

## Hubble Space Telescope celebrates 30 years of discoveries and awe-inspiring images

The Hubble Space Telescope launched 30 years ago on April 24, 1990, forever changing the way we see the universe.

The telescope's *ethereal*, dreamy and almost fantasy-like views of space vistas have inspired people for decades and led to some of the most important astronomical discoveries.

ethereal 天上的; 优雅的

Hubble orbits the Earth from a distance of 340 miles, well above the distorting effects of Earth's atmosphere for observing space both near and far. Over 30 years, it has enabled astronomers around the world to study black holes, mysterious dark energy, distant galaxies and *galactic* mergers. Outside of our solar system, Hubble has explored our Milky Way galaxy and neighboring galaxies. The dramatic, colorful images Hubble is known for are largely of active nebulae in our galaxy, bright clouds of gas and dust where stars are forming.

galactic 银河的

"When Hubble was launched, no one knew about a single planet outside of our solar system," said Tom Brown, the Hubble Mission Head at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Maryland.

Hubble's scientists believe that the telescope will keep operating through at least 2025, if not longer. But when Hubble's mission does come to an end, its optical and ultraviolet capabilities won't be reproduced anytime soon. This could leave a massive gap for scientists who depend on Hubble's observations to do their work.

For now, scientists have hope that the telescope will continue on for years, and maybe even decades, to come. "It's aging in a very graceful, well understood way and operating just as powerful as ever," Brown said.