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Get your photos to talk, sing & dance

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You have got to see my vacation pictures!" is probably one of the most people's dread list. Who really wants to see those endless pictures of friends posing next to monuments and in hotels rooms? Or worse still, coo over umpteen snaps of cute toddlers? But there are ways to make these vacation snaps more alluring, thanks to cool tools that tie-in with photo sites like Flickr, and let you do fun things with your pictures.

Create personalised gifts: A personalised gift created using your digital pictures is a clever way to get two tasks accomplished: you avoid having to go gift hunting and you get to have an appreciative audience for your pictures.

There are plenty of tools available on sites like Flickr (www.flickr.com/do/more) that let you create digital versions of these gifts. But if you would like to get

these printed, you can check out ZoomIn (www.zoom.in). This is probably the only site that currently offers to deliver prints of your digital pictures in India. They intend to start the gift section by this Diwali, which will let you create personalised gifts and have them delivered to friends and family. The company said that they would kick off the service with photo books, greeting cards, mugs, and personalised calendars by this Diwali.

Turn your pictures into a comic strip: Everyone loves a laugh, so why not create a photo comic for your friends when you get back from a trip? Blubber (www.pimpumpum.net/bubblr) is one such tool that lets you do just that. Uploading your pictures to your Flickr account. Then log on to the Blubber site and add comic strip captions to any Flickr photo. If you don't think there is enough in your digital shoebox of pictures to work with, then the tool even allows you to search for more pictures using tags

and usernames. So go on, be your funniest best.

Geo tag your pictures: Another way of making your pictures more interesting is to pepper them with useful information. Mapping them geography wise and adding travel anecdotes is a good way to do this. Flickr has a tool that lets you geo tag your travel photos. Using this, you can add GPS data to pictures that can be plotted on a digital map. This will allow friends to see the location where the pictures were taken, giving them a scattershot collage of a country.

You can also play around with another tool called Travelr (grant.robinson.name/projects/travelr/). It integrates with your Flickr photos and allows you to put a geo-tagged photo gallery viewer on your own website.

Animate your snaps: Gickr (www.gickr.com) is a Flickr application which can make your pictures dance. This tool integrate with your



Flickr gallery and lets you create an animated (GIF) slideshow of images. This is a great way to create a simple slideshow for your website without having to worry about coding complex Flash scripts into it. You could use these animations for an online avatar or for an animated digital signature. Animated pictures would work great as email slideshows for friends and family too.

Get on the cover of a magazine: Think your pictures can make a far superior cover to the hackneyed stuff you see on magazines? Or would you rather upload your own picture and make it to the cover of your favourite magazine? Either is possible with a tool from BigHugeLabs, called Magazine cover (bighugelabs.com/flickr/magazine.php). See what it would look like in full glossy glory with this tool. Add text, change it's font and colouring. When you're done, you'll get a slick-looking, fake magazine cover—a great option to create faux birthday and celebration items to send out to friends and family.

BigHugeLabs also gives you an option of turning your photos into trading cards with the 'Trading Card' tool (bighugelabs.com/flickr/deck.php). You can also add icons and comments to note your character's "attributes". These can be a great way to take pot-shots at friends—they can be emailed to groups or posted back on Flickr with just a few clicks.