

## EVENTS

### At Halgolla Plantation Home

#### Daily

1. Preparation of ingredients & cooking of traditional foods on our open-hearth in clay utensils. While we do **not** provide “cooking lessons” as such, guests are welcome to observe & participate in the making of *pol roti*, *stringhoppers*, *pittu*, *kiributh*; and the curries, *sambols* and *mallungs* which accompany rice and other meals
2. Harvesting (wild) leaf & other vegetables
3. Explore the surroundings of the Homestay - vegetation, birds, animals etc. – on a variety of self-guided, well-sign-posted walking trails of varying difficulty, none requiring mountaineering skills!

#### Seasonal

1. Vanilla pollination – **Jan. – Feb.**
2. Vanilla bean harvest & commencement of curing – **Apr./May**
3. Cinnamon harvest, peeling & curing – **Year round**
4. Nutmeg harvest & processing – **Jan.-May**
5. Pepper harvest & processing - **Nov.-Feb, Apr. – Jun.**
6. Clove harvest and processing - **Nov.**
7. Coconuts & King coconuts harvesting– **Year round, at two-monthly intervals**
8. Fruit harvest (40+ varieties) – **at various times of the year**

### Off-site events of particular interest

<b>April</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> (Buddhist) <i>Wesak Full Moon Poya</i> * <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesak">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesak</a>	<b>August</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> Esala Perahera in Kandy. Magnificent torch lit procession without equal anywhere in the world, every night with hundreds of dancers, drummers, jugglers etc. and dozens of gaily-caprisoned elephants. Seating may be obtained through HPH if booked well in advance. <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Esala_Perahera">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Esala_Perahera</a>
<b>June</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> (Buddhist) <i>Poson Full Moon Poya</i> * <a href="https://lankainformation.lk/directory/culture-and-social/festivals/4024-poson-in-mihintale-and-anuradhapura">https://lankainformation.lk/directory/culture-and-social/festivals/4024-poson-in-mihintale-and-anuradhapura</a>	

### Off-site excursions

<http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com/PlacesOfInterestNearby.htm>

1. Tea plantations (We'll organize whatever you are interested in)
2. Magnificent mountain scenery and waterfalls (We'll organize whatever you are interested in)
3. Morning and day trips from HPH – <http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com/PlacesOfInterestNearby.htm> (We'll organize whatever you are interested in)
4. Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Botanical\\_Gardens,\\_Peradeniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Botanical_Gardens,_Peradeniya)
5. *Dalada Maligawa* (Temple housing Lord Buddha's tooth relic) – World Heritage Site - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple\\_of\\_the\\_Tooth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth)
6. Polonnaruwa - Capital of Sri Lanka +/- 1500 years ago when it was “the granary of the East” – World Heritage Site - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polonnaruwa>
7. Anuradhapura – Capital of Sri Lanka +/- 2500 years ago – World Heritage Site <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura>
8. Sigiriya – Unique pleasure garden of a parricide king atop a huge rock – World Heritage Site <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigiriya>
9. Dambulla rock caves –Murals & statues created over a period of approx. 2000 years – World Heritage Site - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dambulla\\_cave\\_temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dambulla_cave_temple)
10. Moneragala *Samadhi* Buddha Statue – The largest in the world at 67.5 feet, carved out of a granite mountain. Magnificent example of the stone carvers' art! <http://www.samadhibuddhastatue.lk/>
11. Pinnawela Elephant facilities. A morning is all that is required to visit one or several of the elephant facilities without equal at Pinnawela. <http://nationalzoo.gov.lk/elephantorphanage/visitor-information/>

\**Poya* is the day in the lunar calendar that has for Buddhists the significance that Sunday has for Christians and Friday for Muslims. *Vesak* & *Poson* are the most important of these