

Independence Fried Chicken

Ingredients

For the Chicken:

- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- Sunflower oil, for deep-frying

Spice Mix:

- 2 tbsp paprika
- 2 tsp garlic granules
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled

Buttermilk Marinade:

- 500ml whole milk
- 2 tbsp cider vinegar or white wine vinegar
- 1 large egg
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp of the prepared spice mix

For the Coating:

- 100g self-raising flour
- 100g cornflour
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- Most of the remaining spice mix (reserve 1 tsp for finishing)
- Generous pinch of salt

Instructions

Step 1: Make the Marinade

In a large bowl, whisk together milk, vinegar, egg, salt, and 1 tablespoon of your spice mix to create the buttermilk marinade. Place chicken thighs between two sheets of baking parchment and gently flatten with a rolling pin until even in thickness. Add to the marinade, cover, and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.

Step 2: Prepare the Coating

In a large bowl, mix self-raising flour, cornflour, turmeric, most of the remaining spice mix (save 1 tsp for later), and a generous pinch of salt. Remove chicken from marinade, letting excess drip off, and dredge each thigh in the flour mix. Dip back into the marinade, then dredge once more, pressing the coating on firmly.

Step 3: Fry to Perfection

Heat 10cm of sunflower oil in a deep pan or fryer to 175°C. Carefully lower in 2–3 thighs at a time and fry for 3 minutes without disturbing. Flip and fry another 2–3 minutes, until golden and crispy. Keep oil temperature around 170°C to ensure crispiness. Transfer cooked thighs to a paper towel-lined tray, then to a wire rack in a low oven to keep warm.

Step 4: Finish and Serve

Mix the reserved 1 tsp spice mix with 1 tbsp flaky sea salt and sprinkle over the hot chicken just before serving for an extra flavor boost.