

COMMON SNAKES OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KwaZulu-Natal has 83 different types of snakes. Twelve species are highly venomous. Eleven species are venomous and two can give a painful bite. Seventeen are mildly venomous and 41 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

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Green Mamba
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Southern Vine Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*) - photo Sake van Wyk



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*) - photo Sake van Wyk



VENOMOUS

Natal Black Snake
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*) - photo Sake van Wyk



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Gras Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*) - photo Sake van Wyk



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*) - photo Sake van Wyk



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*) - photo Sake van Wyk



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HARMLESS

Eastern Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus natalensis*)



HARMLESS

Brown Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)

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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