

# COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SIERRA LEONE



Sierra Leone has a large variety of snakes. Around ten species of snakes are highly venomous. About eight are venomous but not deadly. The majority of snakes encountered are either 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

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

West African Green Mamba  
(*Dendroaspis viridis*) - Photo Bill Branch



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Black-necked Spitting Cobra  
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Black Forest Cobra  
(*Naja guineensis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Forest Vine Snake  
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - Photo Richard Mckibbin



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Western Gaboon Adder  
(*Bitis rhinoceros*) - photo Luke Kemp



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

Puff Adder  
(*Bitis arietans*)



**VENOMOUS**

Western Bush Viper  
(*Atheris chlorechis*) - photo Mo Rodel



**VENOMOUS**

Stiletto Snake  
(*Atractaspis* spp.) - Photo Luke Kemp



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

African Rock Python  
(*Python sebae*)



**VENOMOUS**

Blanding's Tree Snake - male  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Photo Gerald Dunger



**VENOMOUS**

Blanding's Tree Snake - female  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - photo Luke Kemp



**VENOMOUS**

Blanding's Tree Snake - juvenile  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - photo Luke Verburgt



**VENOMOUS**

Spotted Night Adder - plain form  
(*Causus maculatus*)



**VENOMOUS**

Spotted Night Adder  
(*Causus maculatus*) - Photo Jelmer Groen



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Elegant Sand Snake  
(*Psammophis elegans*) - Photo Bobby Bok



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Herald Snake  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**HARMLESS**

Ball Python  
(*Python regius*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

Common Bush Snake  
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



**HARMLESS**

African House Snake  
(*Boaedon* sp.) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

Variegated Marsh Snake  
(*Natriciteres variegata*) - Photo Bill Branch

**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.

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute

+27 82 494 2039 | [johan@asiorg.co.za](mailto:johan@asiorg.co.za)

[www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com](http://www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com)

Get the **FREE ASI SNAKES APP**

Use our app to learn about snakes, find trained snake removers in your area, browse our free resources, and more.

