

The Bubble Nebula



Isaac Newton Telescope + Photographic Prime Focus Camera



NGC 7635, the Bubble nebula. A massive star that is not only bright and blue, but also emitting a fast stellar wind of ionized gas, created this huge space bubble. The Bubble nebula is actually the smallest of three bubbles surrounding massive star BD+602522, and part of gigantic bubble network S162 created with the help of other massive stars. As fast moving gas expands off BD+602522, it pushes surrounding sparse gas into a shell. The energetic starlight then ionizes the shell, causing it to glow. The Bubble nebula is about 10 light-years across and visible with a small telescope towards the constellation of Cassiopeia.

Photograph by David Malin (AAO).