

Sufla



Sufla - Depopulated Palestinian Village of Jerusalem

Sufla was a Palestinian village in the Jerusalem Subdistrict, situated on an east-west ridge in the Jerusalem hills, approximately 18.5 kilometers from Jerusalem according to PalQuest and at an average elevation of about 565 meters above sea level.

A secondary road connected Sufla to a route linking Bayt Jibrin with the Jerusalem-Jaffa highway, while tracks led to Jarash, Bayt 'Itab, Dayr al-Hawa, Dayr al-Shaykh, 'Allar, and other nearby villages.

Basic Information

Field	Information
Subdistrict	Jerusalem
Distance from Jerusalem	18.5 km according to PalQuest
Elevation	Approx. 565 m
Population, 1922	46, all Muslims
Population, 1931	49 in 10 houses
Population, 1945	60
1948 estimate	Approx. 70
Land area	2,061 dunums
Occupation	Night of 18–19 October 1948 or the following night
Operation	Operation ha-Har
Unit	Sixth Battalion, Har'el Brigade
Post-1948 settlements	None documented on village lands

Land Ownership, 1944/45

Total	2,061
Category	Dunums
Palestinian	714
Transferred to Zionists	0
Public	1,347

Land Use

Four hundred dunums were devoted to cereals and three dunums were built up. A further 1,658 dunums were classified as non-cultivable, including all 1,347 Public dunums. Olive trees covered about twenty-four dunums as a subcategory of

cultivated land.

Economy, Water, and Religious Site

The inhabitants practiced rain-fed farming, growing cereals, fruit trees, grapes, and olives, while some land was used for grazing.

Two springs supplied domestic water, one southeast and the other northeast of the village.

A shrine dedicated to a local holy man known as Shaykh Mu'annis stood on the western side of the village.

Occupation and Depopulation

Operation ha-Har formally ran from 19 to 24 October 1948, beginning with attacks on the night of 18–19 October.

Khalidi records that the **Sixth Battalion of the Har'el Brigade** captured Sufla on the night of 18–19 October or the following night.

The regional pattern was that most villagers fled south toward Bethlehem and the Hebron hills under military pressure, while expulsions were also documented in some villages. The village-specific evidence does not establish that every Sufla resident was directly expelled.

Occupation Chronology

Date	Event
Night of 18–19 October 1948	Operation ha-Har begins in the sector.
19 October, approximately	Har'el's Sixth Battalion captures Sufla; Khalidi also allows for the following night.
19–24 October 1948	Operation ha-Har continues across southwest Jerusalem.

Israeli Settlements Established on Sufla's Lands

Khalidi and PalQuest identify **no Israeli settlement established on Sufla's village lands.**

Sufla Today

Khalidi's pre-1992 field description records stone-house rubble scattered across a site used for grazing. Cave-like former dwellings remained visible and cactus grew among the ruins.

The cemetery lay east of the village site, while almond and olive groves covered areas to the west and north.

Sources

- [PalQuest – Sufla](#)
- [PalQuest – Operation ha-Har](#)
- [Palestine Remembered – Sufla](#)
- [Walid Khalidi – Sufla in All That Remains](#)