

M1: The Crab Nebula

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Mercator Telescope – MAIA Camera

When stars more massive than our own Sun run out of fuel, they explode into a supernova. These events are so bright they can be observed across the Universe and can outshine the whole host Galaxy. The above picture shows the remnant nebula from an explosion which occurred about 1000 years ago, recorded at the time by Chinese Astronomers. At the centre of the nebula remains the core of the progenitor star: a neutron star the size of a town and more massive than the Sun, spinning round every 33 milliseconds! Credit: The Mercator telescope team and Simone Scaringi (KU Leuven & MPE)