

COMMON SNAKES OF PIETERMARITZBURG



Pietermaritzburg has around twenty three different types of snakes. Four species are highly venomous, while four others can inflict a rather painful bites. Three species are considered mildly venomous and twelve are 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

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

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



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



VENOMOUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*)



HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater
(*Duberrina lutrix*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*) - photo Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*) - photo Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Green Water Snake
(*Philothamnus hoplogaster*)



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Brown Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



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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