

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF RWANDA



Rwanda has a large selection of snakes. Eleven species are considered highly venomous and around nine species are dangerous or can inflict a painful bite. The majority of snakes are mildly venomous or harmless to humans.

**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Has caused human fatalities

**VENOMOUS**

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Jameson's Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis jamesoni*) - photo Bill Branch



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Egyptian Cobra**  
(*Naja haje*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Brown Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja subfulva*) - photo Luke Verburgt



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Black-necked Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis gabonica*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Rhino-horned Adder**  
(*Bitis nasicornis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Gold's Tree Cobra**  
(*Pseudohaje goldii*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Forest Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - Photo Richard Mckibbin



**VENOMOUS**

**Great Lakes Bush Viper**  
(*Atheris nitschei*) - photo Robin Backhouse



**VENOMOUS**

**Variable Bush Viper**  
(*Atheris squamigera*) - photo Robin Backhouse



**VENOMOUS**

**Lichtenstein's Night Adder**  
(*Causus lichtensteini*) - photo Dr. Eli Greenbaum



**VENOMOUS**

**Velvety Green Night Adder**  
(*Causus resimus*)



**VENOMOUS**

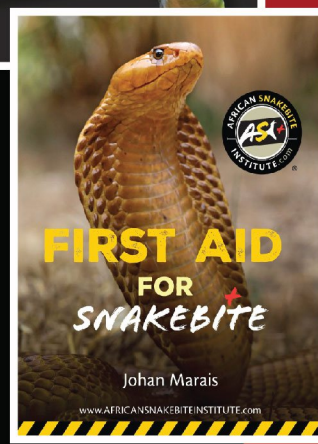
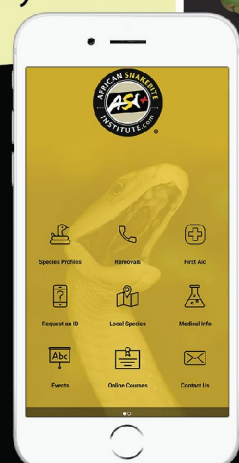
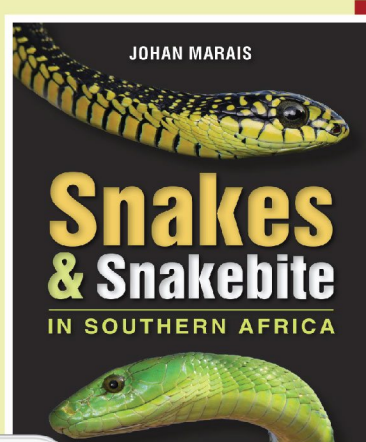
**Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis* sp.) - Photo Bill Branch



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**African Rock Python**  
(*Python sebae*)

**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.



Free **ASI SNAKES** App

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## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

### IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKE BITE

- 1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and transport the victim to the closest hospital **without delay**.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or make use of a Bag Valve Mask.
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: +27 861 555 777.

### DO NOT

- ... apply a tourniquet.
- ... cut and suck the wound.
- ... use ice or very hot water.
- ... give the victim alcohol.
- ... apply electric shock.
- ... inject antivenom randomly. Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.