



# ADVANCED VENOMOUS SNAKE HANDLING COURSE

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# Course Information

Course Date: **Sunday, 19 April 2026**  
Venue: **Exotic Animal World, Klapmuts, Western Cape**  
Directions: <https://bit.ly/3MrIJgZ>

## Programme:

The course starts at **09:30** sharp. Please arrive a few minutes earlier to enjoy coffee and tea refreshments while the team signs you in.

We kick off with a brief theory session, followed by the practical sessions.

The Advanced Venomous Snake Handling Course will include tailing tubing bagging probing and necking venomous snakes including Black Mambas.

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. The course usually concludes at around 15:00. Kindly note that these are suggested times and may vary.

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## Course Fees:

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

Advanced Venomous Snake Handling R 1 950.00

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](mailto:courses@asiorg.co.za).  
Return the completed form and we will send you an invoice for payment.

Spaces are limited.

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.

Occasionally we need to cancel courses. In this event, you will be notified at least 48 hours in advance, you will then have the option of moving the course to another date or for a full refund to be done.

# Important information:

- 1) This course is largely for individuals working at a reptile park or who keep venomous snakes, or who need to work with venomous snakes frequently. This course is however open to anyone with a valid, accredited Snake Handling Bootcamp course certificate, which is a prerequisite for anyone who wants to attend this course. (Please attach a copy of your valid certificate with your booking submission).
- 2) No spectators are allowed during the brief theory session, and this includes children. Spectators are welcome to watch the Advanced Venomous Snake Handling session 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 are not permitted during the brief theory and handling sessions, 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. Please note there isn't a dedicated photographer at the courses.
- 5) Our minimum age requirement for the Advanced Venomous Snake Handling course is 16 years of age.
- 6) Delegates 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.
- 8) Snake tongs, snake hooks, scorpion torches, posters, snake gaiters, first aid equipment, and some of Johan Marais' books will be available for sale on the day.

## Dress code and what to bring:

- 1) Delegates should wear long trousers and closed shoes and are advised to bring a hat.
- 2) The African Snakebite Institute will supply all equipment needed for delegates to use during the snake handling session.

## Certificates and course material:

Each delegate will receive a certificate in Advanced Venomous Snake Handling, a 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:

Our courses are presented by one of our experience trainers:

**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 Honors 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.