

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Centaurus A

A supermassive black hole in the center of the Centaurus A galaxy is feeding off the gas and dust encircling it, while spewing out jets of high-energy particles and other material. One jet shown at the upper left extends about 13,000 light-years away from the black hole. A dust lane wrapping around the middle of the galaxy may have resulted from a collision with a smaller galaxy millions of years ago.

Blue shows X-rays captured by Chandra, orange represents X-rays detected by IXPE, and optical light seen by the ESO in Chile is white/gray.

Credit: X-ray: (IXPE): NASA/MSFC/IXPE/S. Ehlert et al.; (Chandra): NASA/CXC/SAO; Optical: ESO/WFI

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