

COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SIERRA LEONE



Sierra Leone has a large variety of snakes. Around ten species of snakes are highly venomous. About eight are venomous but not deadly. The majority of snakes encountered are either mildly venomous or harmless to humans.

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

Jameson's Mamba
(*Dendroaspis jamesoni*) - Photo Bill Branch



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Black-necked Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricollis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Black Forest Cobra
(*Naja guineensis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Forest Vine Snake
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - Photo Steve Spawls



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Western Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis rhinoceros*) - photo Luke Kemp



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Western Bush Viper
(*Atheris chlorechis*) - photo Mo Rodel



VENOMOUS

Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis* spp.) - Photo Luke Kemp



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

African Rock Python
(*Python sebae*) - Photo Steve Spawls



VENOMOUS

Blanding's Tree Snake - male
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Photo Gerald Dunger



VENOMOUS

Blanding's Tree Snake - female
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Dr Jean-François Trape



VENOMOUS

Blanding's Tree Snake - juvenile
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - photo Luke Verburgt



VENOMOUS

Forest Night Adder - plain form
(*Causus maculatus*)



VENOMOUS

Forest Night Adder
(*Causus maculatus*) - Photo Jelmer Groen



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Elegant Sand Snake
(*Psammophis elegans*) - Photo Bobby Bok



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Ball Python
(*Python regius*) - Photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Common Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



HARMLESS

African House Snake
(*Boaedon* sp.) - Photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Variegated Marsh Snake
(*Natriciteres variegata*) - Photo Bill Branch

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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