



HPH staff*

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

– August 2015 –

The month of Esala is upon us and with it comes the magnificent and unique Perahera in Kandy, just 20 kms from HPH. This procession with around a hundred gaily-caparisoned elephants and, literally, thousands of dancers, jugglers, drummers and traditional figures from Kandyan (and Hindu) culture wends its way through the streets of the hill capital for nine nights, the whole town reverberating to the sound of the drums and the route getting longer each night. And the lighting for this unique procession? Baskets of burning dry coconut kernels held aloft with an expertise that ensures no live coal falls on man or beast! On the tenth day, the procession winds up in daylight and ends at the *Mahaweli Ganga* (“Great Sand River”) where the ritual “water-cutting,” commemorating an historic defeat of invading foreign forces, brings the celebration to a close for another year. There is NOTHING like this event anywhere in the world and it is worth every effort it takes to see it “in the flesh!”



The Perahera in 1885.

Though HPH is a little farther from Kandy and the Perahera action than some other home-stays, those who chose to stay here fully appreciate the calm and beauty of HPH after the Perahera celebrations. And it affords them the opportunity of savouring HPH hospitality and cuisine, something not to be missed!

With the Perahera come the durian (*Durio zibethinus*) and rambutan and other fruit crops, and even though HPH’s own durian crop – a very good one it was – is over, there’s

a variety of other fruit on our trees and in the fruit stalls in our neighbourhood. In fact, the crops have been big enough to survive the depredations of the monkeys, and giant and flying squirrel populations and still leave some for us!

Even though we’ve sought to stay away from acting as tour organizers or travel agents, our guests have encouraged us to set up short excursions, ranging from half- to two-day trips to places of interest. Apart from the points of the Cultural Triangle and Sri Lanka’s better known attractions, we’ve put together a selection of shorter journeys to places which are significantly different and off the beaten track and expect that by the time this Newsletter reaches you, details, inclusive of cost, will be available on our website, www.halgollaplantationhome.com. While our resources in this area are not very great, we will try to cater to any minor variations our guests may care to make on each little “package” that is listed.

Another step forward is a booking widget on our [Facebook](#) page—look for “Online booking”. Though we are a little too old to fully appreciate Facebook, we are told that it is a marketing must and we appreciate your “likes”! We also are now ranked on Trip Advisor as #8 out of 241 B&Bs in Kandy, thanks to the kind comments and thoughtful reviews of you, our guests.

In recognition of those who make your sojourns at HPH happy ones, we’ve included a picture of those who work, either in the accommodation itself or at our agriculturally-related tasks. No matter how hard and efficiently Arlene, Nancy and I try to work at making your holiday at HPH memorable, without the efforts of **all** of those who work at HPH it wouldn’t exist and this photograph is but a small acknowledgement of their contribution.

*From left to right: G.W.G. Gamini, R. Mallika, D.M. Bisomenike, S.E.M. Pathmalatha, H.M. Podimenike, S.M. Ranmenike, S.M. Podimenike, and G.M. Seneviratne.

With all good wishes
Arlene & Emil

**For each booking in August -
a vanilla bean from our first crop
in addition to the “sampler pack”
of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee
and the “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies”
which has become a trademark of HPH hospitality**

Halgolla Plantation Home

- now ranked #8/241 B&Bs in Kandy on Trip Advisor
- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
- rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
- recommended in the [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

Plants of interest at HPH – Garden flowers

The only jade-coloured flowers in the plant kingdom are those of the Jade Vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*), which is native to the Philippines. Unfortunately, the flowers of our brilliantly-blossoming vine are considered a delicacy by our Palm Squirrels, too!



Jade vine flowers (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*)

Another flower that has made its home in various parts of HPH is the Amazon Lily (*Eucharis grandiflora*). In fact we've begun to gather bulbs from quite a distance from the house and plant them *en masse* to facilitate gathering the lovely white blossoms as cut flowers from time to time.



Amazon lily (*Eucharis grandiflora*)

Most of you will probably remember seeing a bouquet of them just outside our inner sitting room. Times change and the manner of cultivation of garden plants changes with them, not to mention moving from the Amazon to Halgolla Plantation Home in Galagedera, Sri Lanka!



A vase of Amazon Lily flowers.

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



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

You can now book directly with us from our website at: www.halgollaplantationhome.com. Look for the booking widget:

Check In date:	Nights:	
<input type="text" value="01 Jul 2015"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

Use the widget above* to check for availability at HPH and to make your booking directly with us. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.

If you don't see it, try refreshing your browser and make sure that your browser is set to “allow blocked content”. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.

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