

SNAKES OF AFRICA



Five of the most dangerous snakes in Africa are:

Puff adder-These are the most common poisonous snakes in Africa and are found in most areas of Africa, except for parts of the Sahara, tropical rainforests, and high altitudes. They have flat, triangular-shaped heads and are usually blackish-brown in color. Some consider this snake to be the most dangerous snake in Africa, not only because of its common presence but also because of its large size, potent venom, and willingness to bite.

Black mamba-These are not usually black in color but dark brown or olive. The dark area around the mouth is why this snake got its name. When it becomes agitated, it is one of the most aggressive and deadliest snake in Africa. Some experts consider it the most deadly snake in the world. They are located in the hotter regions of the continent. The black mamba has the longest fangs of any snake and when it strikes, it delivers quick multiple bites. The venom of this snake is highly poisonous. A human has up to four hours to live after one is bitten.

Egyptian cobra-This fast-moving, nocturnal snake, usually averaging around five to six feet, is extremely dangerous and responsible for many human deaths. The venom of the Egyptian cobra destroys nerve tissue, and it is much stronger than that of the common cobra. When injected into its prey, the venom causes paralysis and death due to respiratory failure, usually within 15 minutes.

Gaboon viper-This snake is extremely venomous but usually docile, living in the tropical forests of Central Africa. It is the heaviest venomous snake in Africa, weighing 18 pounds and growing to seven feet. It has the longest fangs of any snake, measuring up to 1.6 inches long.

Boomslang-This is a large, venomous snake native to the savannas of sub-Saharan Africa that lives in trees and moves quickly. Its average length is about three to five feet. It has a highly potent venom, which it delivers through large fangs located in the rear of the jaw. The venom prevents blood clotting, which causes the victim to die from internal and external bleeding.

