



Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling Course

Contact us:

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www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

Course Information:

Course Date: **Friday, 10 April 2026**
Venue: **Augrabies Falls National Park**
Directions: <https://bit.ly/41VRg2n>

Programme:

The course starts at **09:00** sharp. Please arrive a few minutes earlier to enjoy coffee and tea refreshments while the team signs you in.

We kick off with a Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness, Spider Awareness and First Aid for Snakebite / Scorpion Sting lecture that lasts around 3.5 hours. It includes scorpion and spider awareness and first aid, snake awareness, biology and behaviour, myths and superstition, identification, basic first aid for snakebite, as well as the medical treatment of snakebite and is followed by a written test.

This is a full-day course with a tea break at around 10:45, and a lunch break at around 13:00 with a light lunch provided. If you have booked for the Venomous Snake Handling, this will start at around 14:00. Snake handling, depending on the group size, takes around 1½ - 2 hours.

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

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.

Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling	R 1 695.00
Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness Only (no snake handling)	R 1 035.00
Scholar's Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling	R 1 200.00
Scholar's Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness Only (no snake handling)	R 595.00

The Scholar's rates apply to delegates under 18 years of age.

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

There are two options for booking:

- 1) Please follow the [link](#) or
 - 2) Request a booking form from Michelle at courses@asiorg.co.za.
- Return the completed form and we will send you an invoice for payment.

Bookings close three days before the event (unless fully booked prior to this) please book early to avoid disappointment.

Cancellation policy:

No cancellation fees for changes or cancellation to your booking 48 hours prior to the course date.

50% cancellation fee for cancellations or changes within 48 hours of the course date.

100% cancellation fee for Non-attendance on the day of the course.

Important information:

- 1) No spectators are allowed during the Snake Awareness session, and this includes children. Spectators are welcome to watch the Venomous Snake Handling session from a safe distance but are not to interfere with the training in any way.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Our minimum age requirement for both the Awareness and the Handling course is 12 years of age.
- 5) 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) Daily Conservation fees are applicable (for your own account not included in course fees)

South African Citizens and Residents (with ID) (12+ years)	R73 per adult, per day
South African Citizens and Residents (2 - 12 years)	R37 per child, per day
SADC Nationals (with passport) (12+ years)	R149 per adult, per day
SADC Nationals (with passport) (2 - 12 years)	R74 per child, per day
Standard Conservation Fee (International visitors) (12+ years)	R325 per adult, per day
Standard Conservation Fee (International visitors) (2 - 12 years)	R163 per child, per day
- 6) 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.

Presenter details and accreditation:

Our courses are presented by one of our experienced trainers:

Johan Marais is the CEO of the African Snakebite Institute and is one of Africa's leading herpetologists, with over 45 years of experience. Johan is the most prominent author of snake books in Africa and has written the best-sellers - A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa, Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa and First Aid for Snakebite, to mention just a few. Johan regularly contributes to scientific papers and has been a reptile photographer for many years - with one of the largest herpetological image collections in Africa.

Luke Kemp is a keen herpetologist and photographer who has been working for the African Snakebite Institute for more than six years. In addition to presenting courses throughout Africa, Luke develops much of the ASI course material and does the identification of snakes from all over Africa on the ASI App. He is also co-authoring a new book with Johan on the Reptiles & Amphibians of southern Africa.

Sake van Wyk has been associated with the African Snakebite Institute for many years and has been trained by Johan Marais. He has presented snake awareness, first aid for snakebite and venomous snake handling training to various companies and institutions throughout South Africa. He is a keen herpetologist, an avid reptile photographer and assists with snake identifications and graphic design for our educational content.

Tim Brammer is an avid herpetologist who has been based in Malawi for the last few years, where he started presenting snake awareness and handling sessions. He also developed identification posters for the country and is working on a book of snakes of Malawi. Tim is a keen reptile photographer and assists on field surveys in various African countries, when possible.

Accreditation:

This course is registered with the following bodies:

HPCSA (Health Professions Council of South Africa) – registered health professionals earn 4 CPD points.

SAIOSH (South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) – registered participants receive 2 CPD points.

PCIPC (Pest Control Industry Professional Council) – registered members receive 3 CPD points when completing this course.

Our courses are accredited by the **ISZS** (the International Society of Zoological Sciences) and recognised by the **AFGA** (African Field Guides Association) and the **NFTGA** (National Federation of Tourist Guides & Affiliates).



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