

[Opening Scene]

A Walk With a Hawk

Imagine it's a warm spring day, and you're hiking through the San Diego backcountry. A screeching hawk dives from the treetops, glides over the brush, and heads straight toward you. At the last instant, it flares its wings, talons outstretched mere inches from your face, and lands surprisingly gently upon your gloved hand. The chalk-blue sky over San Diego is home to dozens of raptor species. You can get an up-close experience with some of these big birds at **Sky Falconry**, which offers falconry classes and Hawk Walks on 26 acres of privately owned trails bordering Cleveland National Forest in Alpine. Owners Kirk Sellinger and Denise Disharoon teach raptor fans about these magnificent birds of prey as well as the history of falconry. When you go into the field, accompanied by a pair of Harris's hawks, you can experience what it's like to have the birds fly from your gloved hands, watch them soar through the trees and over the hills, and then return—and it's nothing short of thrilling. Sky Falconry offers a variety of falconry classes and experiences, including specialized photography walks. Classes are available in the fall, winter, and spring in Alpine and from June through September at the Torrey Pines Glider Port in La Jolla. Prices for hawk walks and lessons range from \$70 to \$175. (619) 722-0092; skyfalconry.com.

—Charles Johnson



BONUS: Check out a video of a Sky Falconry flight at fb.com/aaasocal.



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