



Rouna Ali's picture down the Weuda Valley from the HPH verandah

## HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – ACCOMMODATION OF A DIFFERENT KIND

- October 2016 -

Our monthly HPH Newsletters have, in 2016, increasingly, sounded like “health bulletins” thanks to the “health issues” that Arlene and I have faced since the beginning of this year. We started – January 1<sup>st</sup> - with, Arlene entering the Intensive Care Unit of a private hospital in Kandy and ending (we sincerely hope!) with Emil’s having the stitches removed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October after a **RE**-implantation of a pacemaker. In the interim, there was Arlene’s open heart surgery on March 1<sup>st</sup> to replace a defunct mitral valve, Emil’s botched pacemaker implantation in July which resulted in a near-death experience and the necessity for **his own** open-heart surgery (!) to save him from an unexpected demise due to a “a-procedure-that-didn’t-qualify-to-even-be-called-surgery” and ending, we hope, with the stitches coming out on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October and a return to HPH (?!)

We thought the foregoing would provide adequate reason to take a break from whatever tradition we’ve established in our dissemination of HPH news and devote the larger part of this month’s issue to a “commercial” sent us for dissemination by a recent visitor.

### **“Ranmal and Rouna’s Visit to Halgolla Plantation Home (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016)**

Thanks to my good and rather special friend Ranmal I was able to visit Sri Lanka for the very first time this summer. I had only just landed in Colombo the night before when we head off on our road trip up into the hills until we hit upon Halgolla Plantation Home where Ranmal’s Aunty Arlene and Uncle Emil live. The first picture I take with my smartphone in this truly wonderful country, is of the view from the plantation home of the misty hills and landscape below. Flora and Fauna of all colours of the rainbow completely engulfs you in the most comforting way and being a

Londoner most of the time this was a strange but gorgeous feeling. However I recently got my phone upgraded and it decided my photo and the view it was showing was not good enough. Therefore without me asking it to do anything my phone produced this arty version of my picture shown above. Astounding!

We stayed for one night and all the meals were authentically Sri Lankan with beautifully made string hoppers, dahls, sambals, boiled egg, fish and chicken curries. Aunty and Uncle were so welcoming it felt as if I was visiting some of my own relatives but also a

family history museum. Throughout the hallways and dining room there were lots of sepia, black and white and more recent colour photographs of the two hosts family trees. I was in awe of how far back in time some of them went because there are so many members of my father's family especially whom I never even got to see a picture of.

Ranmal and I had a little wander around the plantation after dinner complete with our plastic leech proof socks and found Nutmeg and Cinnamon aplenty but thankfully no leeches.

Our visit co-incided with a one-day friendly international cricket match between Sri-Lanka Vs Australia so obviously we were glued to the TV for most of the evening whilst drinking some of the best tea on planet earth in my view.

Before I travelled to Sri Lanka Ranmal told me that we would be staying here and showed me previous newsletters and pictures. My response was that it looked like a small patch of heaven on earth and after staying there I can honestly say that I was right! You need to go and experience it for yourself in order to believe me.

Thank you so much Uncle Emil and Aunty Arlene for your genuine warmth, kindness, generosity and hospitality. With best wishes from Rouna Ali."

**For September, as in month's past, we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and a "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies," that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!**

#### **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 by [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

You can now book directly with us from our website at: [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com). Look for the booking widget:

**Check In date:**  **Nights:**

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, refresh 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 and we do not accept credit cards.** Payment accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any other major currency.

We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) or, **preferably**, by contacting us directly.

Sri Lanka: rated as a top tourist destination by [The Lonely Planet](#); [Condé Nast Traveller](#); [The New York Times](#); [National Geographic](#); and [the \(London\) Times](#). And most recently by [Huffington Post UK](#). In addition, [Fox News](#) follows the lead of The Lonely Planet by recommending Sri Lanka as the #1 place to visit! We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) or, **preferably**, by contacting us directly.

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