Object: Orion Nebula • M42
Distance from Earth: 1,344 light-years
Size: 28 light-years tall
Telescope: Spitzer Space Telescope
Light: Infrared (blue 3.6 μm, orange 4.5 μm)

Description: Found in the sword of the constellation Orion, the Orion Nebula is a cloud of dust and gas that contains many young, hot stars. These stars heat up the nebula, causing it to shine brightly enough to be seen without a telescope.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/J. Stauffer