



The soaking pool

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- January 2013 -

SelvaGamini Room:

The first expansion of visitor accommodation since Halgolla Plantation Home began operations!

It's been a while since we first made available to paying guests the unique attractions that HPH has to offer. Now we are happy to announce the first expansion of accommodation for visitors by bringing "on stream", a comfortable double bedroom with the largest washroom in the house to serve it! Not quite ballroom size, but large enough even by Sri Lankan standards with a shower that probably has the best water pressure in the house!

The **SelvaGamini Room** is large, bright and airy. It is named after our two staff members, Selvaraja and Gamini, who did most of the renovation work. We put in a large window, repainted and upgraded the facilities. The washroom is private though not ensuite.



Emil & Arlene admire the SelvaGamini room



SelvaGamini room

The walls are adorned with artwork by Arlene's son Shehan and daughter Druvi.

Our newest amenities

In our modest way, we've kept adding on little bits and pieces, in and around, to what has always been the ancestral home of the van der Poortens in Sri Lanka.

The **Soaking pool** in the main stream running through our land became operational just in time for the worst drought in living history, unfortunately! That said, with the return of the rains, it is again "a going concern" and visitors are welcome to cool off in its waters.

The walking paths around and about the house include the **Lookout Point trail**, the **Ela trail** that takes you to the soaking pool and the **Plumbago pit path**.

We have put up displays, such as the road rollers of by-gone years, and old family photos which have added little touches of family and local history to HPH. Our library continues to expand with offerings of literature, nature, politics and other subjects, dealing with Sri Lanka as well as

For information or to book your accommodation, contact us at:

Home phone: 94-81-380-8007; Mobile: 94-72-284-9770 or by email at emil@halgollaplantationhome.com

the wider world. We've also updated our website with information on 'places of interest near to HPH' so if you haven't visited it in a while, take a look:
www.halgollaplantationhome.com.



The view to Alagala from the top of the Lookout Point trail

We can't forget to mention the 'social event of the year' – the annual staff Christmas Party. Though rain threatened to ruin the party, it stopped in time and 'a good time was had by all'!



Christmas party sing-along led by Karunaratne, ably assisted by Gamini

The world's premier tourist guide, The Lonely Planet, has called Sri Lanka **the** place to visit in 2013. Join us there at HPH.

Warm wishes and a Happy New Year for 2013,
Arlene and Emil

"Best in travel 2013"

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

For the month of January we will continue to provide each visiting group with a complimentary "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies!"

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TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

Did you know that HPH is on Trip Advisor?

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

Sri Lanka has been 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

Bird watching – the "migrants" have returned

White-water rafting at Kitulgala

Adam's Peak climbing season in full swing

January

Jan 14: Thai Pongal – a harvest festival celebrated by Tamils around the world

Jan 26–27: Kala pola: an open air art fest in Colombo featuring the art of very talented Sri Lankans

The HSBC Galle Literary Festival, normally held in January, has been cancelled for 2013.

February

Feb. 4: National Day

No date: The Donald Steele Golf Tournament in Kandy

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