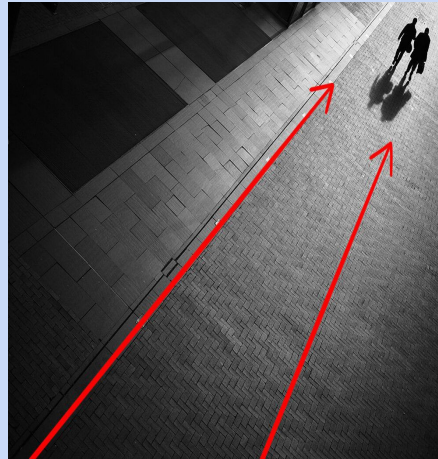


# What are leading lines?

Leading lines is a compositional technique that uses line shapes to direct the viewer's eye to a specific subject or detail. Line shapes within an image can be naturally occurring such as a river or treeline. They can also be artificial line shapes found in man made structures like bridges, roads, and fences. When a viewer looks at an image that utilizes lines, their eye is naturally drawn to the lines and where they lead. Photographers and cinematographers use this effect in their compositions to guide the viewer's eye toward a specific area of the frame. Leading lines are used to direct the viewer's eye, create focal points and establish a visual symmetry.



## Horizontal lines



These tend to suggest calmness and tranquility. They're especially effective for photos of nature and relaxing subjects.

## Vertical lines



These convey a sense of power and authority. They can make your subject appear strong and dominant.



## Diagonal lines



These provide a sense of movement or change. They're great for drawing the viewer through a scene.

## Curved lines



These feel more natural than straight lines. They tend to work well in photos of nature where you often want to feel the "flow" of the scene.

## Converging lines



When lines meet at a point, we tend to focus on the point. This is a great place to put your main subject, as it draws the viewer's attention to it in a natural way.

## Implied lines



These are lines that don't physically exist in the picture, but which we can imagine. The best example of this is a human gaze. We will naturally follow someone's line of sight to see what they're looking at, and this can form a very powerful leading line in a composition.



## Intersecting lines



Watch out for lines that cross over one another, as this can ruin the flow of a photo and cause the viewer to stop following the line. However, you can also use this to your advantage, and use intersecting lines to deliberately introduce a feeling of tension and confusion to your shot.