

COMMON SNAKES OF MOSSEL BAY



Mossel bay has around eighteen species of snakes. Three species are considered highly venomous. One species can give a bad bite. Five species are mildly venomous and nine 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
(*Naja nivea*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Harlequin Snake
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Karoo Sand Snake
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

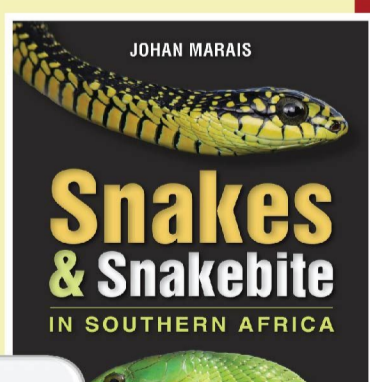
Common Slug-eater
(*Duberria lutrix*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Delalande's Beaked Blind Snake
(*Rhinoityphlops lalandei*) - photo Luke Kemp

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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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.