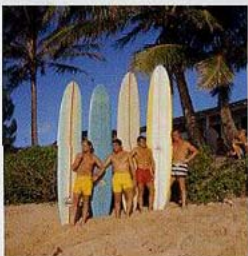


World of sport

Chairman of the board

A new book features classic images of US surfers, taken by the scene's most acclaimed photographer



Clockwise from top left: Sunset Beach, Oahu 1968; San Onofre, 1963; Hermosa Beach 1963; Waime'i Bay 1973

It's 1969, the year of the Apollo moon landings and the Beatles' last public performance, and photographer **LeRoy Grannis** is on Sunset Beach in Oahu, Hawaii (above), doing what he likes best: shooting surfers. Californian-born Grannis, himself a seasoned surfer by his late teens, didn't pick up a camera until the age of 42 (his doctor advised him to take up a hobby after he was diagnosed with an ulcer), but his work quickly became sought after by surfing magazines and collectors. Now publishers Taschen are bringing out a collection of his extraordinary surfing work from the 1960s and 1970s, focused mainly on the beaches of California -

Redondo, Hermosa, Malibu - and Hawaii's North Shore. For the 21st-century surfer, what is most striking about the book is not just the unadorned longboards, it's the localised surfing scenes. Today, as boards get shorter, the distances that surfers will travel get longer. For members of the European surf scene even Australia and South Africa are now conventional choices, and new destinations are opening up all the time.

This summer, for example, **Oman, Sagres in Portugal and Huntington Beach, California**, are all on offer from **Pure Vacations** (01227 264264; www.purevacations.com).

Switzerland-based **Sudden Rush** (00 41 44 420 1444; www.suddenrush.com) suggests **Panama**, while nearer to home it has a forest lodge in **Hossegor, France**, within easy reach of the Atlantic surf.

Panama - along with **Brazil** - is also featured by **Surfersworld** (01271 890037; www.surfersworld.co.uk), though it also offers courses in **Cornwall** and at **Westward Ho! in Devon**. And **Big Friday** (01637 872512; www.bigfriday.com), which runs the Friday-night summer surf bus from London to Cornwall, is now offering surf packages that include spa treatments and yoga. **LeRoy Grannis, Surf Photography of the 1960s and 1970s** (Taschen, £250)

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