

# COMMON SNAKES OF ZEERUST



Zeerust has around twenty six different species of snakes. Six species are considered highly venomous. Another three may give a bad bite but are not life-threatening. Seven are considered mildly venomous and the other ten are completely harmless to humans.

## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused human fatalities

## VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

## MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful to humans

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**CAN INFLICT A  
PAINFUL BITE**

**Southern African Python**  
(*Python natalensis*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Common Purple-glossed Snake**  
(*Amblyodipsas polylepis*)



**VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Short-snouted Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Dwarf Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis angolensis*) - photo Ashley Kemp



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Striped Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax triaeniatus*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - Photo: Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

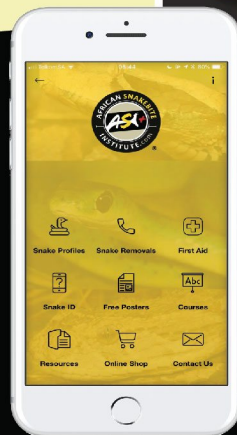
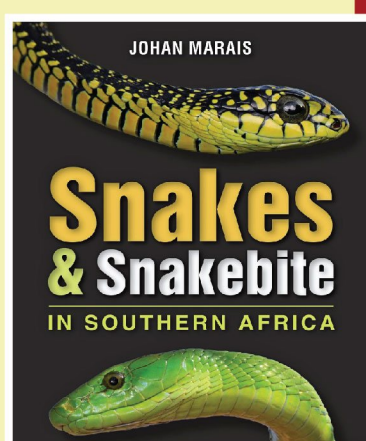
**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



**HARMLESS**

**Bibron's Blind Snake**  
(*Afrotyphlops 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.

### 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.