



PLATE 4: The XDF (or eXtreme Deep Field) image is the result of combining ten years of data taken by the *HST* of a small patch of sky in the constellation of Fornax, a larger area of which was itself the target for the Hubble Ultra Deep Field. The new full-color XDF image contains about 5500 galaxies even within its small field of view. Courtesy NASA; ESA; G. Illingworth, D. Magee, and P. Oesch, University of California, Santa Cruz; R. Bouwens, Leiden University; and the HUDF09 Team.

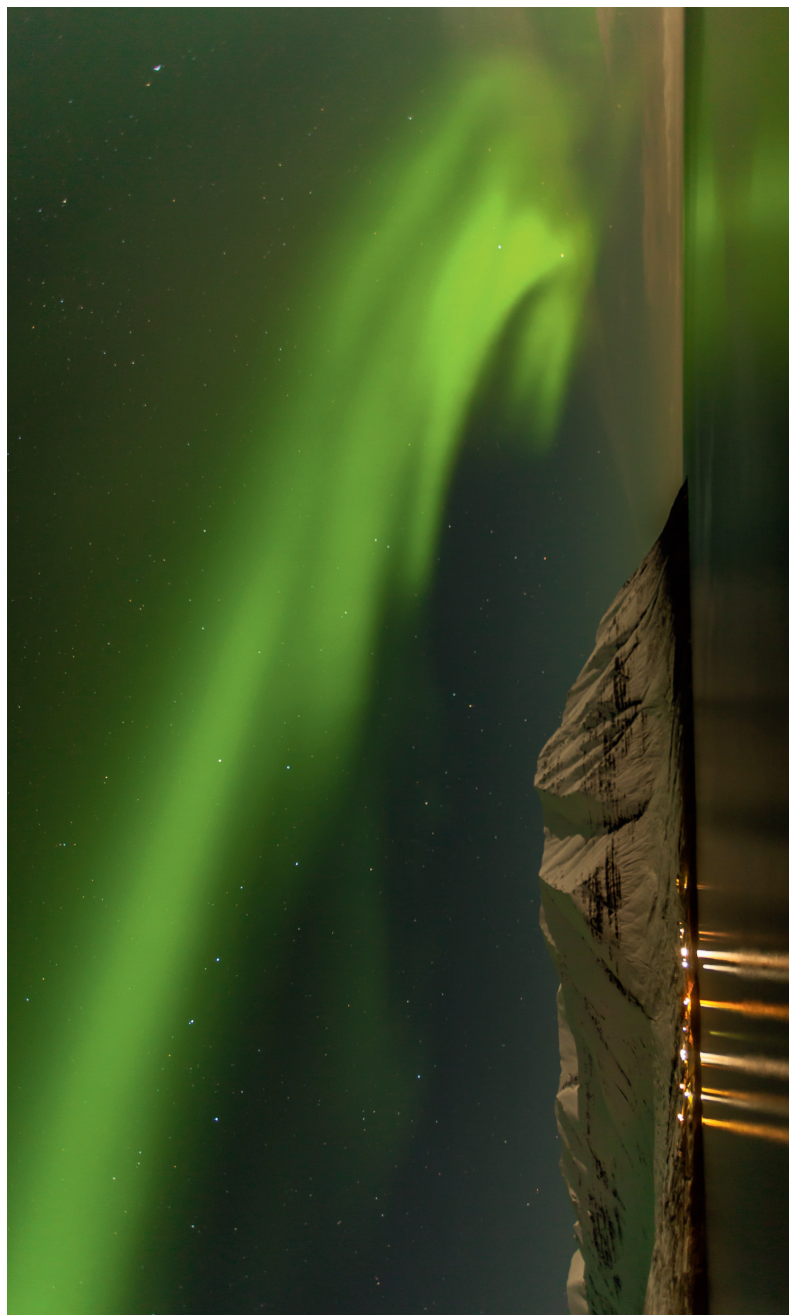


PLATE 1: This beautiful image of the Aurora Borealis was recorded by Lára Stefánsdóttir in Ólafsfjörður, a fishing town on the north coast of Iceland, almost on the Arctic Circle. The 23-second exposure was made with a Canon EOS 5D Mk II camera on 2012 October 5 at 22:22 UT. For many more spectacular images of aurorae (and, indeed, of impressive Icelandic scenery) taken by Lára, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lastef/8088389167/in/photostream/lightbox/>.

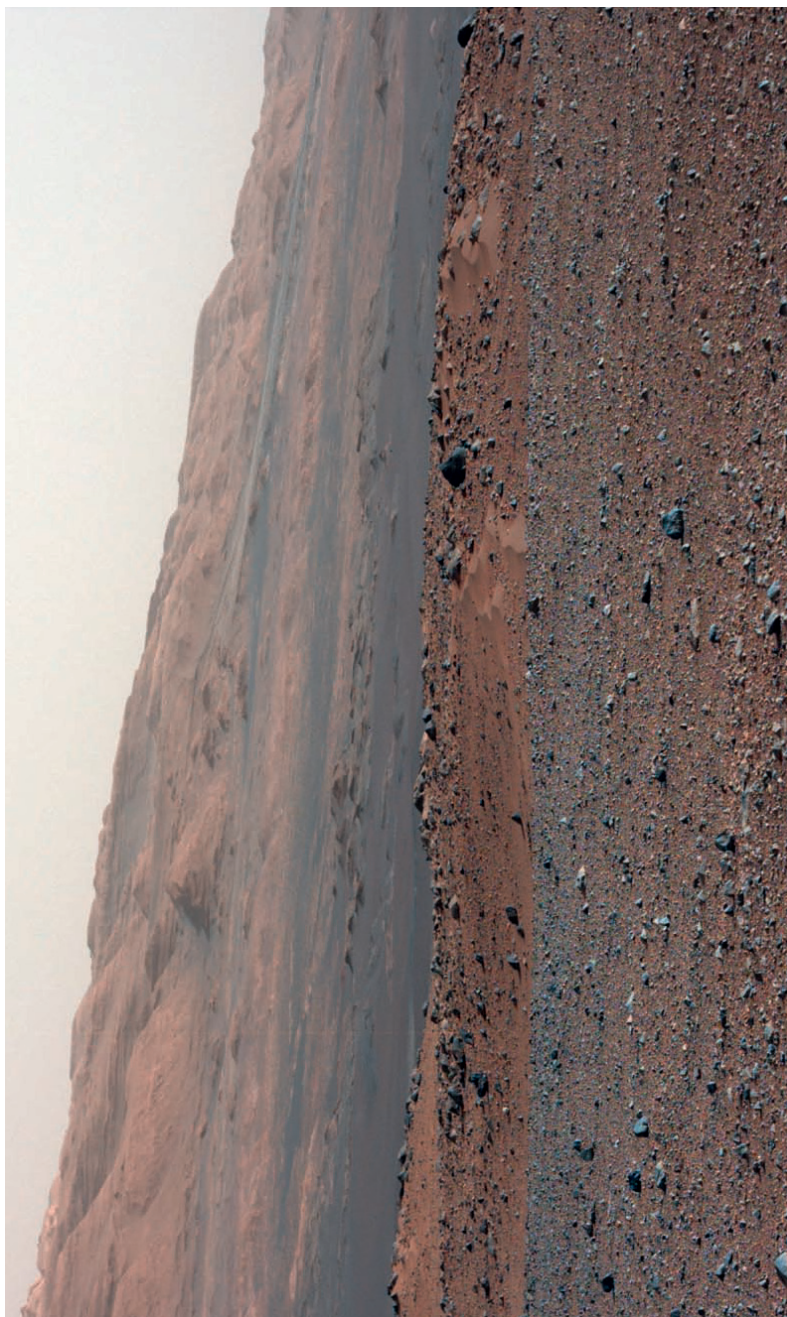


PLATE 2: This test image from the 34-mm *Mast Camera* on NASA's *Curiosity* rover was taken on 12 August 2012. One of many remarkable images secured by this highly successful craft. The gravelly area around *Curiosity*'s landing site is visible in the foreground. Farther away, the terrain falls off into a depression, beyond which is the boulder-strewn, red-brown rim of a moderately-sized impact crater. Beyond this, there are dark dunes and then the layered rock at the base of Mount Sharp (or Acolis Mons, for the more traditionally minded). Some haze obscures the view, but the top ridge, depicted in this image, is 16 km away. Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS.



PLATE 3: The aptly named Spaghettini Nebula (Simeis 147) is the remnant of a supernova explosion which took place about 40 000 years ago. It can be found on the Taurus-Auriga border, is approximately 3° across, and is around 3000 light years away, which means that its actual size is 140 light years in diameter. This spectacular image was produced by Emil Ivanov in Rozhen, Bulgaria, from images taken during the winter of 2010/11, employing Canon 300-mm lenses at $f/2.8$, a number of broad- and narrow-band filters, and an SBIG STL-11 000M camera.