

COMMON SNAKES OF PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK



There are around 22 snake species in the Pilanesberg area. Eight are harmless, another eight can deliver a painful bite and six are considered very dangerous.

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

Snouted Cobra
(*Naja annulifera*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Striped Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax tritaeniatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Common Purple-glossed Snake
(*Amblyodipsas polylepis*)



DANGEROUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Yellow-bellied Sand Snake
(*Psammophis subtaeniatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Dwarf Sand Snake
(*Psammophis angolensis*) - photo Ashley Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Common File Snake
(*Limaformosus capensis*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake
(*Lycophidion capense*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)

JOHAN MARAS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-sellers *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa* and *Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of public and corporate courses including **Snake Awareness, Spider Awareness, Scorpion Awareness, Venomous Snake Handling, First Aid for Snakebite and Basic Life Support**. These courses are accredited by the **Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)** and endorsed by the **Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA)**.

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