

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Southern Africa has in the region of 170 different types of snakes. Although more than half of them are technically venomous, only 14 species are considered potentially deadly.



**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



**Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis capensis*)



**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**Boomslang** (*Dispholidus typus*)  
male from Mpumalanga



**Boomslang** (*Dispholidus typus*)  
female



**Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*) Photo Marius Burger



**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja melanoleuca*)



**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**Barred Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*)

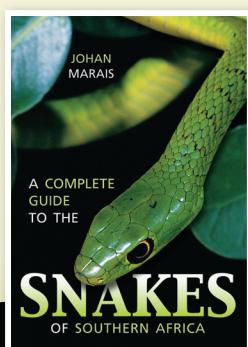


**Puff Adder** (*Bitis arietans arietans*)  
from Limpopo



**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis gabonica*)

**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** and **Snake Handling**. Accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider.



Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute | +27 82 494 2039  
johan@africansnakebiteinstitute.com  
Find out more at [www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com](http://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.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.).
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: +27 21 9316129.

### DO NOT

- ... 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.



# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa has in the region of 170 different types of snakes. Although more than half of them are technically venomous, only 14 species are considered potentially deadly.



**AFRICAN  
SNAKEBITE  
INSTITUTE**  
.com



**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



**Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis capensis*)



**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**Boomslang** (*Dispholidus typus*)  
male from Mpumalanga



**Boomslang** (*Dispholidus typus*)  
female



**Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*) Photo Marius Burger



**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja melanoleuca*)



**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**Barred Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*)

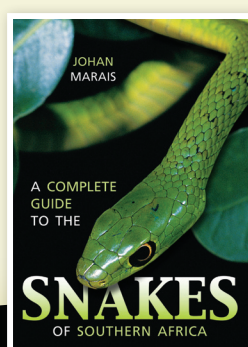


**Puff Adder** (*Bitis arietans arietans*)  
from Limpopo



**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis gabonica*)

**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** and **Snake Handling**. Accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider.



Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute | +27 82 494 2039  
johan@africansnakebiteinstitute.com  
Find out more at [www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com](http://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.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.).
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: +27 21 9316129.

### DO NOT

- ... 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.