

# Astronomy Picture of the Day

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**Omega Centauri**

**Credit & Copyright:** [Steve Crouch](#)

**Explanation:** [Centaurus, the Centaur](#), is one of the most striking constellations in the southern sky. The Milky Way flows through this [celestial expanse](#) whose wonders also include the closest star to the sun, [Alpha Centauri](#), and the largest [globular star cluster](#) in our galaxy, [Omega Centauri](#). This gorgeous wide-field [telescopic view](#) of Omega Centauri shows off the cluster of about [10 million stars](#) and the surrounding star field, with very faint dust clouds and distant background galaxies. Omega Cen itself is about 15,000 light-years away and 150 light-years in diameter - one of 150 or so known globular star clusters [that roam](#) the halo of our galaxy. The stars in globular clusters are much [older](#), redder and less massive than our Sun.