

Snake FAQ

Here I'll answer common questions about the snakes of Thailand.

What should I do if bitten by a snake in Thailand?

1. Remember as much about the snake as you can and get to the hospital immediately. Snakes are very hard to identify. Some Thailand snakes can kill you in as little as 10 minutes with a good bite.
2. Don't waste time sitting around waiting for symptoms to arise before going to the hospital. Minutes are crucial with venomous snakes.
3. If you can't get to a hospital yourself, look at the emergency phone numbers in the upper right of this page.

[HERE](#) is a better page telling what to do for snakebite in Thailand.

How common are venomous snakes in Thailand?

Very, very common.

Where are most venomous snakes located in Thailand?

They are literally all over Thailand. Many of the venomous snakes here in Thailand call vast stretches of Asia their home.

Should I kill all the snakes I see around my house?

No, for 2 reasons.

1. The snake may bite you during your attempt.
2. There are Thai 'snake guys' in every town that can take the snake away for you without killing it. Reach them by having a Thai person call the police and asking them to send the snake

guys to your location.

How strong is the venom of Thailand snakes?

Very strong in some cases. A king cobra has killed an elephant with one bite. A king cobra killed a man in southern Thailand in less than 10 minutes. A baby krait less than 10 inches long, in Burma (same as we have in Thailand) killed a world famous herpetologist – Joe Slowinski in 30 hours because he couldn't reach a hospital with a ventilator and other crucial technology.

Which is the most deadly snake in Thailand?

Krait (any Thailand species) venom is probably the most potent against humans. It acts on the nervous system, killing the nerve impulses. This paralyzes muscles and eventually causes respiratory failure. The good news is, you are very, very unlikely to see a krait in Thailand.

Which Thailand snake kills the most people?

The Malayan Pit Viper, the Malayan krait, and the Banded krait kill more people in Thailand than other snakes. Another very dangerous snake is the Russell's Viper which is found in certain parts of Thailand. Russell's vipers kill more people worldwide than any other snake on the planet.

Keep in mind that a vast number of snake bite cases go unreported, or deaths are reported as something else. With krait bites, they can occur at night as someone rolls over on one. The bite can be painless and the person wakes up paralyzed and soon dies, because nobody knows what happened. They are probably assumed to have passed away during sleep.

What should I do if I encounter a snake in the forest?

If it is on the ground and you are close to it – within 1 meter, you should very slowly move back away from it. Cobras which have already hooded up like to strike when you are

backing away fast. If you go slow enough that they cannot tell you are backing away – you'll probably be OK.

If it is green and in a tree you should move back quickly from it. Vipers have heat sensing organs that will trigger the snake to bite automatically sometimes if it senses you are hot.

If it's a viper on the ground (green or brown) – same idea, move as fast as you can away.