



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/M. Meixner (STScI) & the SAGE Legacy Team.

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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Large Magellanic Cloud

This vibrant, false-colored image is the Large Magellanic Cloud, one of several dwarf, irregular galaxies that orbit our own Milky Way galaxy. The image is an infrared composite from the Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared array camera and multi-band imaging photometer. Nearly one million objects are revealed for the first time in this Spitzer view, which represents about a 1,000-fold improvement in sensitivity over previous space-based observations. Most of the new objects are dusty stars of various ages populating the Large Magellanic Cloud.

Blue, most prominent in the central bar, represents starlight from older stars. The chaotic, bright regions outside this bar are filled with hot, massive stars buried in thick blankets of dust. The red around these bright regions is from dust heated by stars, while the red dots scattered throughout the picture are either dusty, old stars or more distant galaxies. The greenish clouds contain cooler interstellar gas and molecular-sized dust grains illuminated by ambient starlight. The visible-light image (right) reveals the diffuse and fuzzy nature of the Large Magellanic Cloud and shows us brighter stars and regions of hot, ionized gas.



Credit: National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

