

COMMON SNAKES OF THE SOUTH COAST



The South Coast has under forty different types of snakes. Seven species are highly venomous, while two others can inflict a rather painful bites. Two species are venomous. Seven species are considered mildly venomous. Twenty species are harmless.

VERY DANGEROUS

Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



VERY DANGEROUS

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Green Mamba
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Southern Twig Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



DANGEROUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



DANGEROUS

Rhombic Night Adder
(*Causus rhombatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*)



DANGEROUS

Natal Black Snake
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Black-headed Centipede-eater
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



HARMLESS

Green Water Snake
(*Philothamnus hoplogaster*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake
(*Lycophidion capense*)



HARMLESS

Dusky-bellied Water Snake
(*Lycodonormorphus laevisissimus*)



HARMLESS

Southern Brown Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)



HARMLESS

Peters' Thread Snake
(*Leptotyphlops scutifrons*)

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).

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