

COMMON SNAKES OF CAPE TOWN



Cape Town has a great variety of snakes with most of them not considered dangerous. Three species can inflict painful bites while three are considered very dangerous.

VERY DANGEROUS

Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus typus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus typus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



HARMLESS

Herald or Red-lipped Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Harlequin Snake
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*) Photo Marius Burger



HARMLESS

Cross-marked Grass snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



HARMLESS

Karoo Sand Snake
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



HARMLESS

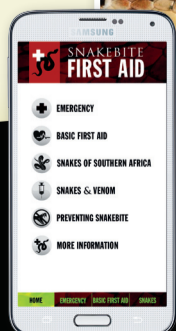
Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE

Mole Snake
(*Pseudaspis cana*)

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 offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).



Johan Marais | +27 82 494 2039
African Snakebite Institute
johan@africansnakebiteinstitute.com
Visit www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com

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.