

# COMMON DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Southern Africa has one hundred and seventy seven species of snakes. Seventy eight are considered non-venomous, while thirty can inflict a painful bite. Only nineteen species are considered potentially deadly.

## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused  
human fatalities

## VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does  
not require antivenom



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Brown Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja subfulva*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



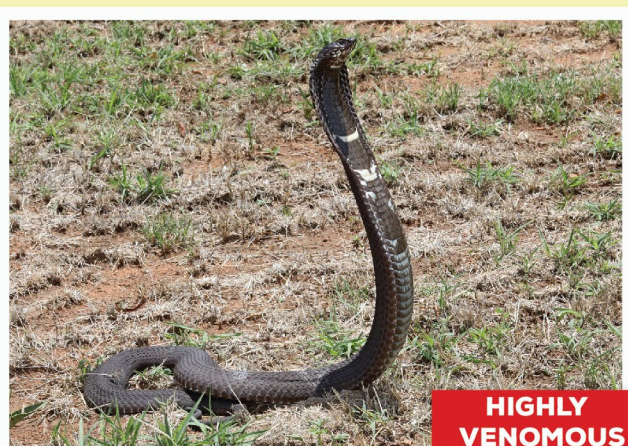
**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Zebra Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Southern Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



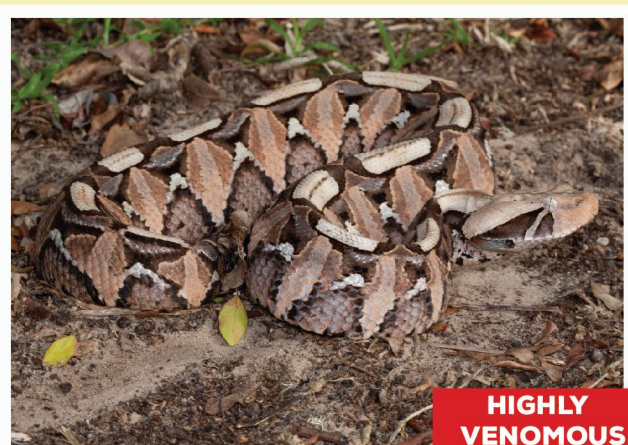
**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang - female**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Bibron's Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)

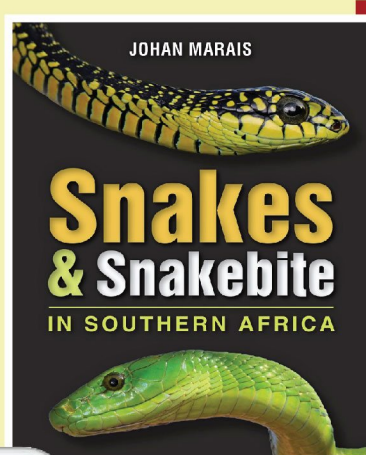
**JOHAN MARAIS** is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller ***A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa***. He is a popular public speaker and CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, 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: 0861 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.