

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa has in the region of 130 different types of snakes. Although 55% of them are technically venomous, only 12 species are considered potentially deadly.



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



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



**Vine Snake**  
(*Thalassia capensis capensis*)



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



**Boombang** (*Diplolobus typus*)  
male from Mpumalanga



**Boombang** (*Diplolobus typus*)  
female



**Hatchling Boombang**  
(*Diplolobus typus*)



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



**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*) from Maseru



**Spouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



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



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



**Rinkhab**  
(*Namochortus haemachatus*)



**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Sistrurus gabonensis*)



**Puff Adder** (*Sistrurus ananensis*)  
from Limpopo



**Puff Adder** (*Sistrurus ananensis*)  
from the Kalahari

**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 togs and snake hooks.

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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.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.).
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre helpline for further advice - 021 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.