Object: Centaurus A Galaxy • NGC 5128

Distance from Earth:
12 million light-years

Size:
260,000 light-years

Telescopes:
Chandra X-ray Observatory, Atacama Pathfinder Experiment Telescope, Max-Planck/ESO 2.2 m Telescope

Light:
X-ray (blue), infrared/radio (orange), and visible (white, brown)

Description:
One of the most luminous and massive galaxies known, Centaurus A is a strong source of both radio and X-ray radiation. The supermassive black hole at its center is highly active, ejecting 13,000 light-year-long jets of superheated gas (blue) and cooler matter (orange) from the disk of the galaxy. The material in the jets travels about 9 million km (5.59 million miles) per minute—half the speed of light.

Credit: