

Hubble captures elusive, irregular galaxy

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This image shows an irregular galaxy named IC 10, a member of the Local Group—a collection of over 50 galaxies in our cosmic

neighborhood that includes the Milky Way.

IC 10 is a remarkable object. It is the closest-known [starburst galaxy](#), meaning that it is undergoing a furious bout of star formation fueled by ample supplies of cool hydrogen gas. This gas condenses into vast molecular clouds, which then form into dense knots where pressures and temperatures reach a point sufficient to ignite [nuclear fusion](#), thus giving rise to new generations of stars.

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A version of this image was entered into the Hubble's Hidden Treasures image processing competition by contestant Nikolaus Sulzenauer, and went on to win 10th prize.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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