Egyptian Fantastic Falafels on a Stick + Cool-as-a-Cucumber Tahini Sauce + Minty Cucumber Cooler



egyptian fantastic falafels

peel+measure

Pop the skin off two 15-oz cans of garbanzo beans, drained, discarding the skins. In a large bowl, combine the peeled garbanzo beans with 2 tsp salt and 1 tsp ground black pepper. Measure out 2 tsp ground coriander and 2 tsp ground cumin and add to the bowl.

sprinkle+toss

Sprinkle ¼ C flour over the garbanzo bean mixture. Toss everything in the bowl together and set to the side.

mince+squeeze+dice

Mince 1 garlic clove finely, along with a handful of fresh parsley, and add to the bowl. Squeeze the juice of 1 lemon into the bowl and dice up 2 green onions as well. Mix to combine everything well.

mash+roll+flatten

Mash the garbanzo bean mixture using a potato masher or immersion blender, making sure everything gets very well combined resulting in a thick paste. Roll the mixture into small balls, about the size of a ping pong ball. Slightly flatten the balls.

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fry+pierce

Heat a non-stick skillet on your stovetop over medium-high heat. Add **a few T of oil** to the bottom of your skillet and then fry up your falafel for 2-3 minutes per side, until crispy and golden brown. Let them cool slightly and pierce them with toothpicks or sticks to serve. Enjoy with the Cool-as-a-Cucumber Tahini sauce (recipe below)!

cool-as-a-cucumber tahini sauce

grate+squeeze

Using a cheese grater, grate **1 cucumber** into a large bowl. Pick up the grated cucumber in clean hands and squeeze out the excess liquid. Discard liquid and put the grated cucumber back into the bowl.

chop+tear+combine

Chop up **1** granny smith apple (with the skin on) into small chunks. With your fingers, tear up **a handful** of fresh mint into small bits. Combine the cucumber, apple, and mint in a bowl.

measure+whisk

Measure 1 C plain yogurt and add to the cucumber mixture. Whisk the cucumber dip until smooth. Add salt and ground black pepper to taste and serve with the falafel!

minty cucumber cooler

tear+stir

Tear up a handful of mint into pieces. Mix ½ C honey into ½ C hot water and stir to combine.

peel+scoop+toss

Peel **1 cucumber**, slice in half lengthwise, and scoop out and discard the seeds. Toss the cucumber into your blender or a pitcher for use with an immersion blender, along with your honey water and mint.

squeeze+blend

Squeeze the juice of **1 small lemon** into your blender/pitcher and add **1-2 C ice**. Blend it all up until nice and smooth!

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shopping list	
Falafel on a Stick	
2 15-oz cans garbanzo beans	1 garlic clove
2 tsp salt	handful of fresh parsley
1 tsp ground black pepper	1 small lemon
2 tsp ground coriander	2 green onions
2 tsp ground cumin	uegetable oil
☐ ¼ C flour	☐ toothpicks
Cool-as-a-Cucumber Tahini Sauce	
1 cucumber	2 tsp tahini
1 granny smith apple	■ salt, to taste
a handful of fresh mint	ground black pepper, to taste
☐ 1 C plain yogurt	
Mini Cucumber Cooler	
a handful of fresh mint	1 small lemon
☐ ½ C honey	■ 1-2 C ice
■ 1 cucumber	

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The History of Falafel

Falafel is not only hugely popular in Israel; throughout the Middle East, it's a common form of quick and cheap street food and is often served as a mezze (appetizer). Falafel is a deep fried ball or patty made from ground chickpeas and/or fava beans. Falafel balls may be eaten alone as a snack or served as part of a meal. First made in Egypt, falafel has become a dish eaten throughout the Middle East. In fact, falafel is often considered a national dish of Israel. The hearty fritters are now found around the world as a replacement for meat and as a form of street food.

The surprise ingredient: Cucumber!

- ★ As a member of the gourd family (such as melons, squash, pumpkins and watermelon), cucumbers grow on a vine in sandy soil. Sandy soil warms faster in the spring, giving cucumbers a more favorable growing environment.
- **★ Cucumbers are one of the oldest known cultivated vegetables.** They have been cultivated since 8000 B.C. Cucumbers are believed to have originated in India.
- ★ "Cool as a cucumber" isn't just a catchy phrase. The inner temperature of a cucumber can be up to 20 degrees cooler than the outside air. No wonder these are such a summertime favorite!
- **★ The flavor in cucumbers comes from their seeds.** Medium sized cucumbers with soft small seeds have better flavor.
- ★ Cucumbers are 96% water.
- **★ Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day**, just one cucumber contains Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Zinc.

Time for a laugh!

Why was the cucumber mad? Because it was in a pickle!

Knock-Knock! Who's there? Falafel! Falafel, who? I falafel my bike and cut my knee! Help!

