

Astronomy Picture of the Day

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2007 May 8



A Dark Sky Over Death Valley

Credit: [Dan Duriscoe, U.S. National Park Service](#)

Explanation: This eerie glow over Death Valley is in danger. Scrolling right will show a spectacular view from one of the [darkest places](#) left in the continental [USA: Death Valley, California](#). The [above 360-degree full-sky panorama](#) is a composite of 30 images taken two years ago in [Racetrack Playa](#). The image has been digitally processed and increasingly stretched at high altitudes to make it rectangular. In the foreground on the image right is an [unusually placed rock](#) that was pushed by high winds onto [Racetrack Playa](#) after a slick rain. In the background is a majestic night sky, featuring thousands of stars and many constellations. The arch across the middle is the central [band](#) of our [Milky Way](#) Galaxy. [Light pollution](#) is threatening dark skies like this all [across the US](#), and therefore the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) and the [US National Parks Service](#) are [suggesting methods](#) that can [protect them](#).

Tomorrow's picture: [aggressive snowflakes](#)

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