A composite image of M87 features X-rays from Chandra (blue) and radio emission from the Very Large Array (red-orange). This massive galaxy contains a giant black hole at its core (a bright white area) that is producing massive jets of energetic particles. The interaction of these jets with surrounding hot gas has similar properties to the recent eruption of an Icelandic volcano.

At a distance of about 50 million light years, M87 is relatively close to Earth and lies at the center of the Virgo cluster, which contains thousands of galaxies.