Venomous Snake Handling Bootcamp

Contact Michelle on:
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Course Information:

Course Date: Sunday, 29 November 2026
Venue: Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge, Muldersdrift, Gauteng
Directions: https://bit.ly/2r9oYnv

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.

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% canellation 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) 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) Please note that Cradle Moon Lakeside Lodge has been incorporated into a conservancy and now charges a **R 50.00** conservation levy for anyone who enters their premises. These charges are for the delegate's expense. Please ensure to purchase your exit slip at reception upon arrival as the main gate will not let you out without one.

3) No spectators are allowed during the indoor session, and this includes children.

4) 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.

5) 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.

6) Our minimum age requirement for this course is 14 years of age.

7) 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.

8) Should a delegate have any specific dietary requirements, they are welcome to bring their own lunch. Cradle Moon does have their own on-site restaurant.

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) 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:

Our courses are presented by one of our experienced 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.

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.