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)

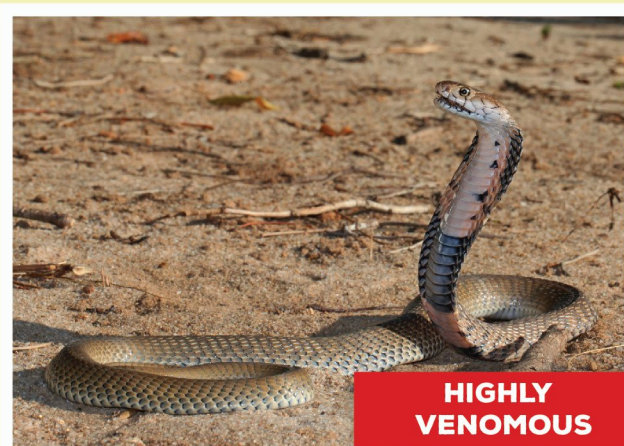HIGHLY VENOMOUS
Southern Vine Snake
(Thelotornis capensis)

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
Speckeld 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 tritaeniatus)

MILDLY VENOMOUS
Herald Snake
(Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia)

HARMLESS
Spotted Bush Snake
(Philothamnus semivariegatus) - 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 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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