



Snake Awareness, First aid for Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling Course.



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Course date: 18 May 2019

Venue: The Venom Pit Snake Park, East London

Directions: <http://bit.ly/2HBr8nW>

<https://www.thevenompitsnakepark.com/contact>

Program

The course starts at 09:00 sharp with a Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness, Spider Awareness and First Aid for Snakebite/Scorpion sting lecture that lasts around 3 hours. It includes scorpion awareness, snake awareness, biology and behaviour, myths, identification, basic first aid for snakebite, scorpion sting and spider bite, as well as medical treatment of snakebite and is followed by a written test.

We will break at around 13:00 for lunch and snake handling, for those doing it, will start at around 14:00 (these times are suggested and not exact).

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: Puff Adder, Cape Cobra, Forest Cobra, Snouted Cobra and/or Rinkhals.

The African Snakebite Institute will supply all equipment needed for delegates to use during the snake handling session (hooks, tongs, buckets and tubes)

Other equipment needed:

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.

Dress code: Those doing the venomous snake handling should wear long trousers and closed shoes. On hot days please bring along a hat.

Important:

- 1). No spectators are allowed during the Snake Awareness session. This includes children. Spectators (including children) are welcome to watch the venomous snake handling session from a safe distance but please ensure that spectators, especially small children, do not interfere with the training in any way.
- 2). Photographs will be taken during the course and 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.
- 3). Cell phones: The use of cell 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) Our minimum age requirement for both the Awareness course and the Handling course is 12 years of age.

Please note:

1). Delegates that do the venomous snake handling will have to sign an indemnity prior to the practical session. Those below 21 years of age will have to have a parent or guardian sign the indemnity.

Costs:

The ***Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling*** course costs R1650.00 per person and includes coffee/tea and a light lunch.

For those who want to do the ***Snake Awareness/Scorpion Awareness and First Aid for Snakebite/Scorpion sting*** section without handling, the cost is R990.00 per person.

Scholars under 18 years of age pay a reduced fee of R990.00 for the full course or R550.00 for Snake Awareness.

The full amount will have to be paid prior to the course to secure your attendance. Employees of game lodges and corporate companies can provide an official order to secure a booking.

Credentials:

Our courses are presented by Johan Marais, one of Africa's leading herpetologist with over 40 years of experience. Johan is a **FGASA** approved service provider and accredited by **ISZS** (the ***International Society of Zoological Sciences***). Johan is the most 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* 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 advisor to various hospitals and clinics throughout Africa. He conducts snake awareness and venomous snake handling courses for a variety of organisations, including **Travel Doctors** and **Inhemaco**. This course is registered with the **Health Professions Council of South Africa** and registered health professionals earn 4 CPD points (level 2). This course is also recognised by the Directorate of Nature Conservation, Gauteng, for those applying for a problem snake removal permit.

Certificates and course material:

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

Equipment

Snake tongs, snake hooks, scorpion torches, posters and some of Johan's books will be available for sale on the day. Delegates that have any of Johan's books are welcome to bring them along for an autograph.

To book please complete a course booking form and E-mail both the booking form and proof of payment to Ashley - admin@asiorg.co.za

