

COMMON SNAKES OF JHB/PRETORIA



Johannesburg and Pretoria has a great variety of snakes with most of them not considered dangerous. Two species can inflict painful bites while five species can be considered very dangerous.

VERY DANGEROUS

Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



VERY DANGEROUS

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Snouted Cobra - banded variety
(*Naja annulifera*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*) Photo Martin Smit



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



DANGEROUS

Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



DANGEROUS

Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)



HARMLESS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*) Photo Tyrone Ping



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



HARMLESS

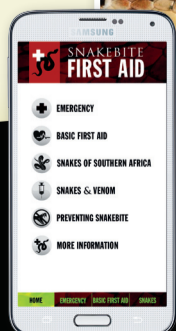
Black-headed Centipede-eater
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



CAN INFLECT 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).



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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.