



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics  
60 Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
<http://chandra.harvard.edu>

---

**Galactic Center:** The core of the Milky Way at a distance of some 26,000 light years from Earth.  
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/UMass/D. Wang et al.; Optical: NASA/ESA/STScI/D. Wang et al.; IR:  
NASA/JPL-Caltech/SSC/S. Stolovy)

**Caption:** Data from NASA's Great Observatories has been combined to produce this unprecedented image of the central region of the Milky Way. Near-infrared light from Hubble (yellow) outlines energetic regions where stars are being born. Infrared data from Spitzer (red) show glowing clouds of dust containing complex structures. And, X-rays from Chandra (blue and violet) reveal gas heated to millions of degrees by stellar explosion and outflows from the Galaxy's supermassive black hole.

**Scale:** Image is 38 by 14 arcmin.

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

---