



SHORT BIO

John Seaton Callahan is a Worldwide Surf Travel Expert, professional photographer and founder of the surfEXPLORE Group. A UCLA design graduate, he has spent 35 years building one of the most comprehensive private archives of surf exploration on the planet, completing more than 100 international surf travel projects across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

AT A GLANCE

- 35 years in the field, active since 1993
- 100+ international surf travel projects
- 100+ classified surf locations
- 4 continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas



Sierra Leone, West Africa. Photo: Emiliano Cataldi / surfEXPLORE

LONG BIO

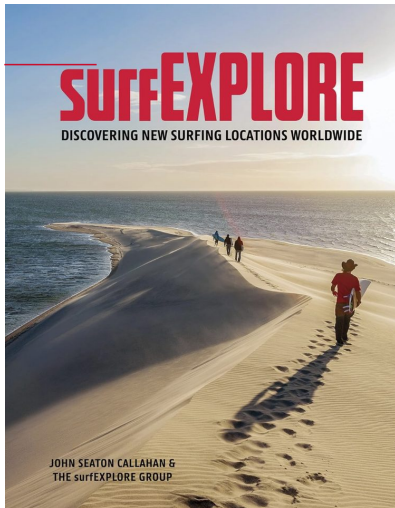
His work has been published in every major surfing publication worldwide, with more than 130 cover images and over 6,000 pages of editorial material. He is represented by Getty Images, which holds an archive of some 32,000 of his images, and is listed in Matt Warshaw's Encyclopedia of Surfing.

From naming "Cloud 9" on Siargao Island in the Philippines, to exploring the Maldives with Tony Hinde-Hussein, to being among the first to surf the Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India and many now-famous breaks across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, John has spent three and a half decades opening up new surf terrain.

Today he works with private groups and luxury expedition operators, providing research, planning, group co-ordination, travel logistics, photography and videography, from blank map to executed expedition.

CREDENTIALS

- Author, surfEXPLORE: Discovering New Surfing Locations Worldwide (Schiffer Publishing, September 2025)
- Represented by Getty Images, 32,000-image archive
- 130+ magazine covers; 6,000+ pages of published editorial
- Listed in the Encyclopedia of Surfing (Matt Warshaw)
- UCLA, Bachelor of Design, College of Fine Arts, 1987



THE BOOK

surfEXPLORE: Discovering New Surfing Locations Worldwide

By John Seaton Callahan and the surfEXPLORE Group. Published by Schiffer Publishing, September 2025.

Across 28 chapters of international surf travel in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, the book sets out a methodology: how to identify, access and assess remote surf terrain, how to build the local relationships that make access possible, and how to turn raw exploration into an exceptional travel experience.

STORY ANGLES

- Surf discovery before apps: how new breaks are still found today
- Naming "Cloud 9" and the early days of Siargao
- West Africa's emerging surf coastlines
- Exploration ethics, local relationships and keeping locations confidential
- The rise of luxury surf expeditions

AVAILABLE FOR

- Interviews (print, podcast, radio, TV) via Zoom or in person
- Image licensing (via surfEXPLORE or Getty Images)
- Talks, panels and book events
- Film, television and documentary collaboration

MEDIA CONTACT

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