

DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Southern Africa has one hundred and seventy three different types of snakes. Seventy two are not venomous, while twenty nine can inflict rather painful bites. Twenty species are considered potentially deadly.

VERY DANGEROUS
Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS
Painful bite, but does not require antivenom



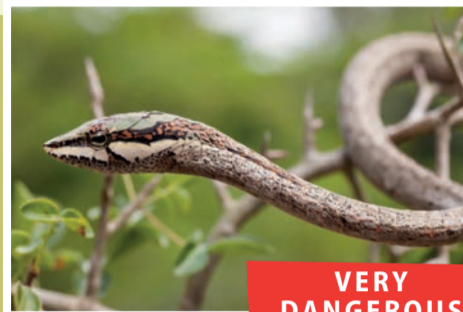
VERY DANGEROUS

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Green Mamba
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Southern Twig Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis capensis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Common Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Common Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



DANGEROUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Black-necked Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricollis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Black Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*) Photo Marius Burger



VERY DANGEROUS

Snouted Cobra
(*Naja annulifera*)



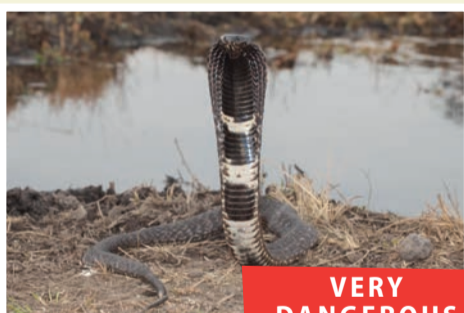
VERY DANGEROUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Forest Cobra
(*Naja melanoleuca*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Zebra Cobra
(*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*)



VERY DANGEROUS

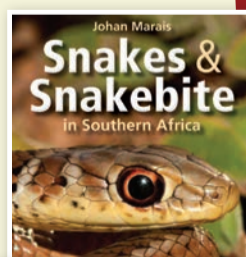
Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis gabonica*)

JOHAN MARAIS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness**, **Scorpion Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).



EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKE BITE

- 1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and transport the victim to the closest hospital **without delay**.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or make use of a Bag Valve Mask.
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: 0861 555 777.

DO NOT

- ... apply a tourniquet.
- ... cut and suck the wound.
- ... use ice or very hot water.
- ... give the victim alcohol.
- ... apply electric shock.
- ... inject antivenom randomly.

Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.

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