

# COMMON SNAKES OF THE SOUTHERN CAPE



The Southern Cape has around 28 species of snakes. Five species are considered highly venomous. Three species are venomous and one can deliver a painful bite that may require stitches. Six 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**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang - male**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Berg Adder**  
(*Bitis atropos*)



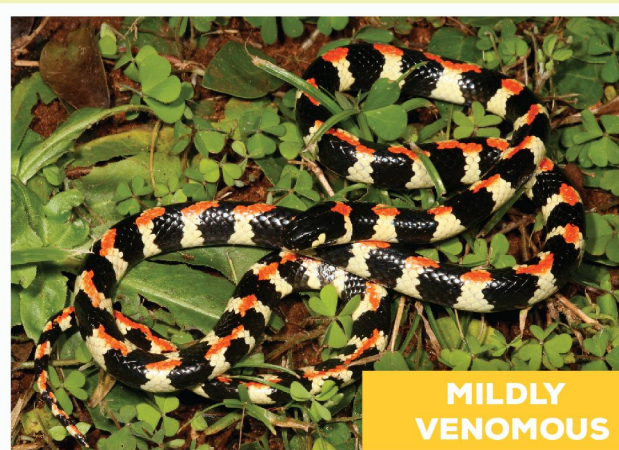
**VENOMOUS**

**Common Night Adder**  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Herald Snake**  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Harlequin Snake**  
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Many-spotted Reed Snake**  
(*Amplorhinus multimaculatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Cross-marked Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Karoo Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake - adult**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



**HARMLESS**

**Western Natal Green Snake**  
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Brown Water Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



**HARMLESS**

**Olive Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Delalande's Beaked Blind Snake**  
(*Rhinotyphlops lalandei*) - 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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