



Entry to and exit from HPH

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- June 2013 -

While May saw the celebration of the internationally most important Buddhist festival – Vesak – which commemorates the birth, achievement of enlightenment and demise of the Gautama, June brings with it a Buddhist festival of particular importance to Sri Lanka – Poson – which celebrates the arrival of the *Dhamma* in The Resplendent Isle (Sri Lanka). Traditionally, it is a quieter festival without the noisy *Dhanselas* and elaborately-decorated and -lit *Pandals* which typify Vesak. The forest near Mihintale, a day-trip away from HPH, is where, tradition has it, Mahinda, the son of the Indian Emperor Asoka, first encountered the reigning Sinhala monarch engaged in hunting a stag and not only persuaded to give up the chase but introduced him to Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism was not only established in Sri Lanka more than 2500 years ago but reached an international importance whereby this country is considered *primus inter pares* among those nations where Buddhism is the principle faith of the nation.

The moderation in weather has resulted in the bird and other wild life around HPH getting a new lease of vibrant life and, as I type this, the early morning is filled with birdsong with the Flame Trees (*Poinciana*) being a particular attraction to many of our avian friends.

The lumber from the late-lamented giant *Tabebuia rosea* which was struck down by a freak thunderbolt a little better than a year ago has provided three tables as mementoes of its existence in our front yard — one as a buffet table in the dining room and one each in Ben’s and Nellie’s Suites as writing/computer/utility tables. Another little enhancement to visitor comfort if you will!

Unfortunately, it was before we encountered the mushrooms on the log depicted on the accompanying picture that a Japanese hitchhiker showed up on our doorstep in search of mushrooms of the same description which, he told us, were much sought-

after for medicinal purposes (and very expensive) in the Land of the Rising Sun. Ah, well, the next time, perhaps!



Mushrooms on log



Jambu fruit on tree & ground

Our stock of home-made jams, jellies and other preserves has been replenished recently thanks to Arlene’s efforts with the able assistance of our head cook, Padma, and Mallika. These include guava, nutmeg jelly, *Nelli* jam, *Jambu* dessert dressing and mango chutney, all of which should, but don’t, carry the simple information on their labels that they have **no artificial sweeteners or other additives** except for cane sugar! The nutmeg jelly

seems like a particular favourite with anyone who’s sat down at the HPH table.

Our household help continues as before, with Rajamani being present more often than before but with the constraint on her

attendance continuing to be the young family she's raising, the second of whom now attends "Montessori" on a regular basis.



Bouganvillea flower sprig

If we sound inordinately proud of our home, drop by and we are sure that you will appreciate the fact that our affection is not misplaced!

Warm wishes!
Arlene & Emil

For the month of June we continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies" AND we are offering 50% off food and drinks for children under 12.

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor. See what our previous guests have had to say!



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g304138-d2057765-Reviews-Halgolla_Plantation_Home-Kandy_District_Central_Province.html

We are also on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HalgollaPlantationHome>

& Airbnb

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/906073>

Sri Lanka

"Best in travel 2013"

from The Lonely Planet
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/sri-lanka>

... and Sri Lanka was rated as a top tourist destination for 2011 and 2012.

Condé Nast Traveller
www.cntraveller.com/news/2011/december/destinations-to-watch-in-2012/sri-lanka

The New York Times
www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/travel/10places.html

National Geographic
<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2012/sri-lanka-photos/>



Setting up Vesak lanterns at HPH

Upcoming events in the country

June

June 23: Poson Full Moon Holiday, the second-most important Buddhist festival that celebrates the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BC.

June to Sept: surfing at Arugam Bay, one of the top ten surfing spots in the world

May to Sept: kitesurfing at Kalpitiya

May to Aug: whale and dolphin watching at Trincomalee

July

July: The Gathering of Elephants at Minneriya National Park – a comfortable daytrip from HPH

July 10: Kataragama Esala Festival runs through to Jul 23

For information or to book your accommodation, check our website www.halgollaplantationhome.com or contact us at: Cell: 94-77-347-0702 or 94-72-284-9770 or by email at emil@halgollaplantationhome.com