

# The Parting Shot



Many of our readers seem to be greatly enjoying our snake images, so here's another nice portrait we recently took during a trip to South Africa - a beautiful Cape cobra *Naja nivea*, on this occasion in a dazzling and highly unusual purplish and burnt orange color phase, rearing up in a very convincing threat display by the Atlantic ocean's shoreline near Yzerfontein in the Western Cape Province. A rather common locally, obviously very venomous species, and truly an impressi-

ve animal in a spectacular location. For those technically inclined, this portrait was taken, like the great majority of our wide-macro (also known as "habitat") shots, utilizing our usual rig - a Nikon D500 camera body mounting a Sigma 15mm f/2.8 DG EX Diagonal Fisheye Lens, with fill-in flash lighting being provided by one camera-mounted SB700 and two side-placed SB-R200 mounted on an extensible Albatros bracket, designed and produced in Italy by <http://www.agnos.com>.

The photo was taken in manual, matrix metering, at 1/160 sec, f/13, ISO 100. The cobra was about 120cm (4 feet) long, so the front of the lens was about 30cm (1 foot) away from the snake. This is obviously quite close when dealing with a venomous animal which is defensive and is ready to strike, so please do not attempt to do the same if you are not experienced in dealing with dangerous, potentially deadly subjects and are not familiar with the animal's body language. ●