Titan Viewed with Infrared Eyes

The familiar visage of Saturn’s moon Titan looks very different in the infrared spectrum.

- Titan has a yellowish, smoggy appearance (center left) in visible light, where the atmosphere obscures the surface. Observed in infrared light, the six surrounding images (left) represent some of the clearest global views of the icy moon’s surface ever seen.

- Data was acquired over 13 years in near-Infrared windows by the Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIMS) instrument on board the Cassini spacecraft. The images combine VIMS observations made under a wide variety of lighting and viewing conditions over the course of the mission.

- This unique set of images show the complex surface of Titan, sporting myriad geologic features and compositional units. These images can be used for future study of Titan’s surface properties, composition, and evolution.