

LESSON

OUTLINE



Learn about Leading Lines in Photography



Look at 5 Different Types of Leading Lines



Explore Practical Ways to Use Leading Lines



Photograph Examples of Leading Lines Outside



LEARNING

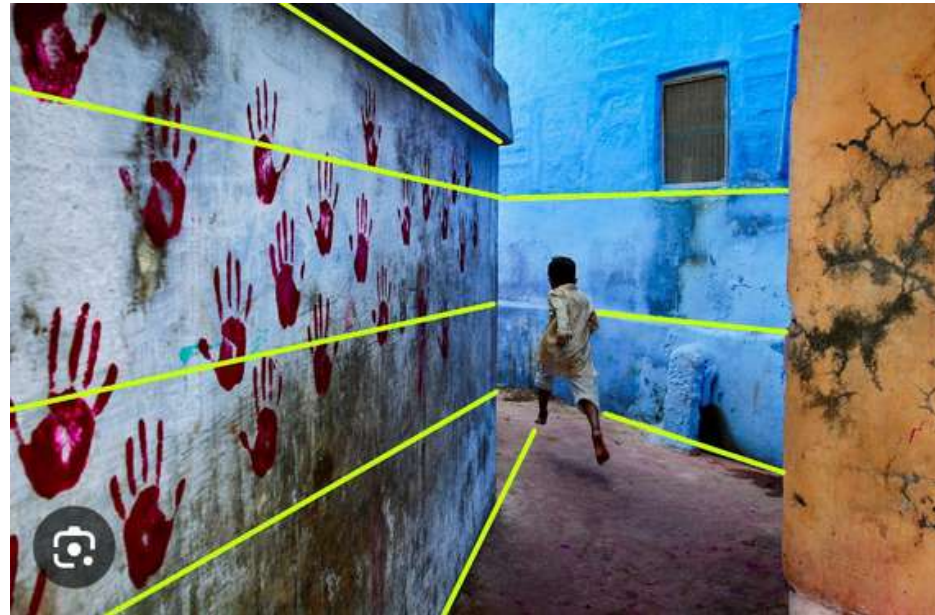
OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

1. Define what a leading line is in photography
2. Identify 5 different types of leading lines
3. Use leading lines to make interesting photos of your own

Leading Lines

- Guide the viewer's eye through the photo.
- Create depth and a three-dimensional feel.
- Add movement and dynamism to the image.
- Focus attention on the subject.



Direct the
Viewer's Attention



Create Depth and
Perspective



Add Visual Interest

Let's learn more about these three points!

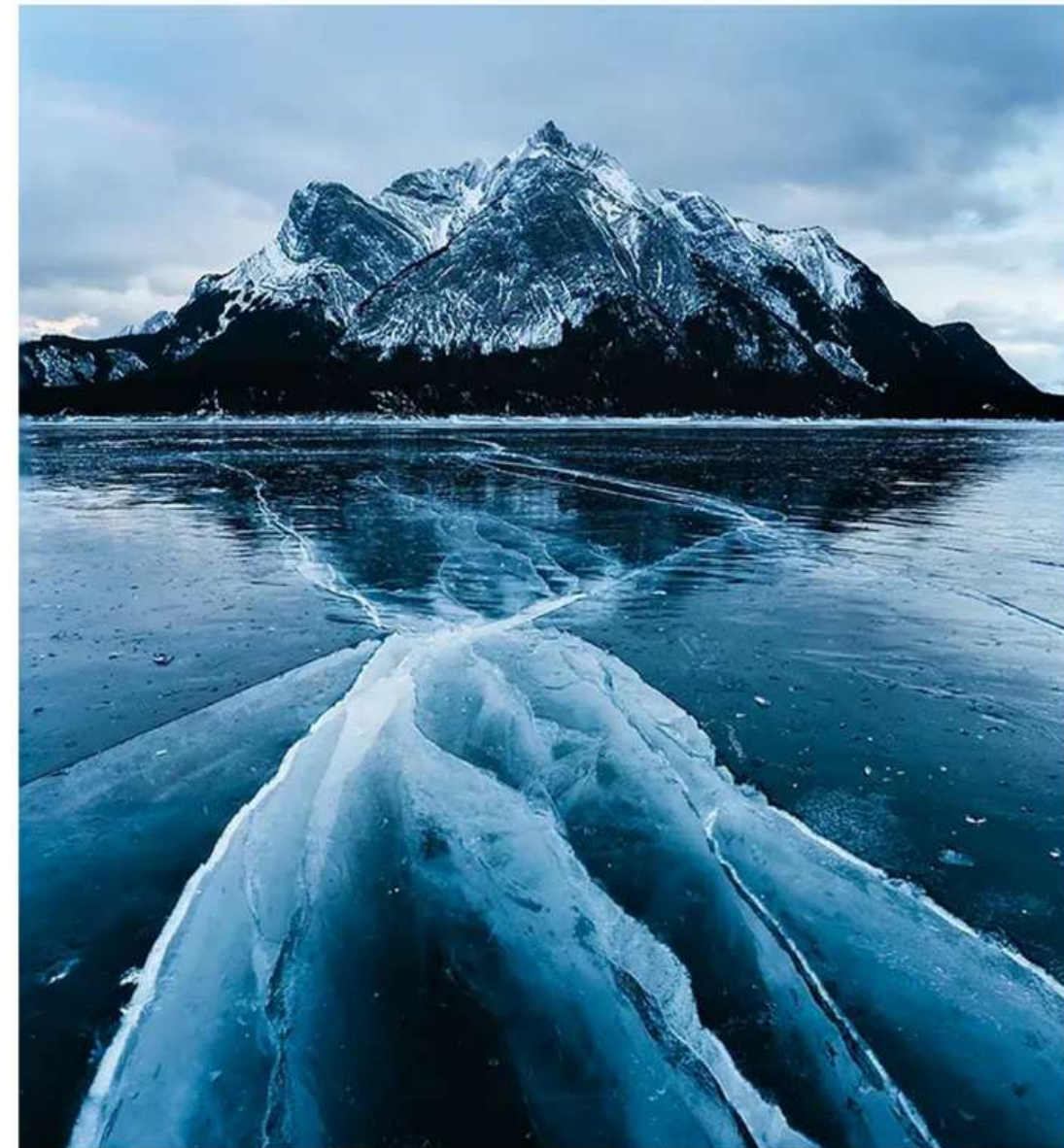
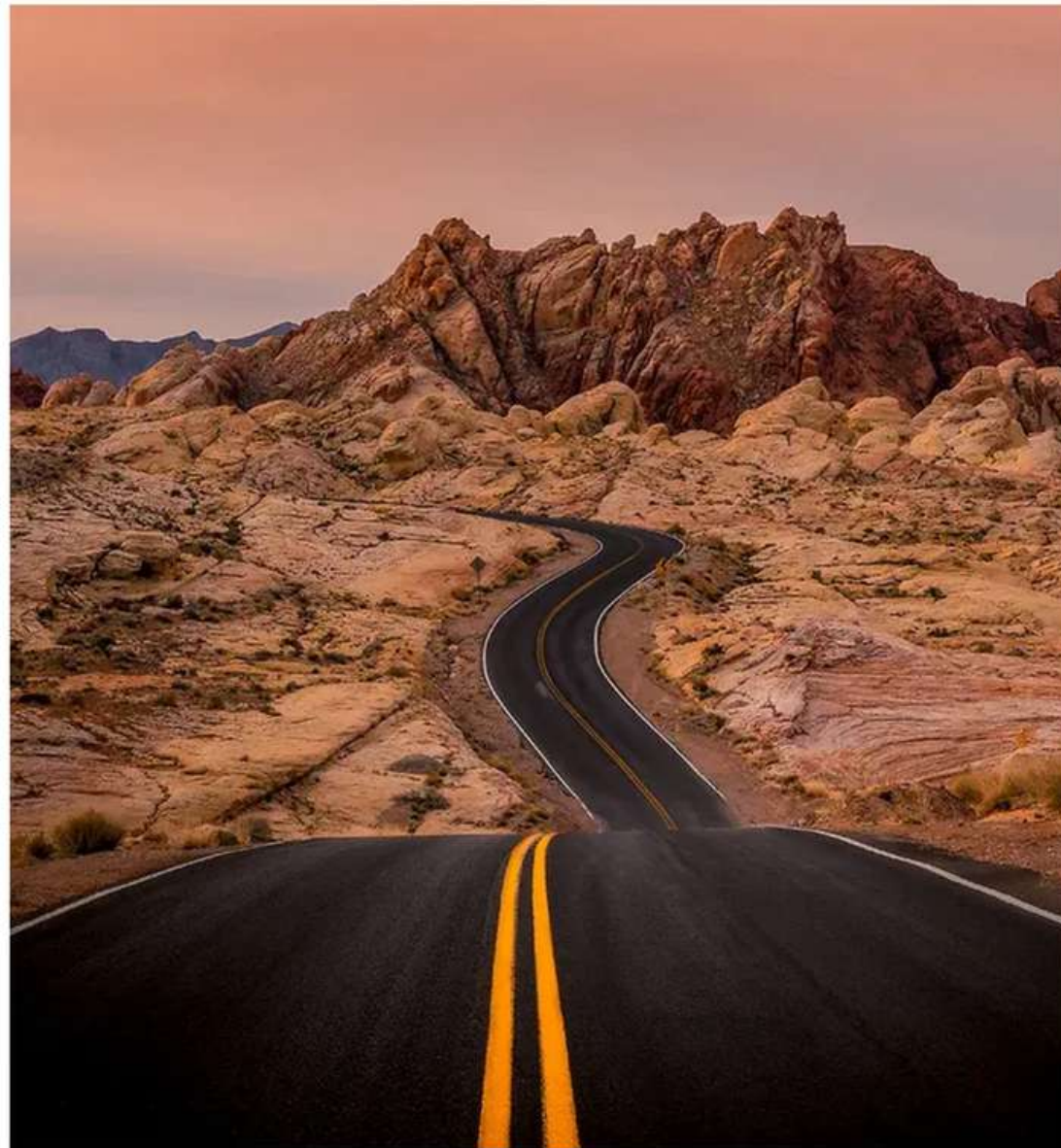
Direct the Viewer's Attention

Leading lines can be used to guide the viewer's eye to the main subject. For example, a road or path leading to a building or person in the distance naturally draws attention to that subject.



Create Depth and Perspective

By incorporating leading lines, you can add depth to your photos, making them feel more three-dimensional. This is especially effective in landscape photography, where lines like roads, rivers, fences, or rows of crops can create a sense of vastness.

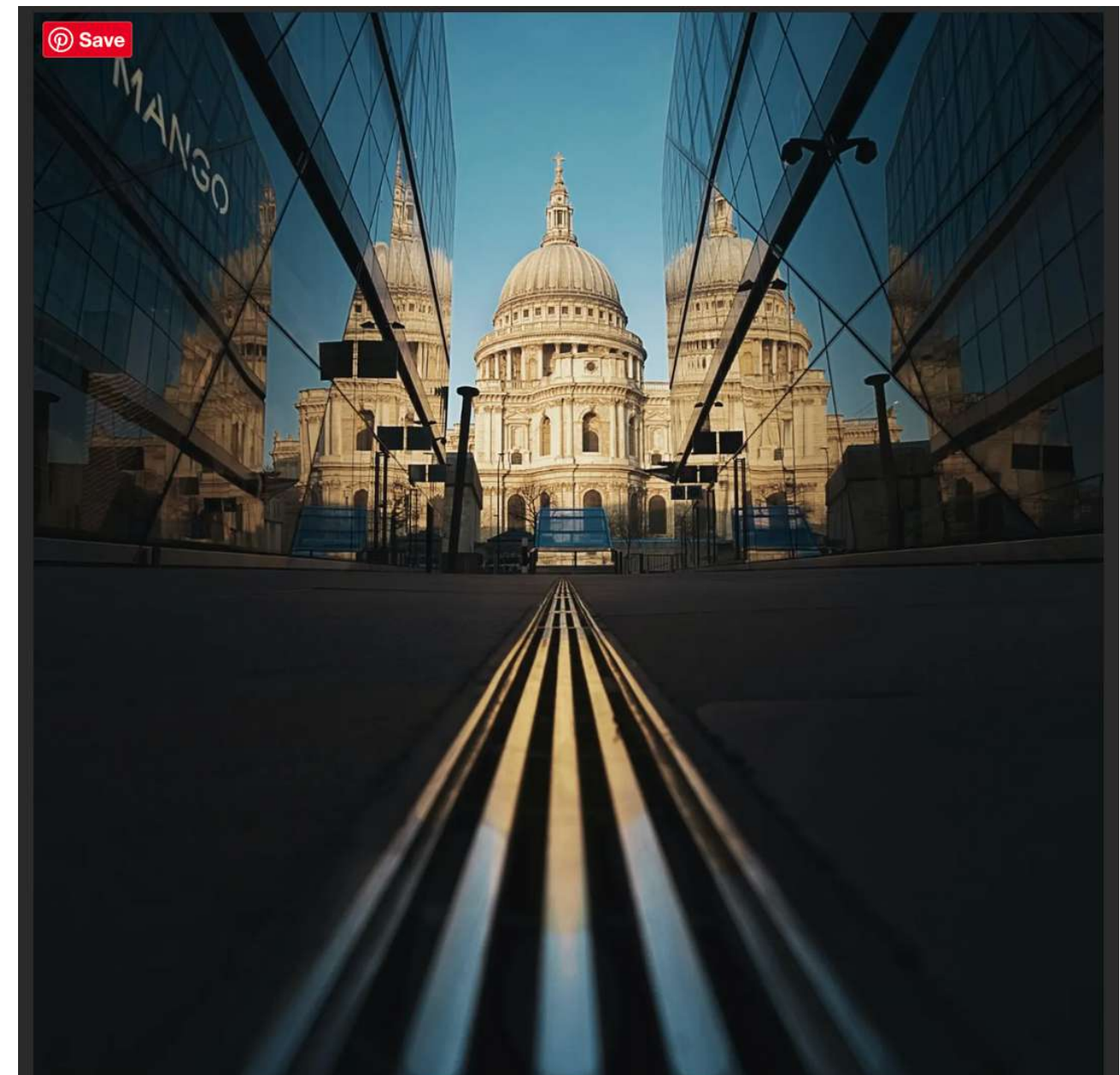


Add Visual Interest

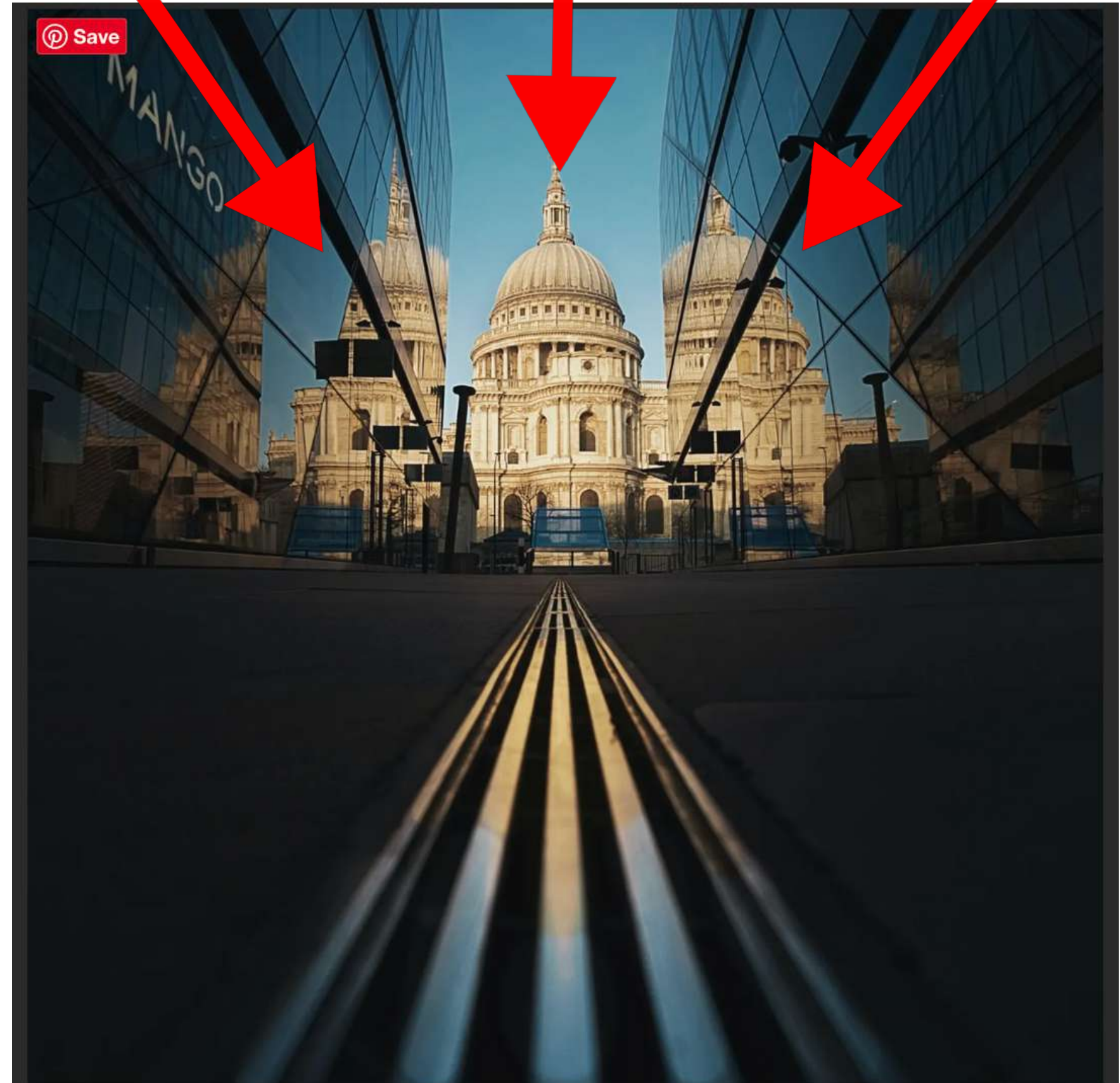
Leading lines can make a photo more engaging by adding movement and flow. They can turn a static scene into something dynamic and intriguing.

In the image on the right, the strips on the ground act as leading lines, guiding the eye toward the background.

The scene also includes other, less obvious leading lines, however; can you spot them?



All lines point to the subject



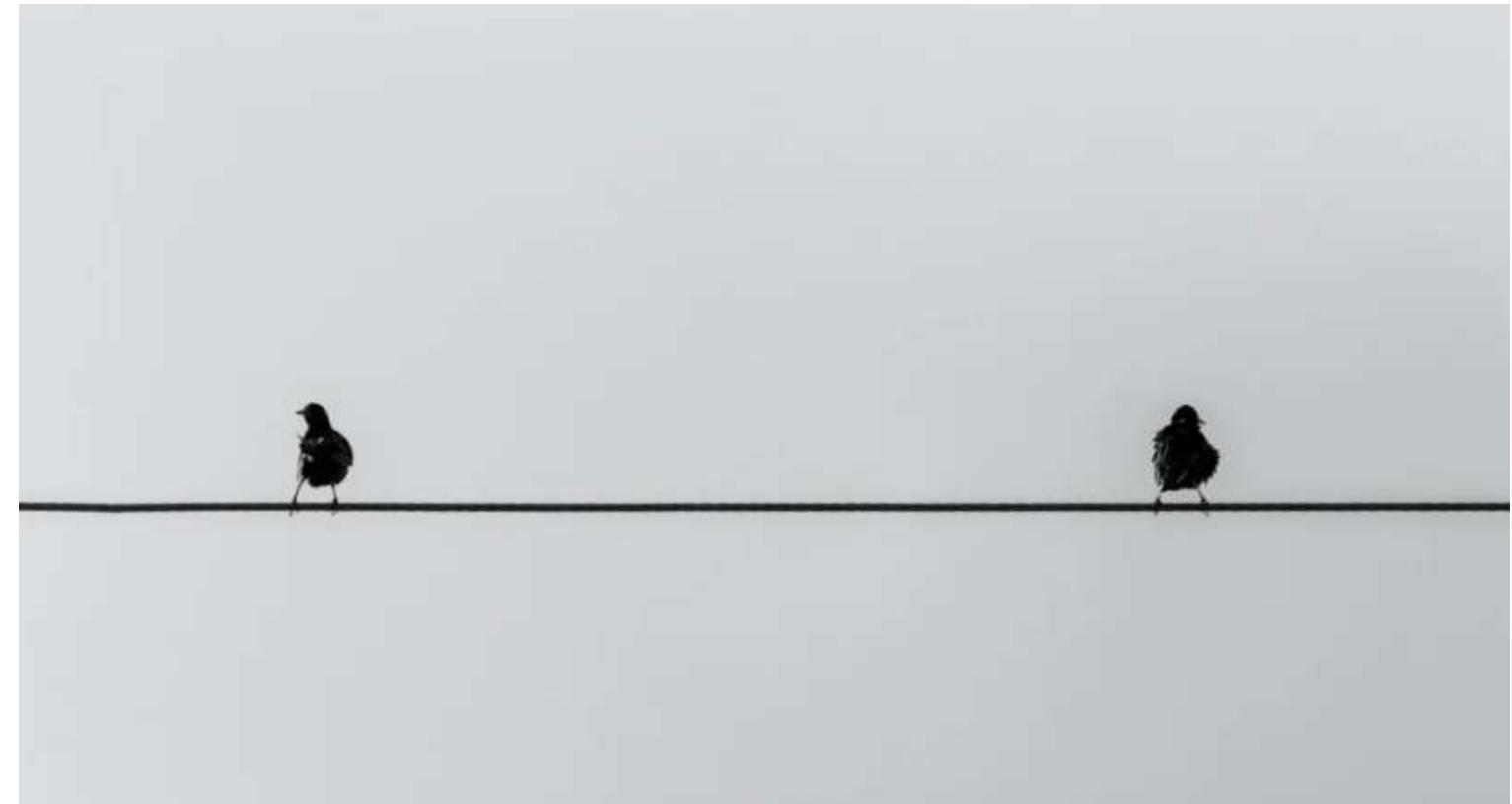
How to Use Leading Lines

There are as many different ways to use leading lines in photography as there are types of lines — and lots more, if you're creative. Here are some of the major types, and how they're typically used.



Horizontal Lines

Horizontal lines run parallel to the horizon and are often found in landscapes, such as the horizon itself, a calm body of water, or a line of trees. They convey stability and calm, lead the viewer across the frame and create a strong foundation, a solid base that anchors the composition



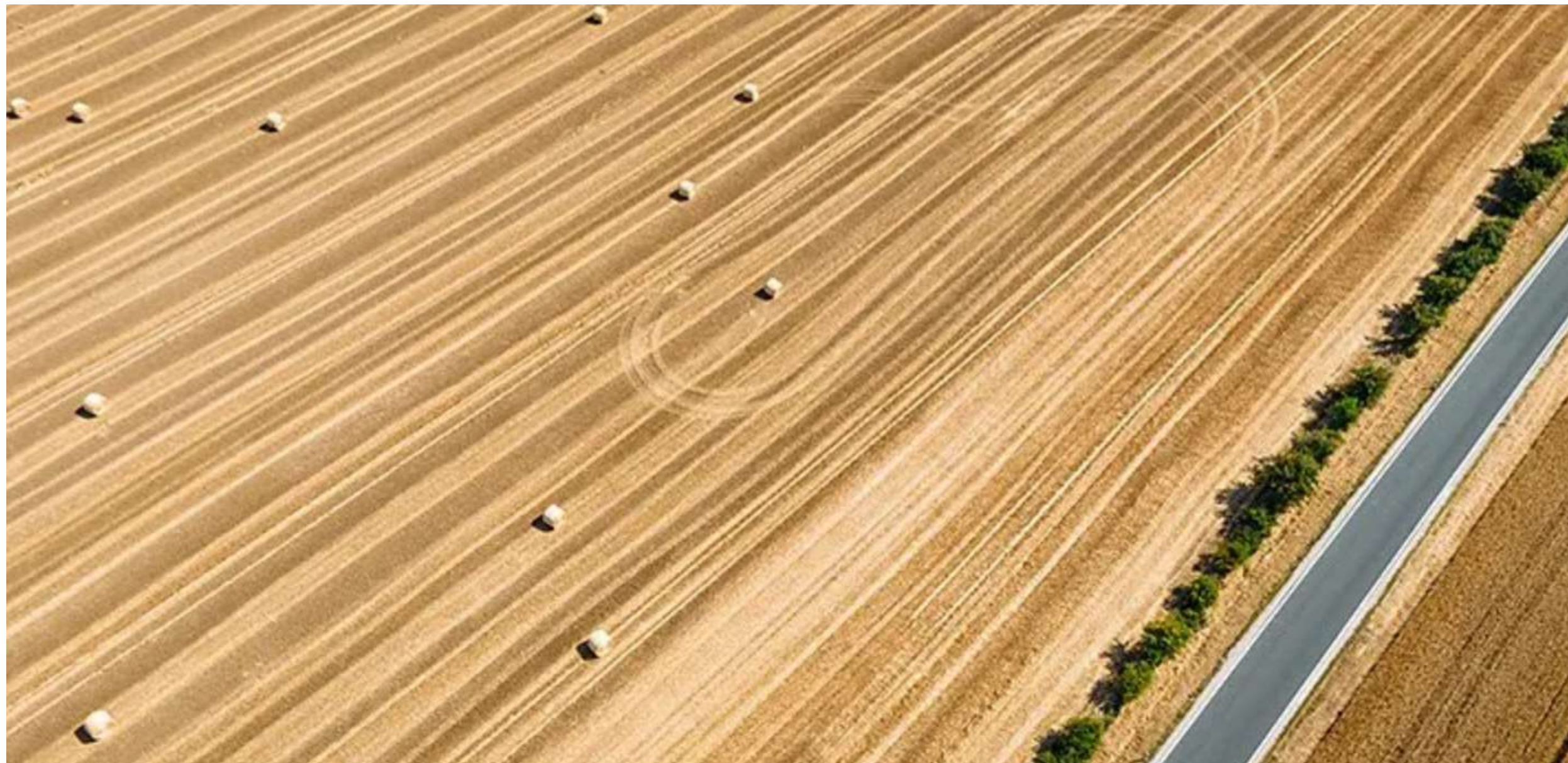
Vertical Lines

Vertical lines move up and down in an image and are often seen in tall elements like trees, buildings, or people standing. Vertical lines convey power and strength, create a sense of height and can introduce a sense of action or tension, especially when they contrast with horizontal lines, leading to a more dynamic and engaging composition



Diagonal lines

Diagonal lines run at an angle and are often seen in roads, paths, staircases, or even the edges of buildings or shadows. Diagonal lines create movement and energy, add depth and perspective and are a good tool for leading the viewers eye to the subject.



Converging lines

Converging lines are two or more lines that come together at a single point in the image, often seen in roads, railways, or rows of objects that appear to meet at the horizon. Converging lines create a focal point, enhance perspective and depth and imply direction and journey



Curving

Lines

Curved lines are gentle, flowing lines that can take various shapes, often seen in rivers, paths, or the contour of a landscape. Curving lines create a sense of flow, add softness and elegance and guide the viewer through the scene.



What are Leading Lines?

Leading lines are natural or man-made lines within an image that draw the viewer's eye from one part of the composition to another.

These lines can be anything from roads, rivers, and fences to shadows, architecture, or even a line of trees. The key is how these lines guide the viewer through the photograph.



How to Use Leading Lines

Explore Your Environment



Look for leading lines in your surroundings. This could be anything from natural lines like rivers and tree branches to man-made lines like roads, fences, or even shadows.

Experiment with Angles



Changing your perspective can drastically alter how leading lines appear in your photo. Try shooting from low angles, high angles, or from the side to see how the lines interact with the rest of your composition.

Use Lines to Create Balance



Consider how the leading lines affect the overall balance of your photo. Lines that are too dominant might overwhelm the subject, while subtle lines can enhance the composition without distracting from the main focus.

Your Assignment:

Explore and capture photographs that demonstrate the effective use of different types of leading lines: horizontal, vertical, diagonal, converging, and curved.

We will use class time to shoot photos with DSLR's, Outside of class you may use a personal DSLR or cell phone cameras to capture images for this assignment.

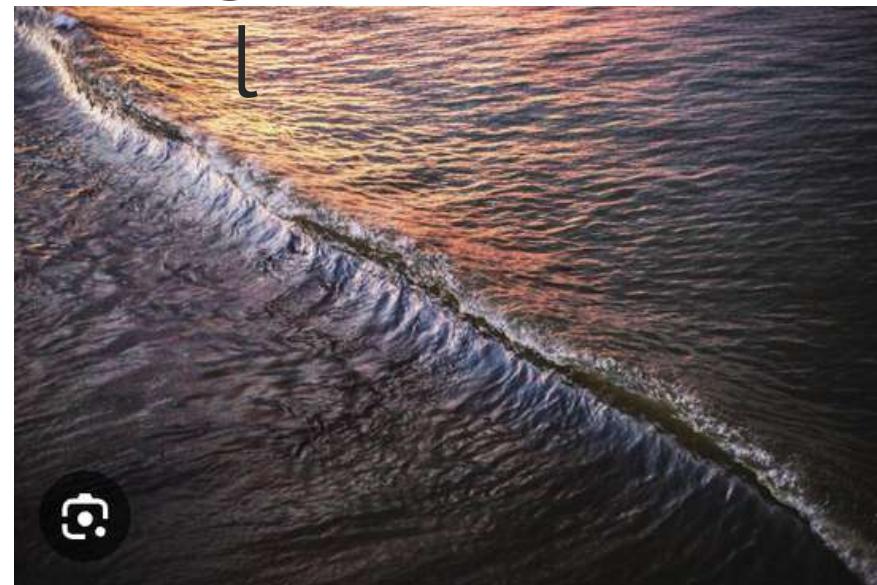
Horizontal



Vertical



Diagonal



Converging



Curved

