

COMMON SNAKES OF THE WESTERN CAPE



The Western Cape has 42 different types of snakes. Six species are highly venomous. Nine species are venomous and one can give a painful bite. Eight 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

Boomslang
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Berg Adder
(*Bitis atropos*)



VENOMOUS

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



VENOMOUS

Cape Coral Snake
(*Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Harlequin Snake
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cape Sand Snake
(*Psammophis leightoni*) - photo Sake van Wyk



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Karoo Sand Snake
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Mole Snake
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*) - photo Sake van Wyk



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater
(*Duberria lutrix*) - photo Sake van Wyk



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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