

TRAVEL SNAP CARDS

LEADING LINES



Most photographers have heard about the composition tool called leading lines, and yet there are 4 common mistakes that are often seen in travel photography.

PRINT SIZE: A5
14cm x 21cm /
5.83" x 8.27"

MISTAKE #1

THE LEADING LINES DON'T LEAD TO ANYWHERE IMPORTANT.

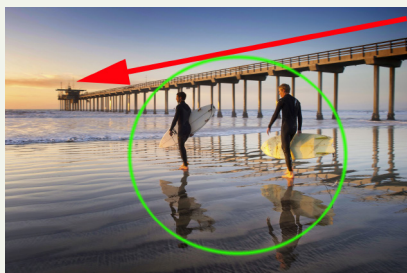


Leading lines should lead to the subject. An additional acceptable location is a place of extreme emphasis, such as a focal point. Leading lines are visually very strong. When they lead to a single point in the distance this is known as a path. A path can be

used wisely when the subject is near the end of the path.

MISTAKE #2

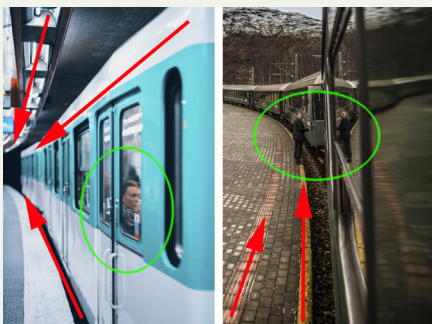
THE LEADING LINE DOESN'T LEAD TO THE SUBJECT.



Here is a classic example of a leading line working against the composition. The leading line is leading out to the end of the pier, which is not the subject. How do we know that the end of the pier isn't the intended subject? The focus is placed upon the surfers.

MISTAKE #3

THE LEADING LINE LEADS PAST THE SUBJECT.



As much as possible, you want the leading line(s) to lead to, not past the subject. In the left photo, the lines hold too much visual weight and push the eyes right past the out-of-focus subject. The lines on the right hold less far less visual weight. They work well at directing the eyes to the subject, but not past it.

MISTAKE #4

LEADING LINES CREATE VISUAL CONFUSION.



If you have numerous leading lines make sure that they are not in contradiction to each. They should all lead toward the subject or a place of emphasis near the subject.

PRO TIP!



Leading lines can be curves. They can move through the photograph at different angles: front to back, side-to-side, corner-

to-corner. They also do not need to be physical objects. They can be implied through line of sight or contrast breaks.