirate.

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For the month of March, simply answer our daily question correctly and this intriguing Arabian holiday for two could be yours.

Send your daily answers to trade@abudhabitourism.com.au.

The deadline for all answers is 12:00pm Thursday 1st April 2010.

Full terms & conditions available at www.traveldaily.com.au

Q-5. Name a popular Abu Dhabi tour that you can book via Arabian Adventures?



visitabudhabi.ae

Two Tims Contiki Asia Blog - Day 10

If there's any time to rise before the sun, its in Angkor Wat. The temple puts on the most spectacular sunrise either of us have ever seen, the light dancing off its tiers and soft chanting coming from monks in nearby pagodas. Magical!

Our tour manager Dave is on hand to take us through some of the local legends and sacred stories of the site. Next we visit Angkor Thom and Ta Prohm temple, as seen in Tomb Raider (sadly, no Angelina in sight).

Tonight's our last night with the group. Over dinner we reminisce about our trip, the friendships that have formed and the experiences we've enjoyed. Some are continuing on with Contiki, others are off for more adventure. For some, its back home to the 'real world'... We don't want to go home! Bye for now
Tim & Tim

Click here to watch the Two Tims

contiki
HOLIDAYS FOR 18-35s

SWISS shows profit

SWISS International Air Lines has reported a \$149m profit for 2009, "despite the still-difficult economic environment that prevailed throughout the year."

Total revenue fell 17% but the carrier made a profit in all four quarters of the year.

Australia was a good performer for the carrier, with local gm Anil Rodricks saying the operation had "held its market share in an extremely difficult year, and early indications for 2010 show a steady improvement in passenger numbers and yields."

"The San Francisco stopover from June will enhance the attractiveness of the SWISS Global product," Rodricks added.

IATA revises losses

THE International Air Transport Association has once again issued a new forecast for the global aviation industry as conditions continue to improve.

IATA is now estimating a total loss of US\$2.8 billion - just half the \$5.6b it predicted in Dec.

"The improvement is largely driven by a much stronger recovery in demand seen by year-end gains that continued into the first months of 2010," IATA said.

RCI US program

ROYAL Caribbean has released details of its 2011-12 North East USA cruises, including a range of 5-12 night itineraries from Baltimore, New York and Boston to Canada and the Caribbean.

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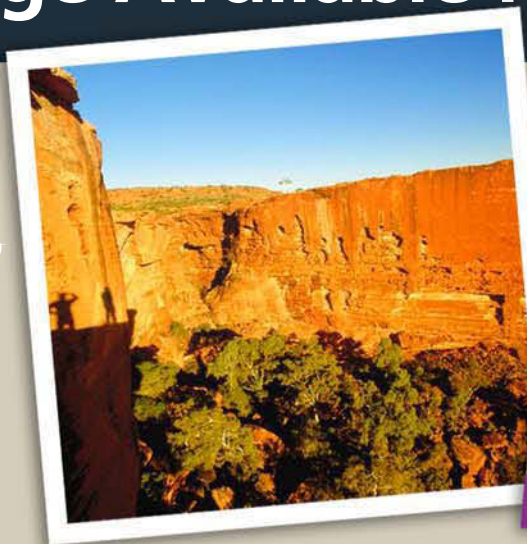
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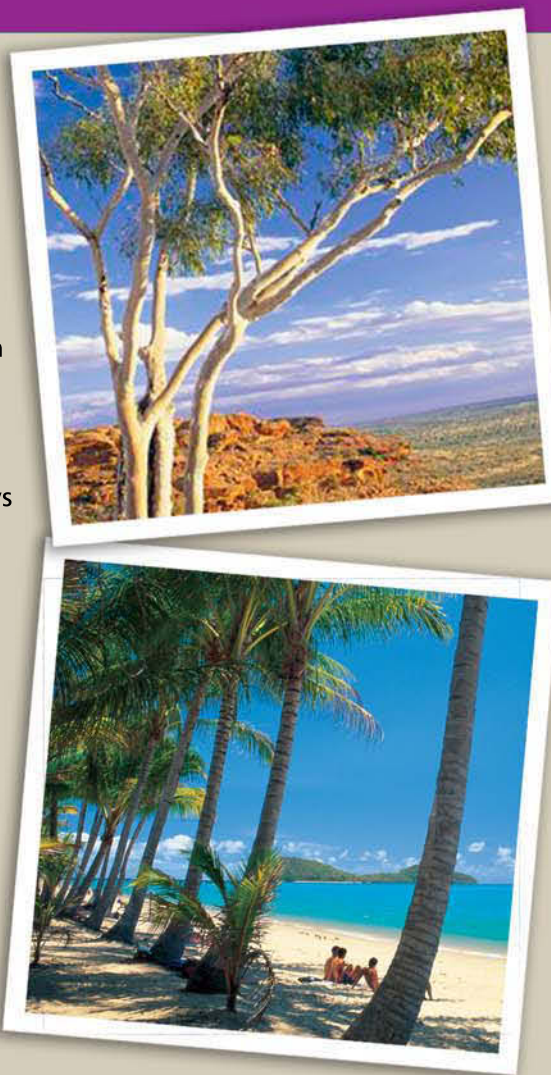
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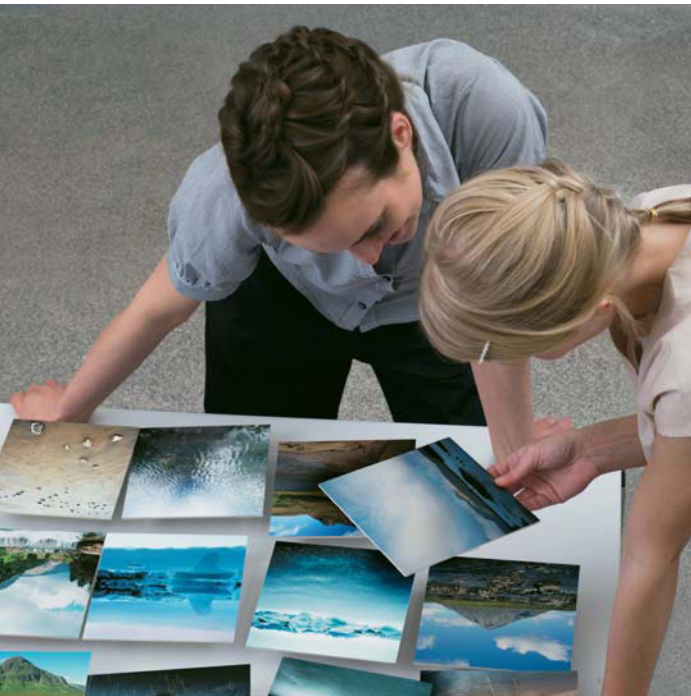
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