

COMMON SNAKES OF CAPE TOWN



Cape Town has around 26 species of snakes. Five species are considered highly venomous. Two species are venomous and another can deliver a painful bite that may require stitches. Seven species are mildly venomous and the rest 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

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Berg Adder
(*Bitis atropos*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Harlequin Snake
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Karoo Sand Snake
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Many-spotted Reed Snake
(*Amplorhinus multimaculatus*)



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Mole Snake - adult
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Mole Snake - juvenile
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Delalande's Beaked Blind Snake
(*Rhynchophis lalandei*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Flowerpot Snake
(*Indotyphlops braminus*)

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 CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling. ASI is accredited by the **International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS)** and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. The courses are also accredited by the **Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)**. ASI is the largest provider of quality snake handling and safety equipment in Africa.

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