



VENOMOUS SNAKE HANDLING BOOTCAMP

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Course Information

Course Date: **Sunday, 02 July 2023**
Venue: **Bloemfontein Hellenic Community Hall, Cnr Bree Street & Andries Pretorius, Hilton**
Directions: <https://bit.ly/3Egdcd2>

Programme:

This is a full-day course that starts at **09:30** sharp. Please arrive a few minutes earlier to enjoy the coffee and tea refreshments while the team signs you in.

We kick off with a brief theory session discussing the correct handling techniques, safe removal protocols, and the importance of crowd control.

We then move onto the practical session where we recap the practical experience taught in the Venomous Snake Handling course – the use of snake hooks, snake tongs, buckets, and tubes. Following the tea break at approximately 10:45, the various methods of hooking and tailing venomous snakes is demonstrated and delegates practice these extensively. We break at 13:00 for a light lunch (provided), and we then end the day with multiple real-life removal scenarios.

Snakes used for the handling session vary but we usually make use of the following species: Puff Adder, Snouted Cobra, Cape Cobra and Rinkhals.

The course usually concludes at around 16:00. Kindly note that these are suggested times and may vary.

Course Fees:

All course fees include coffee/tea refreshments and a light lunch.

Venomous Snake Handling Bootcamp

R 1 450.00

The full amount will have to be paid prior to the course to secure your attendance.

Cancellation policy: There are no cancellation fees for changes or cancellation to your booking 48 hours prior to the course date. For cancellations or changes within 48 hours of the course date, we charge a 50% cancellation fee and for non-attendance on the day of the course we charge a 100% cancellation fee.

Please note that, due to the practical nature of this course, space is limited. Course bookings close three days before the event (unless fully booked prior to this). Please book early to avoid disappointment.

To book, please complete a course booking form and email the booking form to us at - courses@asiorg.co.za. We will send through an invoice for payment.

Important information:

- 1) Prior attendance of an ASI Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling course is a prerequisite for anyone wishing to attend this course. Please forward a copy of your certificate to us when making your booking.
- 2) No spectators are allowed during the indoor session, and this includes children. Spectators are welcome to watch the Venomous Snake Handling sessions from a safe distance but are not to interfere with the training in any way.
- 3) Mobile phones: The use of mobile phones for text messages and calls is not permitted during the awareness or handling courses and may only be left on for emergency calls.
- 4) Photographs that are taken by the ASI team during the course will be made available via Dropbox. Participants and spectators are also welcome to take photographs of the handling session but video recording is not permitted. Take note we do not have a dedicated photographer. Photos are taken as and when possible.
- 5) Our minimum age requirement for this course is 14 years of age.
- 6) Delegates that do the venomous snake handling will have to sign an indemnity prior to the practical session. Parents/guardians must sign for delegates under 18 years of age.
- 7) Should a delegate have any specific dietary requirements, they are welcome to bring their own lunch

Dress code and what to bring:

- 1) Delegates doing the Venomous Snake Handling should wear long trousers and closed shoes and are advised to bring a hat.
- 2) As you will be writing a test just before the lunch break, please bring a pen and notepad (for those who wish to take notes). No prior studying or snake knowledge is necessary for the test and the format is multiple choice.
- 3) The African Snakebite Institute will supply all equipment needed for delegates to use during the snake handling session (hooks, tongs, buckets, and tubes).

Certificates and course material:

Each delegate will receive a course certificate, First Aid for Snakebite booklet, as well as a full colour A3 Dangerous Snakes of Southern Africa poster.

PLEASE NOTE: All successful delegates will receive a certificate. Please ensure that we have the right name and surname as it will appear on the certificate. If details are provided incorrectly another certificate will have to be issued and sent by courier and will cost **R250.00**.

Our courses are presented by **Johan Marais**, **Luke Kemp** or **Willem Van Zyl**.

Johan Marais is one of Africa's leading herpetologists with over 40 years of experience. Johan is a prominent author of snake books in Africa and has written the best sellers *A Complete Guide to the Snakes of Southern Africa*, *Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa* and *First Aid for Snakebite*. He is also the snake expert for the Tygerberg Poison Centre and the Red Cross Poison centre, as well as an advisor on snakes and snakebite to various hospitals and clinics throughout Africa.

Luke Kemp graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc and Honours Degree and has been working for the African Snakebite Institute for the past five years. Luke is a passionate herpetologist, avid photographer, and has been presenting courses with Johan Marais not just in South Africa, but elsewhere in Africa also. He currently runs the reptile Virtual Museum with ADU, Cape Town University and is co-authoring a book on the reptiles and amphibians of southern Africa with Johan Marais.

Willem Van Zyl is an experienced snake handler, wildlife photographer and wilderness first responder who has been working with the African Snakebite Institute for the last five years. He has presented many public and corporate snake awareness and venomous snake handling courses. Willem is a software developer and manages the ASI website, social media and created our immensely popular free App **ASI Snakes**.



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