



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**Galactic Center:** A 400 by 900 light-year mosaic of images located about 26,000 light years from Earth in the constellation Sagittarius.  
(Credit: NASA/CXC/UMass/D. Wang et al.)

**Caption:** This Chandra image exposes a wealth of exotic objects and high-energy features at the center of our galaxy, the Milky Way. In this new and deep image from Chandra, red represents lower-energy X-rays, green shows the medium range, and blue indicates the higher-energy X-rays. Hundreds of small dots show emission from material around black holes, neutron stars and white dwarfs. A supermassive black hole -- some four million times more massive the Sun -- resides within the bright, blue-white region on the right. The diffuse X-ray light comes from gas heated to millions of degrees by outflows from the supermassive black hole, winds from giant stars, and stellar explosions.

**Scale:** Image is 120 by 48 arcmin.

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

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