



Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*)

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- July 2013 -

June continued to provide “unsettled” weather as the meteorologists like to describe it, having all the (tropical) seasons in a matter of a couple of days. However, our complaints are few because the plant life in and around HPH and the adjacent hillsides have done nothing but benefit from that state of affairs. “Verdant” is hardly the word to describe everything around us!

Poson came and everyone celebrated Buddhism’s “cerebral festival” appropriately and it did seem to leave all, believers and the rest, with a sense of calm and equanimity.

The mango season, to all intents and purposes, is over though our table still sees enough of this great tropical fruit to know that the squirrels are not getting ALL of the “stragglers!”

We continue to have what appears to be a bumper crop of nutmeg as the pictures of that spice which appear on this page would suggest and we seem like we are in for a freak “sub-crop” of cloves as well, something unheard of till now. The only explanation for all of this has to be significant climate change because neither of us (both past the proverbial “three score and ten”) can ever remember even our **grand-parents** describing these kinds of fruit seasons.



Nutmeg fruit, ready for processing

And speaking of fruit, even though we no longer have good *rambutans* on our premises, the vendors along the highways appear to have a plentiful supply of this unique fruit, which owes its origins to Malaysia, with prices reflecting that glut.

July is traditionally one of the hottest and driest months of the year but this year looks like it might well be an exception and if that means our shade trees stay a brilliant green and our fruit trees continue to give of their ample harvest, who are we to grouse and grumble!

The fish pond outside the west-facing living room windows required extensive work and the replacement of its population of goldfish and carp and, with a new planting of beautiful water lilies and lotuses, promises to bring joy to our hearts once more!



Mace and Nutmeg after processing

Cousin (Dr) George van der Poorten and his wife Nancy display their devotion to the world of butterflies, putting in new plants in that special garden every time they visit and their labours of love are already beginning to show results with the growth of our butterfly population.

We’ve managed to cope with the massive escalation in the cost of electricity by dint of economies that have prevented that element of our operation from going out of control and the positive side of that business has been an enhanced sense of the need for conservation in all our lives at HPH.

Warm wishes!
Arlene & Emil

PS. The main processions of the Kandy Perahera begin Aug 16 and HPH is the perfect place to base yourself for this event.

For the month of July we continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies” AND we are offering 10% off accommodation, food and beverages for all visitors for the month of July.

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/>

Upcoming events in the country

July

July 4-10: Women out of the Frame: Photographic exhibition at the Lionel Wendt Gallery in Colombo. Presenting new perspectives on women in Sri Lanka. Coordinated by the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka and Menika van der Poorten (who just happens to be Emil’s niece!).

July: The Gathering of Elephants at Minneriya National Park – a comfortable daytrip from HPH – up to 300 elephants gather in one spot.



One of Arlene’s elephants from her “Elephant Wall”

July 10: Kataragama Esala Festival runs through to Jul 23

July 20: Cricket. South Africa tour of Sri Lanka begins and continues to Aug 6 at various locations. July 26 & 28 at Pallekelle near Kandy.

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

to Sept: kitesurfing at Kalpitiya

to Aug: whale and dolphin watching at Trincomalee

August

Aug. 11-20: Kandy Perahera. This world famous event is spectacular. A series of processions in which the golden casket holding a tooth relic of the Buddha take place throughout this period. Elephants, drummers, lights and monks are part of the procession. A smaller procession, the Kumbal Perahera, runs from Aug. 11–15. The main procession, the Randoli Perahera, runs from Aug. 16–20.