

Image: Goodbye to the dark side of Saturn

October 3 2017



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Space Science Institute

Stunning views like this image of Saturn's night side are only possible

thanks to our robotic emissaries like Cassini. Until future missions are sent to Saturn, Cassini's image-rich legacy must suffice.

Because Earth is closer to the Sun than Saturn, observers on Earth only see Saturn's day side. With spacecraft, we can capture views (and data) that are simply not possible from Earth, even with the largest telescopes.

This view looks toward the sunlit side of the rings from about 7 degrees above the [ring plane](#). The image was taken in visible light with the wide-angle camera on NASA's Cassini spacecraft on June 7, 2017.

The view was obtained at a distance of approximately 751,000 miles (1.21 million kilometers) from Saturn. Image scale is 45 miles (72 kilometers) per pixel.

The Cassini spacecraft ended its mission on Sept. 15, 2017.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Image: Goodbye to the dark side of Saturn (2017, October 3) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-10-image-goodbye-dark-side-saturn.html>

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