

COMMON SNAKES OF JOHANNESBURG



Johannesburg has around 26 species of snakes. Two species are considered highly venomous. Three species are venomous and another can deliver a painful bite that may require stitches. Eight species are mildly venomous and the rest 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

Rinkhals - adult
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rinkhals - juvenile
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



HARMLESS

Mole Snake - juvenile
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



CAN INFLECT A PAINFUL BITE

Mole Snake - adult
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



VENOMOUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Black-headed Centipede-eater
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonormorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonormorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake
(*Lycophidion capense*)



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotrophlops bibronii*)

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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