

Extreme
Cuisine

Spider-tizers and Other Creepy Treats



by Meish Goldish

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Spider-tizers and Other Creepy Treats



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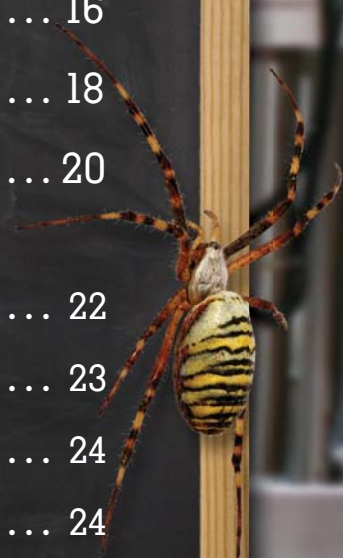
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Spider Starters

Some meals begin with an **appetizer**, such as cheese and crackers or chips and dip. It makes a person hungry for more food. How about a spider to start a meal? Why not? These eight-legged creatures are eaten all over the world.

In parts of northern Thailand, some people hunt and cook tarantulas. They are some of the hairiest—and biggest—spiders in the world. Before cooking them, villagers pull off the spiders' legs. Then they roast the bodies and eat them. In Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, some people fry tarantulas and serve them on top of noodles. Of course, not everyone is ready for a big spider meal. Some people might want to start with just one tarantula—the perfect "spider-tizer."



tarantula





fried tarantula

Spiders are a good source of protein, which a person's body needs to build and repair bone and muscle.

Deep-Fried Spiders

In parts of Cambodia, tarantulas are a popular snack. Some people even sell them in the street. On a good day, a person can sell 100 to 200 tarantulas. Where do the street vendors get their spiders? People dig the hairy creatures out of their underground homes, called **burrows**. A skillful hunter can catch more than 200 spiders in one day.

How are the tarantulas cooked? The hairy spiders are deep-fried in oil with garlic and salt. They're crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. Just be careful when eating them. After munching on a few, some people have found little spider fur balls in their throats.



tarantula



deep-fried
tarantulas

A tarantula's
head and body have
white meat that tastes
like a combination of
chicken and fish.

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Learn More Online

To learn more about spider, scorpion, and centipede dishes, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/ExtremeCuisine

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 100 books for children. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. He has never eaten a spider or a scorpion.



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**Extreme
Cuisine**

Spider-tizers and Other Creepy Treats

Want a bite to eat before dinner? How about a deep-fried tarantula? Or maybe you'd like to snack on a centipede kebab. If you want something sweet you can have a scorpion dipped in chocolate.

Do people really eat these foods? Take a look inside and find out—but don't be too surprised by what you discover. After all, the world is a big place. One eater's "yuck!" is another eater's "yum!"

Baby Bug Dishes

Bug-a-licious

Mammal Menu

Shocking Seafood

Slithery, Slimy, Scaly Treats

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