

Galactic Center

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Journey to the Center of the Galaxy

Video Credit: ESO/MPE/Nick Risinger (skysurvey.org)/VISTA/J. Emerson/Digitized Sky Survey 2

Explanation: What wonders lie at the center of our [Galaxy](#)? In Jules Verne's science fiction classic A Journey to the Center of the Earth, Professor Liedenbrock and his fellow explorers encounter many strange and exciting wonders. Astronomers already know of some of the bizarre objects that exist at our **Galactic center**, including like vast cosmic dust clouds, bright star clusters, swirling rings of gas, and even a supermassive black hole. Much of the **Galactic Center** is shielded from our view in visible [light](#) by the intervening dust and gas, but it can be explored using other forms of [electromagnetic radiation](#). The above video is actually a digital zoom into the [Milky Way](#)'s center which starts by utilizing visible light images from the Digitized Sky Survey. As the movie proceeds, the [light](#) shown shifts to dust-penetrating [infrared](#) and highlights gas clouds that were recently discovered to be falling toward central black hole. <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap120702.html> [↗](#)