

COMMON SNAKES OF PORT ST JOHNS



The Port St Johns area has under thirty different types of snakes. Four species are highly venomous, while two others can inflict a rather painful bite. Four species are considered mildly venomous. Twelve 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

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*) - photo Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Natal Purple-glossed Snake
(*Amblyodipsas concolor*) - photo Marius Burger



DANGEROUS

Natal Black Snake
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*)



DANGEROUS

Rhombic Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Dusky-bellied Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus laevisimus*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Southern Brown Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)



HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater
(*Duberrina lutrix*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)

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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