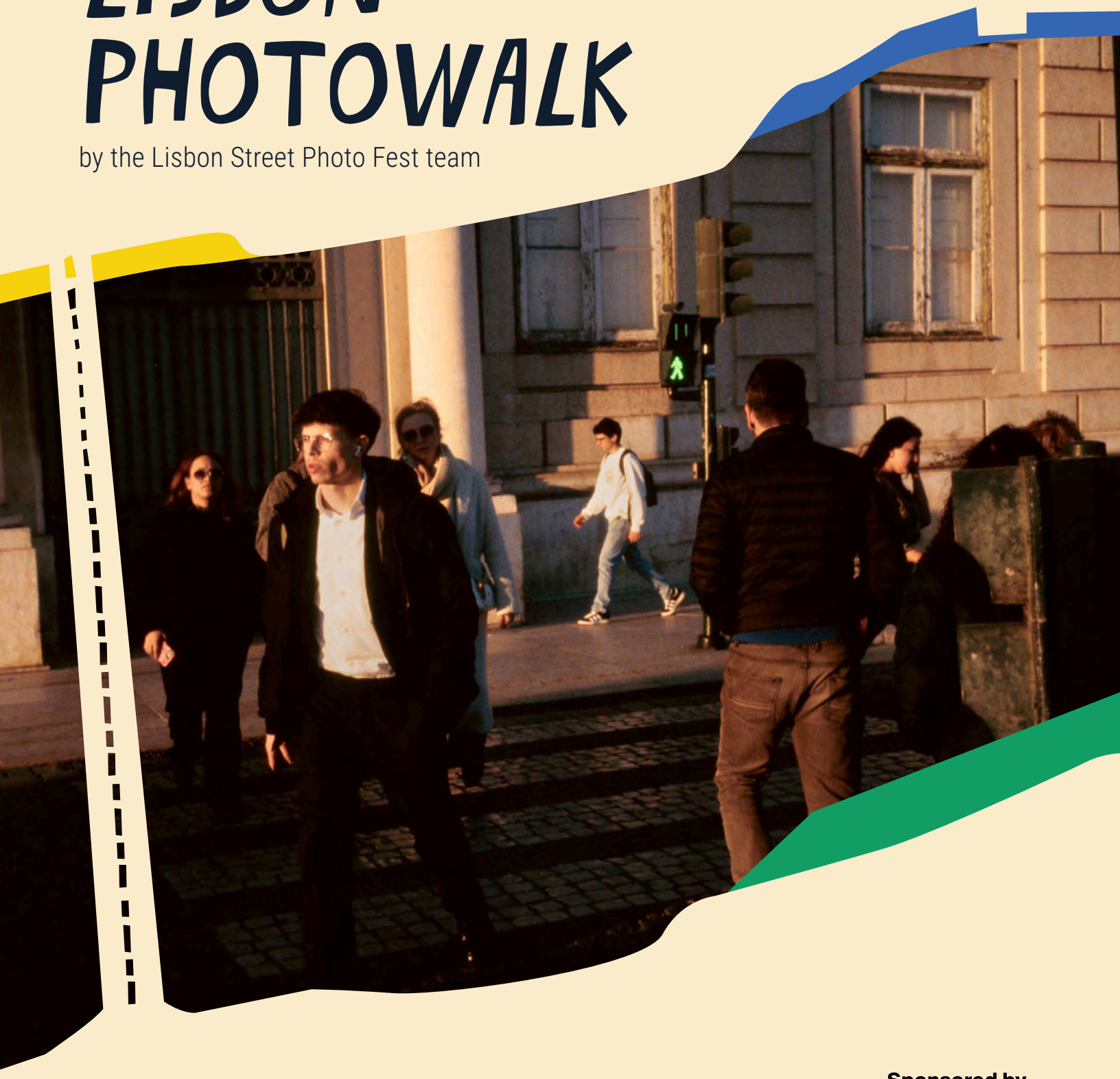
LISBON PHOTOWALK

by the Lisbon Street Photo Fest team



LISBON STREET PHOTO FEST

24-27th of September 2026
Faculdade de Belas-Artes, Lisboa

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WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Lisbon is a city best explored on foot, with a camera and enough time to get distracted. This route, put together by the Lisbon Street Photo Fest team in partnership with MPB, takes you downhill from Parque Eduardo VII to the river, passing through a mixture of open viewpoints, busy squares, neighbourhood gardens and the narrow streets of the city centre.

The stops in this guide are reference points rather than fixed instructions. They highlight places where light, architecture and the movement of the city regularly create interesting photographic possibilities, with suggestions for what to look for.

From Rato onwards, pay as much attention to the walk between stops as to the destinations themselves. The route through Príncipe Real, Bairro Alto, Chiado and Bica towards Cais do Sodré crosses some of Lisbon's most interesting streets. Take the side streets, follow the light and allow yourself to wander.

Travelling light and using equipment you know well will help you react quickly to the city around you. Throughout the guide, you'll find suggestions for the lenses and focal lengths that work particularly well at each point along the route. If you're choosing a camera for street photography, turn to the next page for three models recommended by MPB, with options to suit different budgets.

This guide is created in partnership with MPB, the right way to buy and sell cameras. Discover our other city guides, Local's Perspective and Lisbon Story here.

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BEST CAMERAS FOR STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

"You'll want your camera to have specific features to help you focus on capturing the 'decisive moment'. Your street photography camera should preferably be relatively inconspicuous and light enough so you can stay quick on your feet. Physical buttons and dials will help you to instinctively change your settings and shoot. Rapid autofocus and quick-burst modes are always a plus. And those extra megapixels will enable you to crop in post-production. In terms of lenses for street photography, you'll want anything from 28-35mm."

To find out and learn more about Top 5 cameras for street photography, **click here and visit the MPB website for the latest article.**



FUJIFILM X100V



SONY A7 III



LEICA Q2

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CLICK TO SAVE THE MAP ON GOOGLE MAPS

Stop 1

LINHA D'ÁGUA, PARQUE EDUARDO VII



The starting point, at the top of Parque Eduardo VII: a café on a shallow reflecting pool. Grab a drink and set off from here — everything that follows is downhill.

There's already something to work with before you leave, though. The water doubles the trees and the sky, and there are usually people sitting around the edge.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: morning or evening, with low light across the water.

Look for: reflections at water level, figures at the pond edge.

Gear: open space, so this is a place for a zoom or a prime telephoto lens — pull the far side of the pond across the water.

Bonus: coffee before you start. It's downhill from here.



Stop 2

OBSERVATION DECK, PARQUE EDUARDO VII





A few steps down from the café. From up here the park's clipped box hedges read as a giant embroidered pattern — a maze seen from above — running down to Marquês de Pombal and, beyond it, the river. It's also a small stage in its own right: people come up to look, to photograph each other, to sit. The scene at the railing is often better than the view over it.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: morning light, golden hour.

Look for: the top-down geometry of the hedges, silhouettes against the vista, people photographing people.

Gear: a short telephoto lens — 85mm – compresses the maze and stacks the city behind it.

Stop 3

PRAÇA MARQUÊS DE POMBAL



The big roundabout where everything converges. Traffic circles the column, Avenida da Liberdade opens out below, and the whole space is built for crowds. Keep an eye on the calendar: the square and the Avenida host parades and gatherings through the year — Marchas Populares in June, the 25 April parade, demonstrations, major football celebrations and regular open-air forró sessions on Sunday afternoons.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: all day on the square; check the Avenida for shade before committing.

Look for: the column against sky, traffic movement, the funnel of the Avenida.

Gear: on a parade day it comes down to preference — 28mm if you want the whole scene, 50mm if you'd rather pick out detail.



Stop 4

LARGO DO RATO





A working transport square with big bus stops on both sides — constant arrivals and departures, people waiting, boarding, crossing. The draw is a shopfront that's been closed for years now, with a surface that throws a clean reflection. It holds light from late morning through the rest of the day, so it's forgiving whenever you arrive. Treat it as a backdrop and let the square supply the subjects.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: late morning; all day.

Look for: reflections in the old shopfront, people waiting, layered comings and goings.

Gear: everyday life, so anything like a 24-70mm standard zoom.

Watch out: buses pulling in and out on both sides.

Stop 5

JARDIM DO PRÍNCIPE REAL



A real neighbourhood park: shade, benches, kiosks, dogs, conversations. It isn't only lawn — there are statues, structures, and the great trained canopy to frame around. And it's ringed by old, imposing buildings, so you have a strong backdrop in the distance from almost any angle.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: afternoon, through the canopy.

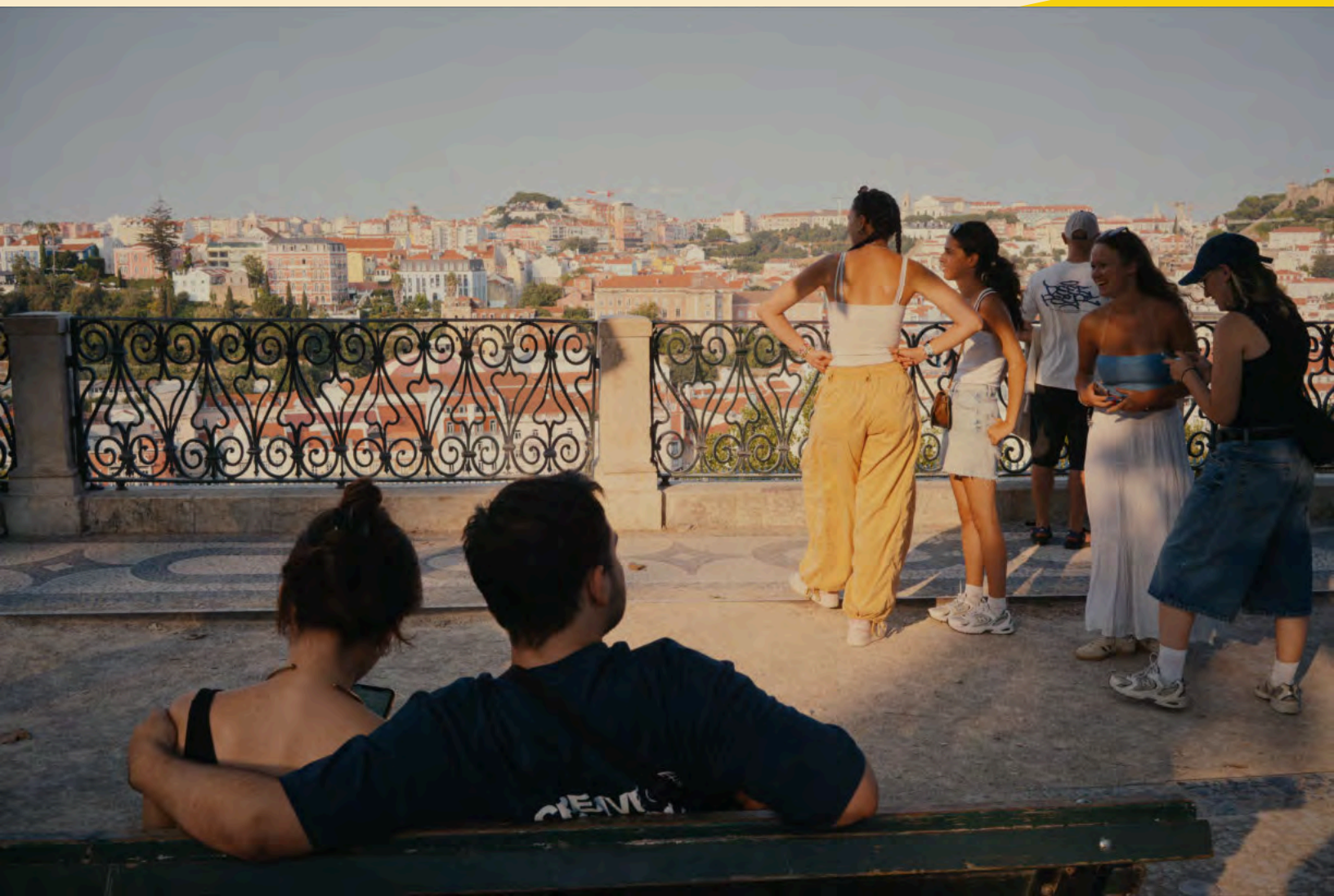
Look for: people at rest, statues as anchors, the surrounding façades behind your subject.

Gear: a longer lens above 70mm pulls those buildings in tight behind whoever's in front of you.



Stop 6

MIRADOURO SÃO PEDRO DE ALCÂNTARA





A view out over Baixa to the castle, on two levels — the upper terrace where the buskers play and people gather to watch, and a small park below. It's a nice spot and a nice vantage, but be honest with yourself: for street work there isn't much here you can't get elsewhere on the route. Enjoy the view, work the crowd around the musicians, and travel light.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: at its best at sunrise, with the sun coming up over the city and the castle — fine in the afternoon as you pass through.

Look for: buskers and their audience, the city as background rather than subject.

Gear: a standard zoom or whatever you're already carrying is plenty due to the number of possibilities.

Stop 7

LARGO DO CHIADO



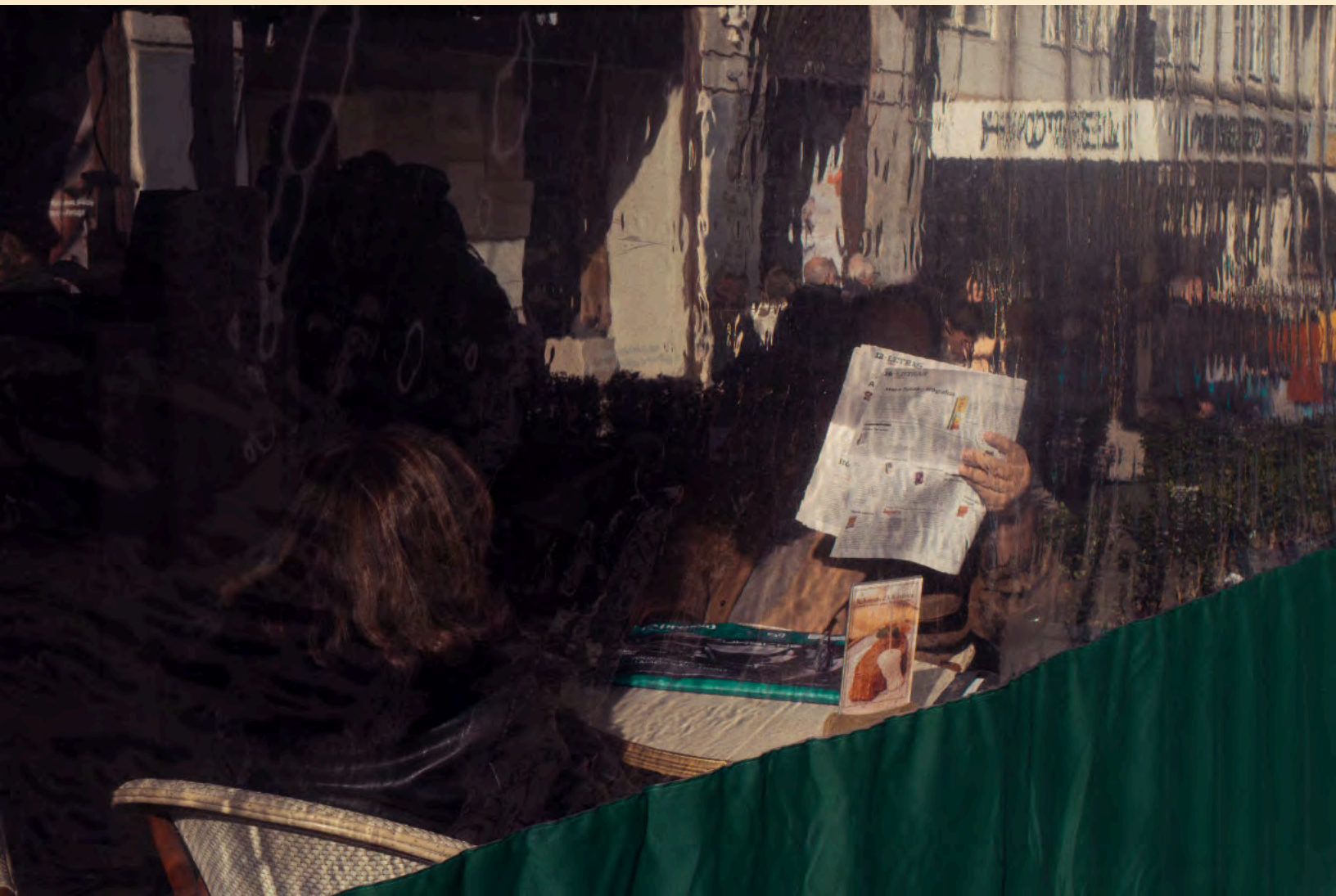
The seated bronze poet statue of Fernando Pessoa is a magnet for all kinds of people: buskers and street performers set up around it, and the churches on either side of the largo give you some solid backdrops. Heavy foot traffic all day long, not just in the evening. If you're following this guide during Lisbon Street Photo Fest, the festival venue is only a short walk away, making this an easy stop between talks or workshops.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: all day; the crowd never really thins out.

Look for: performances, the ring of onlookers, the churches, the statue as a fixed point in a moving crowd.

Gear: open season — anything from 28mm to 135mm. There's enough happening here for a more abstract approach and the in-the-moment one.




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Stop 8

BICA



The neighbourhood around the Elevador da Bica — one of the prettiest stretches in the city, full of bars and steep narrow streets. If you're lucky you catch shafts of light dropping between the buildings.

It's at its best in the afternoon, with the sun still fairly high. Step onto the cross-streets that fall away left and right and you get an almost bird's-eye look down the slope, the city stacked below — the backgrounds here are hard to beat.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

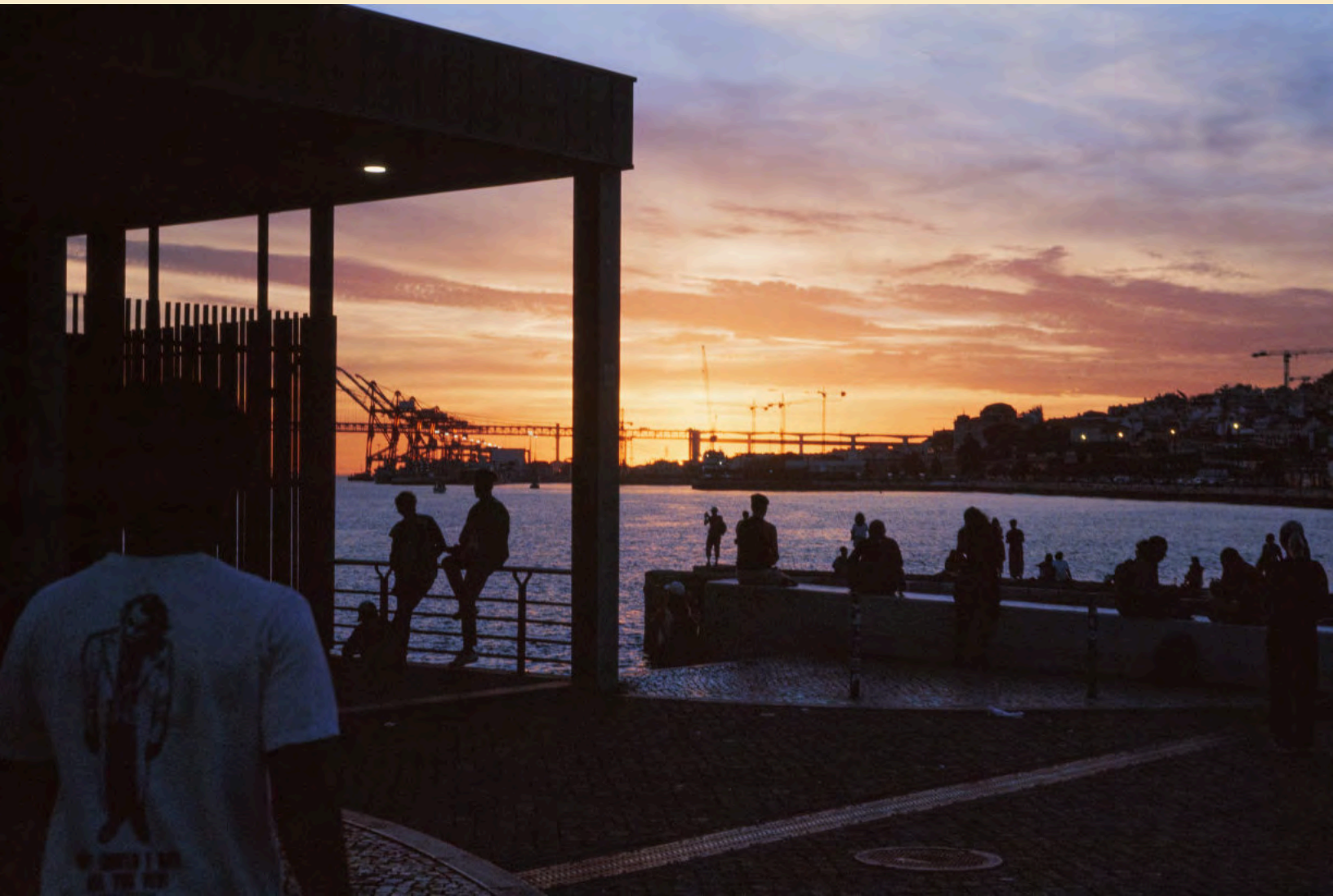
Best light: afternoon, sun high enough to reach down the streets.

Look for: shafts of light, the steep bar-lined streets, the view straight down the perpendicular streets.

Gear: a longer lens, such as 70-200mm pays off — compression down the slope, closer to your subject against backgrounds.

Stop 9

CAIS DO SODRÉ



Down at the water now. This is a transport hub — the Cascais train line, the metro and ferries across the Tejo river all meet here — so there's a steady tide of people heading to work or home. What you're here for is the waterfront: open space, the river wide in front of you, and the 25 de Abril bridge across the background.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: late afternoon into golden hour on the water.

Look for: commuters in motion, the open riverfront, the bridge across the water.

Gear: whatever you're comfortable with — a 35mm is a good fit for the mix of open space and street.



Stop 10

FERRY TO CAXIAS





From the Gare Fluvial at Cais do Sodré you can catch the ferry across the Tejo — the single prettiest way to travel in this city, and unbeatable at sunset and into blue hour. Shoot the crossing, the wake, and Lisbon dropping away behind you.

On the far side, Caxias is worth the evening: great restaurants — Ponto Final chief among them, right on the water (reserve ahead) — and a nice park beside it.

SHOOTING TIPS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Best light: sunset and blue hour, out on the water.

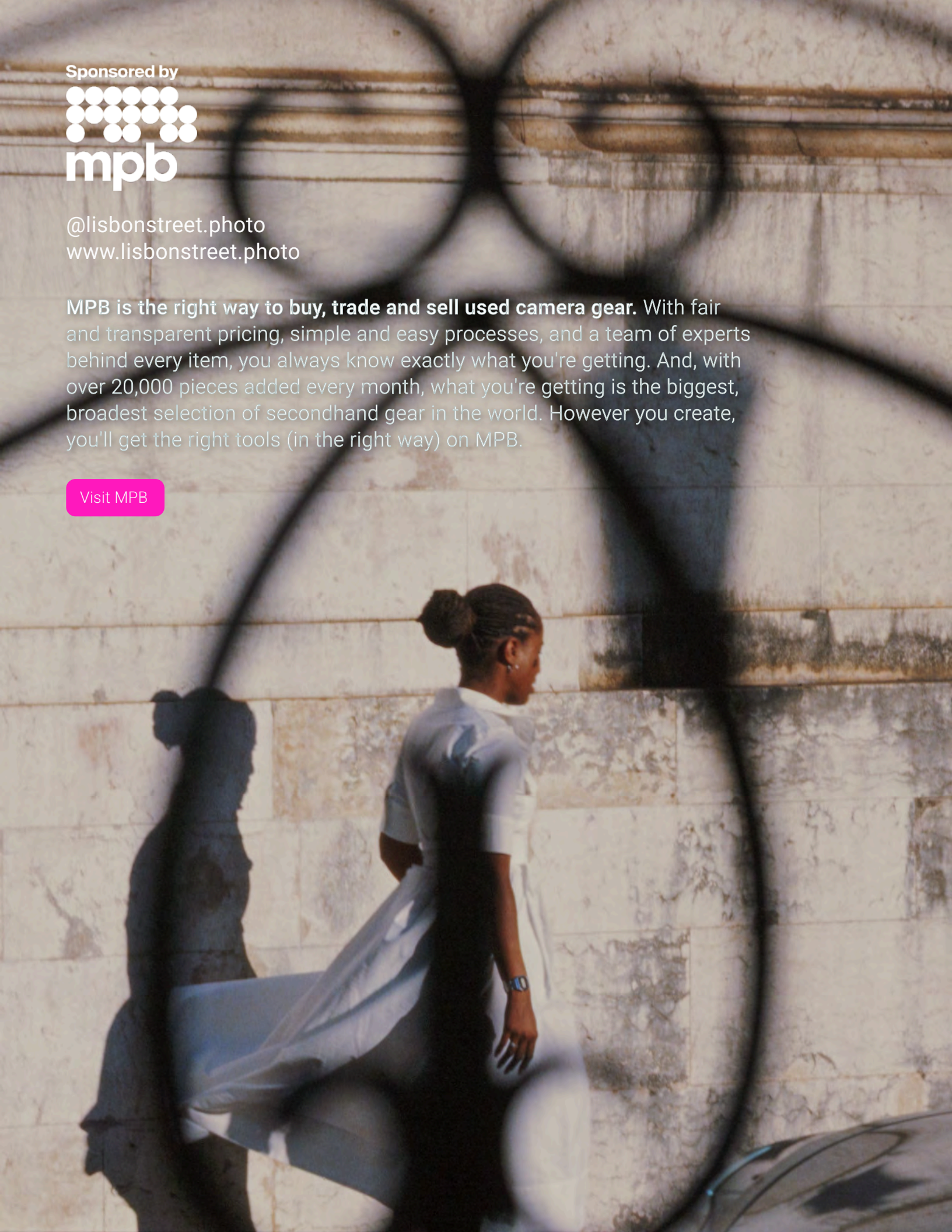
Look for: anything that's going — the city from the river, the light on the water, the crossing itself.

Gear: anything — this one's about the light, not the lens.

Bonus: dinner at Ponto Final if you book it.


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