

# COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF LIBERIA



Liberia has around 62 different types of snakes. Around seven species of snakes are highly venomous. About nine 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**

Western Green Mamba  
(*Dendroaspis viridis*) - 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 Richard McKibbin



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Rhino-horned Adder  
(*Bitis nasicornis*)



**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*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Emerald Snake  
(*Hapsidophrys smaragdinus*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Sand Snake  
(*Psammophis* sp.)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Herald Snake  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

Common Bush Snake  
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

Spotted Blind Snake  
(*Afrotrophops punctatus*) - Photo Luke Kemp

**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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