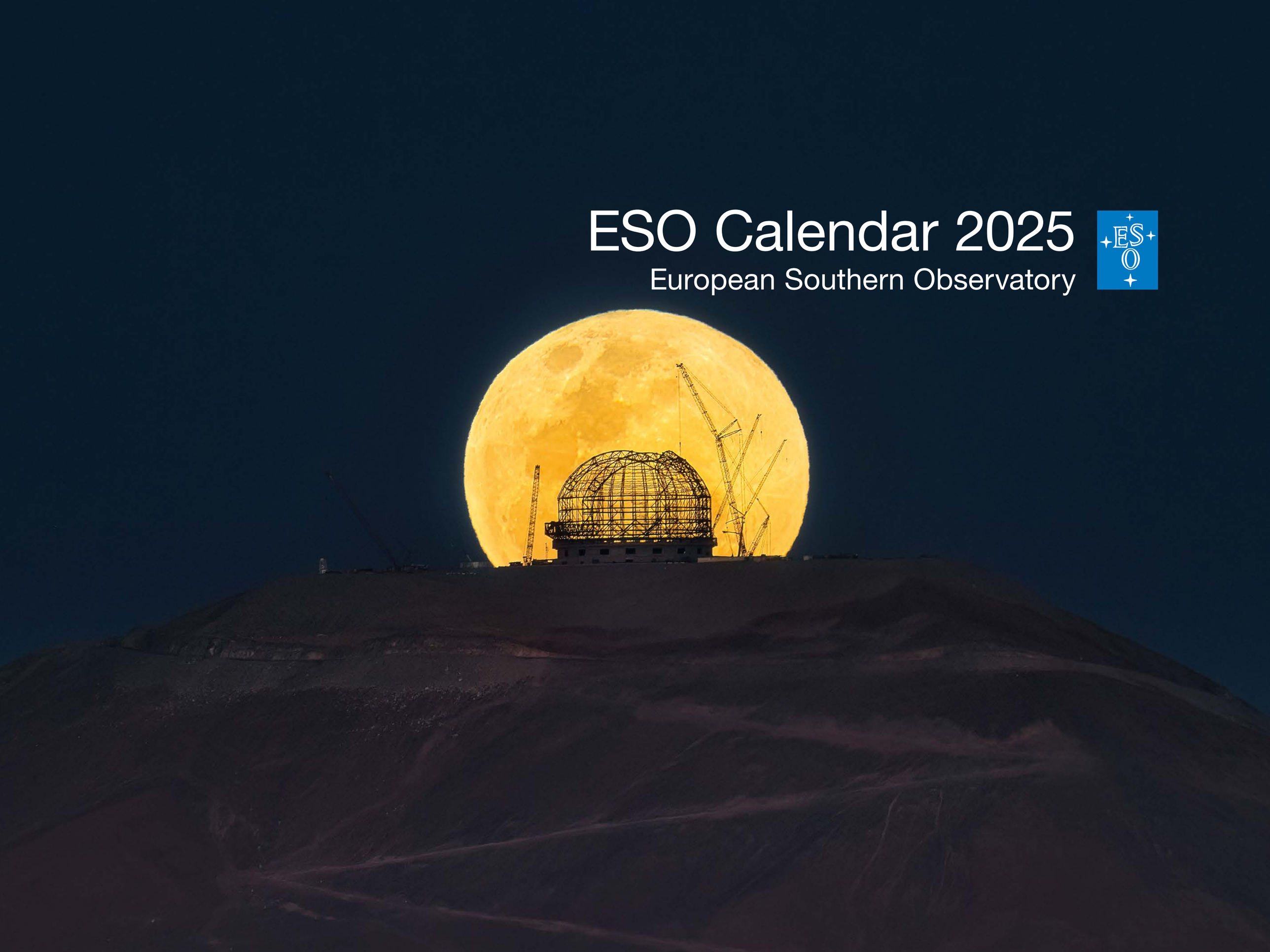
ESO Calendar 2025

European Southern Observatory



The Gum 3 nebula — a Koi-smic fish

January 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					2							3							4							5				

The ESO Supernova Planetarium & Visitor Centre under the snow

February 2025

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3
		6							7							8							9							10

Ribbons and pearls in the barred spiral galaxy NGC 1398

March 2025

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		10							11							12							13							14

Guiding lights to the stars and the ESO 3.6-m telescope

April 2025

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						15							16							17							18			

The cosmic master of disguise: IC 2631

May 2025

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			19							20							21							22						

Pillar of sunlight over ALMA

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
23							24							25							26							27		

The Running Chicken nebula

July 2025

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						28							29							30							31			

A laser show on Paranal

August 2025

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			32							33						34							35							36

The Dragon's Egg nebula in visible light

September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
36							37							38							39							40		

Spot the engineers on the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT)

October 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					41							42							43							44				

Curious spiral spotted by ALMA around red giant star R Sculptoris (data visualisation)

November 2025

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
		45							46							47							48							49

NTT perched on top of the world

December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
49							50							51							52							1		

Cover
E.(L).T. phone home

A full moon rises up from behind Cerro Armazones, the ELT's perch in the Chilean Atacama Desert, where construction of the colossal telescope is underway.

This image was captured on 28 October 2023, from around 20 kilometres away, close to the entrance to ESO's Paranal Observatory. It's not every day that the Moon is positioned so perfectly behind the mountaintop, so an event was carefully planned by the Paranal Photo Club to capture the moment.

Credit: J. Beltrán/ESO

January
The Gum 3 nebula — a Koi-smic fish

This image shows the brightly coloured Gum 3 nebula as seen with the VLT Survey Telescope (VST), hosted at ESO's Paranal Observatory in the Chilean Atacama Desert. Gum 3 is an interstellar cloud of gas and dust located about 3600 light-years away, between the Monoceros and Canis Major constellations. Attentive viewers may find that part of Gum 3 resembles a Koi fish in this VST image. Equipped with the OmegaCAM instrument, an enormous 268-megapixel camera, the telescope is designed to survey large areas of the southern sky in visible light and take stunning images like this one.

Credit: ESO/VPHAS+ team
Acknowledgement: CASU

February
The ESO Supernova Planetarium & Visitor Centre under the snow

Amidst the winter landscape, the ESO Supernova Planetarium & Visitor Centre stands under a thick blanket of snow. Inside, visitors continue their learning journey.

Credit: ESO/A. Tsaousis

March
Ribbons and pearls in the barred spiral galaxy NGC 1398

This image shows spectacular ribbons of gas and dust wrapping around the pearly centre of the barred spiral galaxy NGC 1398. This galaxy is located in the constellation Fornax (The Furnace), approximately 65 million light-years away. It comprises data gathered by the FOcal Reducer/low dispersion Spectrograph 2 (FORS2) instrument, mounted on ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT) at Paranal Observatory, Chile.

Credit: ESO

April
Guiding lights to the stars and the ESO 3.6-m telescope

The ESO 3.6-m telescope sits perched at the summit of the La Silla mountain in the Chilean Atacama Desert, 2400 m above sea level. A part of ESO's La Silla Observatory, this location provides conditions ideal for stargazing, and is home to the prolific planet-hunter HARPS, the High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet Searcher.

The faint green airglow towards the horizon is naturally caused by molecules in Earth's upper atmosphere. At the top we see one of our neighbouring galaxies, the Large Magellanic Cloud.

Credit: ESO/A. Ghizzi Panizza
(www.albertoghizzipanizza.com)

May
The cosmic master of disguise: IC 2631

This image shows the Chamaeleon Cloud, or IC 2631, captured in infrared light by ESO's Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA).

IC 2631 is a reflection nebula made of dust clouds that reflect the light emitted from nearby stars. The Chamaeleon Cloud is the brightest nebula in the Chamaeleon Complex, a vast region of gas and dust clouds — much larger than what this image shows — where numerous newborn and still-forming stars live.

Credit: ESO/Meingast et al.

June
Pillar of sunlight over ALMA

This image shows the grand skies of the Chajnantor plateau in the Chilean Atacama Desert. The rare sight of clouds in this typically dry and arid region creates a dramatic display of reds and blues, as well as a sun pillar — an optical phenomenon caused by ice crystals in the atmosphere — that emanates from the Sun in line with one of the antennas that form the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), which is co-owned by ESO.

Credit: C. Duran/ESO

July
The Running Chicken nebula

The Running Chicken nebula comprises several clouds, all of which we can see in this vast image from the VLT Survey Telescope (VST), hosted at ESO's Paranal site. This 1.5-billion-pixel image spans an area in the sky of about 25 full Moons. The clouds shown in wispy pink plumes are full of gas and dust, illuminated by the young and hot stars within them.

Credit: ESO/VPHAS+ team
Acknowledgement: CASU

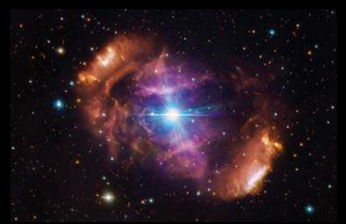
August
A laser show on Paranal

It's hard not to get sucked into this image, taken using a long exposure at ESO's Paranal Observatory in the Chilean Atacama Desert. Above the mountaintop observatory, a spectacular dance is playing out: imaged over several hours, stars appear to make their way in long arcs, called star trails, across the night sky.

Paranal is home to one of the world's most advanced optical telescopes: ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT). This flagship facility actually consists of four Unit Telescopes, one equipped with a laser that helps correct for atmospheric turbulence, and four smaller movable Auxiliary Telescopes, like the one in the foreground on the right.

Credit: ESO/A. Ghizzi Panizza
(www.albertoghizzipanizza.com)

September
The Dragon's Egg nebula in visible light



This image, taken with the VLT Survey Telescope (VST) hosted at ESO's Paranal Observatory, shows the beautiful nebula NGC 6164/6165, also known as the Dragon's Egg. The nebula is a cloud of gas and dust surrounding a pair of stars called HD 148937.

Credit: ESO/VPHAS+ team
Acknowlegement: CASU

October
Spot the engineers on the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT)

Do you want to feel small? Check out this image of ESO's Extremely Large Telescope (ELT), and see if you can spot the tiny engineers standing on the massive cell that will hold the ELT's 39-m mirror.

The mirror will comprise 798 hexagonal segments working together with nanometric accuracy thanks to sophisticated sensors and actuators. It will be the largest segmented mirror ever built, and it will help us unlock some of the deepest secrets of the Universe.

Credit: ACe/Cimolai

November
Curious spiral spotted by ALMA around red giant star R Sculptoris (data visualisation)

Observations using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) revealed an unexpected spiral structure in the material around the old star R Sculptoris. This feature, thought to be caused by a hidden companion orbiting the main star, had never been observed before. This slice through the ALMA data reveals the shell around the star, which shows up as the outer circular ring, as well as a very clear spiral structure in the inner material.

Credit: ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO)/M. Maercker et al.

December
NTT perched on top of the world

Standing majestically at the top of a hill at ESO's La Silla Observatory, surveying the watercolour scenery of another sunset in Chile's Atacama Desert, is the New Technology Telescope (NTT). The star of this photo has been ticking along, making discovery after discovery, ever since it was inaugurated in 1989. Its home at La Silla sits at an altitude of 2400 metres and is far from sources of light pollution, giving the NTT uninterrupted views of the Universe.

Credit: ESO/A. Ghizzi Panizza
(www.albertoghizzipanizza.com)

ESO
European Southern Observatory

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) enables scientists worldwide to discover the secrets of the Universe for the benefit of all. We design, build and operate world-class observatories on the ground — which astronomers use to tackle exciting questions and spread the fascination of astronomy — and promote international collaboration in astronomy. An intergovernmental organisation supported by 16 Member States and two partner countries, ESO has headquarters in Germany and operates three observing sites in Chile.

Moon phases are indicated in Universal Time.

Produced by the ESO Department of Communication.

2025