

# Palomar Observatory

The 200-inch telescope has an observing partnership that includes the following institutions:

- Caltech (owners),
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA),
- Cornell University (New York),
- American Museum of Natural History (New York),
- Oxford University (England)

The 200-inch telescope is used 363 (364 in 2008) nights a year from sunset to sunrise (weather permitting).

A new observing program, the Palomar Transient Factory (<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/ptf/index.html>), is about to begin making use of the 48-inch and 60-inch telescopes at Palomar. This is a collaboration of the following:

- Caltech, Infrared Processing and Analysis Center (California)
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (California),
- Berkeley (California)
- Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network (USA, Australia and England)
- Columbia (New York) and
- Weizmann Institute (Israel).

Palomar is also about to begin a new adaptive optics program for the 60-inch telescope. For that project Caltech will be partnered with institutions from India and China.

Palomar has already deployed adaptive optics on its 200-inch telescope. Some results are shown to the right. Note that with adaptive optics, the 200-inch telescope can achieve finer resolution than the Hubble Space Telescope (bottom photos).

This flyer and other information on lighting is available at [www.brightstarstemeculavalley.org](http://www.brightstarstemeculavalley.org).



## Public visits to Palomar

2003: 44,733	2006: 100,268
2004: 59,706	2007: 114,928
2005: 79,435	2008: 118,248

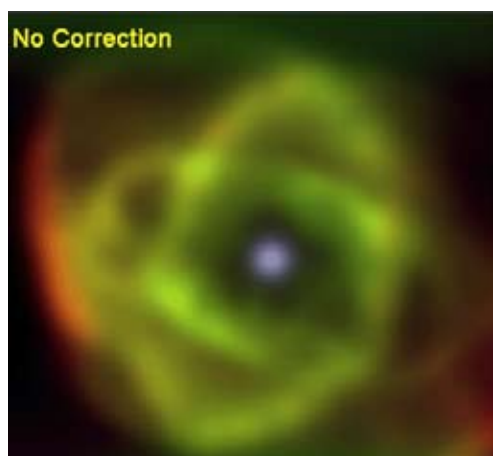


Image taken with 200-inch without adaptive optics

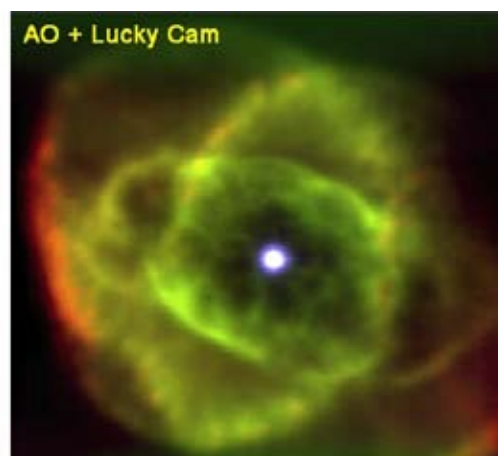
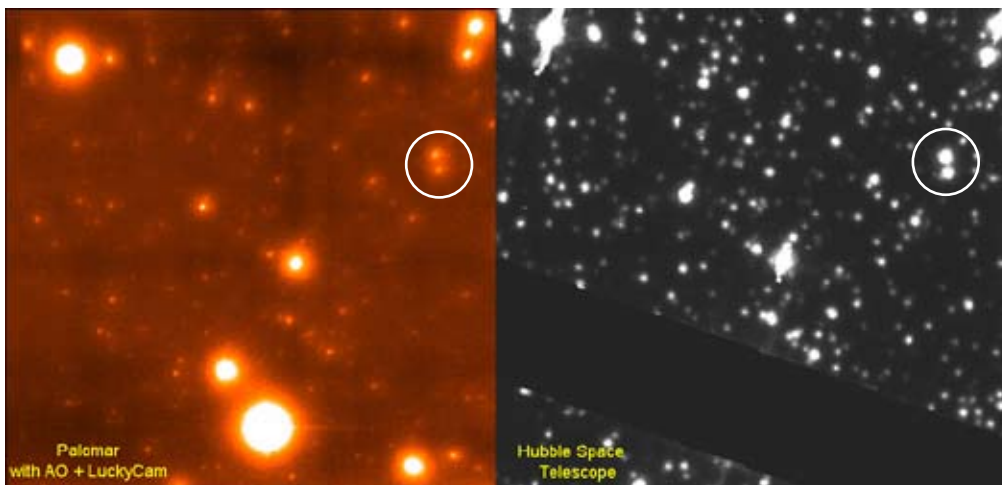


Image taken with 200-inch with adaptive optics



The above images compare the 200-inch telescope (left) with the Hubble Space Telescope (right). The circles show two identical stars. While Hubble has the darker background, the Palomar 200-inch scope has finer resolution of detail.