

NASA RELEASES NEW IMAGE OF JUPITER'S SWIRLING CLOUDS

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Space Technology & related matters

Citizen scientists Gerald Eichstädt and Seán Doran created this image using data from the spacecraft's JunoCam imager. | Photo Credit: [NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS](https://www.nasa.gov/jpl-caltech-swri/msss)

NASA's Juno spacecraft has beamed back a stunning image of Jupiter, showing the gas giant's multitude of colourful, swirling clouds.

The image captures a several bright-white 'pop-up' clouds as well as an anticyclonic storm, known as a white oval, in Jupiter's dynamic North Temperate Belt. The image was taken on October 29 as the spacecraft performed its 16th close flyby of Jupiter.

At the time, Juno was about 7,000 kilometers from the planet's cloud tops, at a latitude of approximately 40 degrees north. Citizen scientists Gerald Eichstadt and Sean Doran used data from the spacecraft's JunoCam imager to create a colour-enhanced image of the planet's cloud, NASA said in a statement.

JunoCam's raw images are available online for the public to peruse and process into image products.

Juno's principal goal is to understand the origin and evolution of Jupiter. Underneath its dense cloud cover, Jupiter safeguards secrets to the fundamental processes and conditions that governed our solar system during its formation. As the primary example of a giant planet in the solar system, Jupiter can also provide critical knowledge for understanding the planetary systems being discovered around other stars.

With its suite of science instruments, Juno will investigate the existence of a solid planetary core, map Jupiter's intense magnetic field, measure the amount of water and ammonia in the deep atmosphere, and observe the planet's auroras. Data from Juno will help us understand how giant planets form and the role these titans played in putting together the rest of the solar system.

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