

# 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 13 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



**Hatchling Boomslang**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**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 of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. Importer and distributor of snake tongs and snake hooks.

Johan Marais | Reptile Ventures | +27 824942039  
johan@reptileventures.com  
Visit [www.reptileventures.com](http://www.reptileventures.com) for more!

## 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.