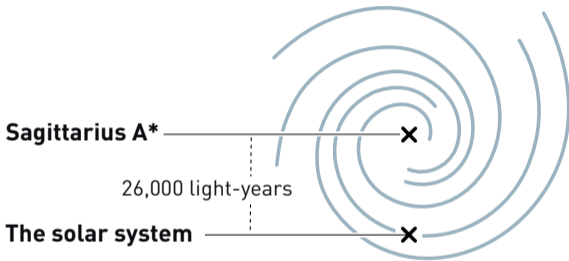


The Milky Way



The Milky Way, our galaxy, seen from above. It is shaped like a flat disc about 100,000 light-years across. Its spiral arms are made of gas and dust and a few hundred billion stars. One of these stars is our Sun.