

Mukhmas, The city that is
alive for it’s people.

By Malak Abuali

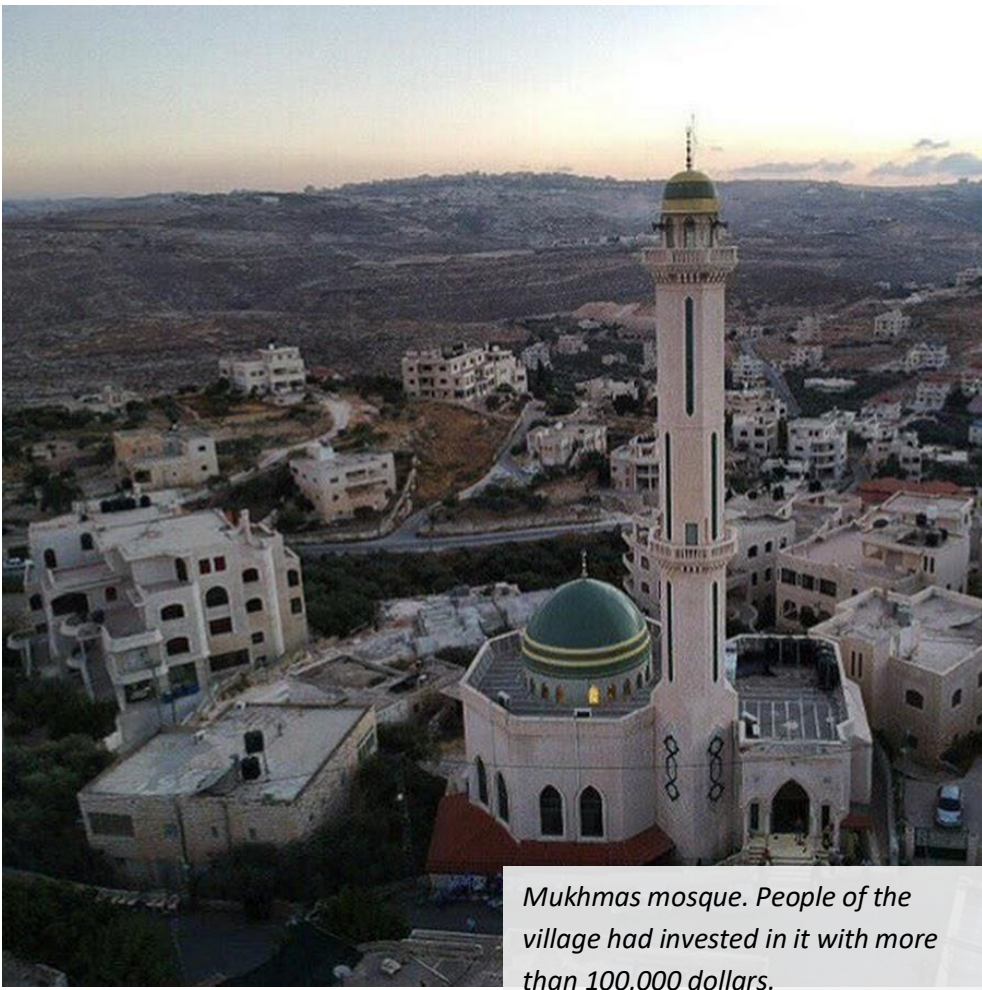
MUKHMAS is a Palestinian town with a population of 2,500. It is located 11 km northeast of Jerusalem and is close to Jaba’ and Deir Dibwan in the central West Bank.

Mukhmas is considered a very good and clean town with a lot of order. Most of the people that belong to this village have migrated abroad and they visit periodically, usually during summer. The people of mukhmas have an excellent economic status because most of them work in the United States and have an independent job. What is good about mukhmas is that people have a preference to live in closely knitted families which has somewhat limited the increase of attractions for tourists.

But even though it has limited contact to other towns, it surely has many points of cultural interest, such as Al Dweir shrine, Sultan Ibrahim mosque, and Saleh al-Barghouti palace.

This is a great starting point for hiking towards al-Swaneet valley or visit one of the Bedouin camps of Abu Shusha or Mukhmas. It is an eye-opening journey to the lifestyle of the oldest and last representatives of the free life in nature.

The families of this town do not mind other people visiting the village and they are always pleased to welcome visitors (with their local guide) and host them as guests in their houses. ...Page 02



Mukhmas mosque. People of the village had invested in it with more than 100,000 dollars.



Mukhmas has a lot of beautiful houses that are built on their own lands. Houses in Mukhmas could reach 2 million dollars.

Mukhmas has a beautiful history that goes back
to empires.

By Malak Abuali

Mukhmas is identified with the biblical Michmas, and preserves its ancient name. It is described in historical texts as Jonathan Apphus' seat and for supplying fine flour to the Jerusalem Temple. Archaeological fieldwork revealed Iron Age and Second Temple Period remains, indicating a Jewish priestly presence until the Bar Kokhba revolt. Finds also include Byzantine-era remains.

During the early Ottoman period, it was a Muslim village with a small population engaged in agriculture. It was then ruled by the British, the Jordanians and the Israelis. Following the Oslo Accords, Mukhmas' jurisdiction, now under the Palestinian Authority, is divided between Areas B and C.

Michmas is also mentioned in classical period sources. It was the seat of Jonathan Apphus until 152 BC.^[3] According to the Mishnah, Michmas was known for providing fine flour as a gift offering to the Temple in Jerusalem.^[4]

Four clusters of tombs including as many as 70 burial caves dating from the Second Temple period were discovered in Mukhmas during the 1980s. On the entrance to one of the caves, a drawing of a seven-branched menorah was found, alongside an inscription written in the Paleo-Hebrew script. Other findings from Mukhmas include an ossuary which bears the name ‘*Shimeon L[evi]*’ in the Hebrew alphabet. These findings led archeologists to believe that Mukhmas was a Jewish priestly settlement which was populated up until Bar-Kokhba revolt in the early 2nd century CE.^[5]

.....Page 03

**Mukhmas is has beautiful landscapes but it
is endangered.**

By Malak Abuali

The Dwar is a long trail off the north of Mukhmas that leads to huge cliffs and many different people’s orchards of olive trees and other plots of fruits and vegetables. After Maghrib is the best and worst time to go. The wind blows strong swerving in and out of the cliffs and caves

Mukhmas is surrounded by three Israeli settlements and they often release wild boars with huge husks to destroy crops and hurt people. Once, while on my roof, a boar climbed up the path to my house reminding me of the views I stay up all night to watch are actively being stolen and threatened. The land and the skies aren’t safe....**Page 04**

Weather Forecast

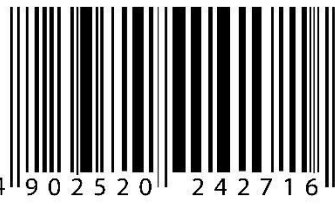
High **27°**
Low **10°**
Partly Sunny with wind



History

Mukhmas has a wide history which is why many tourist are interested in visiting it. **Page 03**

Endangered? Mukhmas has a lot of lands in area c which makes it a target for Israeli occupation and settlers who come to the village once in a while to take lands or confiscate olive trees. **Page 04**



4 902520 242716