

# COMMON SNAKES OF GANSBAAI



Gansbaai has around 16 species of snakes. Four species are highly venomous. One species can give a bad bite and one other may require stitches. Five species are mildly venomous. Five 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 to humans

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Cape Cobra** - adult  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang** - male  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Many-spotted Reed Snake**  
(*Amplorhinus multimaculatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Harlequin Snake**  
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Southern Adder**  
(*Bitis armata*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Cross-marked Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Brown Water Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



**HARMLESS**

**Olive Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



**HARMLESS**

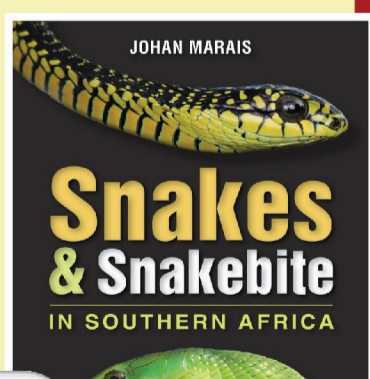
**Common Slug-eater**  
(*Duberria lutrix*)



**HARMLESS**

**Sundevall's Shovel-snout**  
(*Prosymna sundevallii*)

**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 help-line 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.