



The beginning of the Pus-vel trail

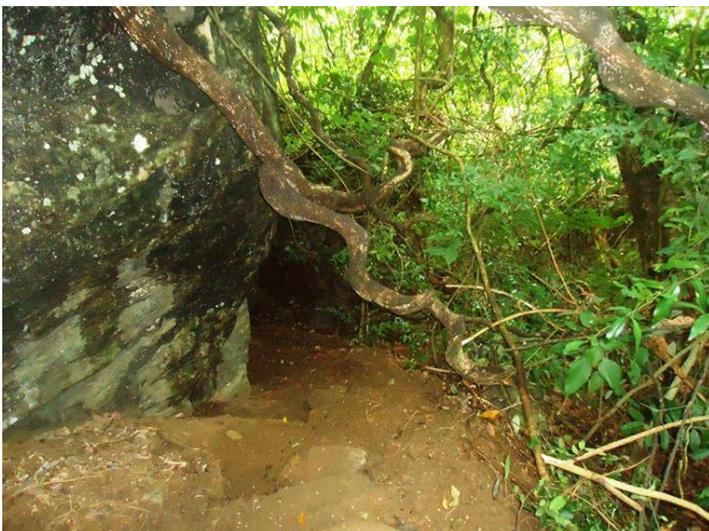
Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

– August 2014 –

As July comes to a close we look back on one of the longest fruit seasons it has been our good fortune to experience. Ever. Not only has the quantity of fruit been exceptional but so has the quality and length of the season. This appears to be one of those rare exceptions to the overall devastation that climate change has wrought in our part of the world!

We have extended our walking trail system by clearing a pathway to the *Pus-vel* liana just above the last bridge on our approach road. This unique creeper (*Entada zeylanica*) produces “beans” about five feet long, a picture of which, with our diminutive Padma holding one up for purposes of comparison, appeared in the June 2014 newsletter. If you want to refresh your memory in that regard, go to our website, www.halgollaplantationhome.com from which you can access every newsletter we’ve produced up to now.



The Pus-vel trail

Arlene’s constant attention to detail results in little improvements to the “creature comforts” at HPH too numerous to mention. We’ve grown to realize how essential all of this is in ensuring that each guest’s stay at HPH is free of the niggling irritations that can detract so much from a real holiday. Being particularly conscious of the need to

ensure that our staff operates with a minimum of distractions and discomfort, we keep improving their accommodation and helping to alleviate whatever language barriers might exist between them and our guests. With their comfort level improving in this regard, we keep seeing a marked improvement in the service they are able to provide. That said, we see all of this as a “work in progress” and not something that we believe is going to end tomorrow!

Incidentally, the invaluable editing and setting up that goes into this newsletter every month will be done “long distance” by Nancy who is on her annual summer vacation in Toronto with her husband, George (Dr. Michael) van der Poorten. The wonders of modern communication technology never cease to impress this septuagenarian!

There appears to be a glimmer of hope with regard to the local municipal authority effecting (long-overdue) repairs to the lower part of the road that serves HPH and we are keeping our fingers crossed in that regard, even though it would remove some of the “adventure component” enjoyed by many of our guests!

After a series of “feints,” as it were, we’ve had some honest-to-goodness rain showers over the last couple of days and we keep hoping for more of the same, even though Natta makes a bee-line home if a sudden shower overtakes us on our daily walk!

Our last set of guests participated in our newly constituted “Coconut Plantation tour”. Courtesy of my cousin George, they spent the day at his coconut plantation observing not just the day to day operations of a coconut farm but also the bird-life and other wild animals in the jungle patches on his property. This tour is available for any guests wishing to experience local life in a different part of the country.

Warm regards,
Arlene & Emil

For each booking in the month of August

a pack of Special HPH-grown and -roasted coffee
and the complimentary
“Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies”
which has become a trademark
of HPH hospitality

Daytrips from HPH

The following is the sixth of a continuing series on suggested day trips from HPH to lesser-known places of interest.

Dambadeniya

Dambadeniya is the site of an ancient kingdom. It was the capital of Sri Lanka for 50 years in the mid-13th C, established by King Vijayabahu III. He built a fortified city on top of the Dambadeniya rock that included a temple and the royal palace. The city was surrounded by a moat, a marsh and ramparts. There are three ponds on the rock. One of them was called Rathmal Pokuna and is quite deep so that it probably held water even during a drought. A second one is called Muguna pokuna and was apparently used for agricultural purposes. The third pond was used as the source of potable water. The site has not been fully excavated but a walk to the top along a set of stairs hewn from the rock brings you to the 6 acre site of this ancient city and a stunning view to the plains below.



Stairway to the top

At the base of the rock is the Sri Wijesundararamaya Raja Maha Viharaya. This temple is a two-story building that is being renovated by the Archeological Department. It was built by King Parakramabahu II who succeeded Vijayabahu III and was renovated during the Kandyan period. A small museum with an interesting collection of artifacts is worth a visit as well.

Located near Narammalla, about an hour’s drive from HPH, this ancient kingdom affords a pleasant day trip. If we have an indication of interest in advance of a guest’s arrival, we could make the necessary arrangements for them to explore this little-known site.

Halgolla Plantation Home

- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
- recommended in the [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor.
See what our previous [guests](#) have had to say!



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

We are also on [Facebook](#).

Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [HomeStay](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) as well as by contacting us directly.

Sri Lanka – rated as a top tourist destination for 2011, 2012 & 2013.

[The Lonely Planet](#)
[Condé Nast Traveller](#)
[The New York Times](#)
[National Geographic](#)



Rainfed pond at a coconut estate (above)

Young coconut palm (below)

