

# COMMON SNAKES OF BOTSWANA



Botswana has 62 species of snakes. Eight species are considered potentially deadly. Another ten species can give a bad bite. Twenty species are mildly venomous and not dangerous to humans. Twenty-four species are harmless.

## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused human fatalities

## VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

## MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang - male**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Southern Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Anchieta's Cobra**  
(*Naja anchietae*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Speckled Shield-nose Snake**  
(*Aspidelaps s. scutatus*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Bibron's Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



**CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE**

**Southern African Python**  
(*Python natalensis*)



**CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE**

**Mole Snake**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Olive Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Western Yellow-bellied Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis subtaeniatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Eastern Tiger Snake**  
(*Telescopus semiannulatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Striped Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax triaenatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Herald Snake**  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)

**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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