

# COMMON SNAKES OF RICHARDS BAY



Richards Bay has around twenty five different types of snakes. Six are considered highly venomous while another three can give a painful bite. Most snakes encountered are mildly venomous or 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**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**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*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Natal Black Snake**  
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Olive Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



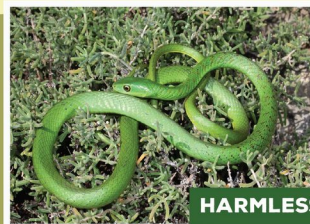
**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Marbled Tree Snake**  
(*Dipsadaboa aulica*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Eastern Natal Green Snake**  
(*Philothamnus natalensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariatus*)

**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 helpline 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.