Tips for Photographing Leading Lines

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One of the things that makes a photograph successful is that the attention is directed to the subject. This can be done by good lighting, out of focus backgrounds, or graphic design. One important design element that can direct our attention into the heart of a photo is called a **Leading Line**. It helps in giving structure to a photo.

This line usually begins at the bottom of the photo and extends into the heart of the scene, bringing our eye along with it. The line can be a road, railroad track, fence, or anything that is in the form of a line.

A good **Leading Line** should have good Depth of Field that has almost everything is in focus from the bottom (foreground) to the top (background).

The **Leading Line** in a photo leads the viewer's eye through the picture. You do not want a line that leads straight out before passing through the image or one that ends abruptly. You want to guide the viewer eye through the photo. This is why **the "S-curve"** is considered desirable. It meanders, leading the viewer's eye slowly through all parts of the picture.

Vertical, diagonal, horizontal, and curved lines create different moods. Vertical lines communicate a sense of strength, rigidity, power and solidarity to the viewer, whereas a Horizontal line represents peace, tranquility and quietness.