

COMMON SNAKES OF THE FREE STATE



The Free State has 42 different types of snakes. Four species are highly venomous. Six species are venomous and two can give a painful bite. Twelve are mildly venomous and eighteen species 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**

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Berg Adder
(*Bitis atropos*)



VENOMOUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Striped Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax triaeniatus*) - photo Sake van Wyk



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Black-headed Centipede-eater
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Spotted Harlequin Snake
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



**CAN INFLICT A
PAINFUL BITE**

Mole Snake
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake
(*Lycophidion capense*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater
(*Duberria lutrix*)



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)



HARMLESS

Delaland's Beaked Blind Snake
(*Rhinoityphlops lalandei*)

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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