

June 10, 2025

## NEW MODEL PRESS RELEASE

### 2026 KAWASAKI KLX®230 SHERPA S ABS AND KLX®230 DF ABS

## THE ULTIMATE ESCAPE ARTIST

For riders driven by a spirit of exploration, Kawasaki introduces the all-new 2026 [KLX®230 SHERPA S ABS](#)—a dual-sport motorcycle built to inspire confidence on and off the beaten path. Whether commuting through the city or venturing onto remote trails, the SHERPA S delivers a rugged, yet approachable, package designed for the modern-day trekker.

The KLX230 SHERPA S builds upon Kawasaki's proven KLX®230 S platform, featuring nimble handling, a low and confidence-inspiring seat height, and a design that merges sleek urban capability with durable outdoor performance. This machine utilizes a tubeless rear tire for more convenient repairs and enhanced convenience, along with a low seat "S" variant tailored for a wider range of riders seeking accessibility without compromising adventure.



Whether it's a weekend campout or a spontaneous journey down unmarked trails, the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS motorcycle is built to adapt. Its versatility makes it the ideal two-wheeled tool for those answering the call of the wild, delivering performance, style, and practicality in one well-rounded trekking machine.

#### KLX230® SHERPA S ABS HIGHLIGHTS

- 233cc fuel-injected air-cooled single
- Compact perimeter frame
- Aluminum skidplate
- Handguards
- Low 32.5-inch seat height
- 21-inch front wheel and 18-inch tubeless rear wheel
- Disc brakes with selectable ABS
- Digital instrumentation with Smartphone Connectivity

#### ENGINE

At the heart of the 2026 Kawasaki KLX230 SHERPA S ABS lies a purpose-built 233cc air-cooled, four-stroke single-cylinder engine engineered to thrive in real-world trekking conditions. Tuned for trail-

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riding versatility, the engine offers a blend of strong, accessible power and smooth torque across the rev range, resulting in linear acceleration and reliable low-speed control that enhances rider confidence.

The KLX230 SHERPA's engine prioritizes a torquey, low-to-mid-range character ideal for navigating rugged terrain or weaving through tight trails. Riders benefit from strong pull even at low RPMs, thanks to an engine configuration that helps prevent stalling when throttle input is applied at slower speeds. A simple overhead cam, 2-valve setup, air-cooling, and electric start all underscore the SHERPA's emphasis on practical, low-maintenance performance.

Complementing its friendly nature is a suite of thoughtful engineering choices that bolster ride quality and control. A 32mm throttle body ensures crisp, stable response regardless of altitude or ambient temperature, while a gear-driven balancer minimizes vibration for smoother delivery across the rev range. The exhaust system, which features an oval-cross-section silencer and optimized pipe length, enhances both aesthetics and torque in the low-to-mid range.

The compact engine not only contributes to the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS light weight and agility, but also supports comfortable highway cruising and spirited trail runs alike. A smooth-shifting six-speed transmission offers a wide gear spread, and its 45/14 final drive ratio strikes a perfect balance between on-road efficiency and off-road control.

In every aspect of its design, the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS engine prioritizes accessibility, durability, and versatility. Whether tackling weekday commutes or weekend treks deep into nature, this dual-sport powerplant is ready to answer the call of adventure, delivering dependable performance in a compact, rider-friendly form.

## CHASSIS

Built on the proven foundation of Kawasaki's dual-purpose KLX230 S motorcycle, the 2026 KLX230 SHERPA S ABS inherits a high-tensile steel perimeter frame that offers exceptional handling stability and durability for off-road adventure. Originally designed from the ground up with dirt-riding performance in mind, the frame's development was guided by extensive feedback from Kawasaki's own test riders. The result is a chassis that strikes a carefully engineered balance between strength and agility, instilling confidence in a wide range of riders, whether tackling rugged trails or maneuvering through urban traffic.

By designing the engine and frame together, Kawasaki engineers were able to maximize chassis compactness and performance. Minimizing engine height enabled a lower frame line, resulting in an optimal rigidity balance and a well-positioned center of gravity. This integrated design approach also played a crucial role in achieving the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS's low seat height, enhancing accessibility for more riders while maintaining surefooted control across varied terrain.

With a short 53.3-inch wheelbase, the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS delivers excellent maneuverability that is particularly useful in tight trail sections or when navigating city streets. The lightweight aluminum swingarm, borrowed from the KLX230R off-road model, helps keep the bike's overall weight down while contributing to nimble, responsive handling. Additional weight savings come from the aluminum lower triple clamp, which further enhances the bike's light, flickable character.

The SHERPA's off-road credentials are further reinforced by a generous 8.4 inches of ground clearance, giving riders the capability to navigate rocks, roots, and other trail obstacles. Together, the

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intelligently engineered chassis and rugged yet lightweight components make the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS a confident and capable partner for a range of riders.

## **SUSPENSION**

The KLX230 SHERPA S ABS is equipped with suspension that delivers impressive performance across a variety of terrain, significantly boosting its off-road capabilities. Whether navigating rocky paths or absorbing trail irregularities, the suspension is designed to provide a smooth, controlled ride that inspires rider confidence. At the front, a 37mm telescopic fork offers a generous 6.2-inches of travel, giving riders precise handling and control even on rugged or uneven surfaces.

At the rear, the bike features Kawasaki's New Uni Trak rear suspension system, which provides 6.6-inches of wheel travel. This setup enhances road holding and bump absorption, contributing to both rider comfort and traction across a range of conditions. The single rear shock absorber is pressurized with nitrogen gas and includes preload adjustability, allowing riders to fine-tune the setup based on their weight, riding style, or the inclusion of a passenger.

To further improve ride quality, Kawasaki equipped the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS with dual-rate springs at both ends. These springs increase in stiffness during the latter part of the suspension stroke, helping to reduce the likelihood of bottoming out when encountering larger obstacles or drops. Optimized damping force complements this design, ensuring a balanced ride that maintains excellent handling characteristics even with the shorter wheelbase and overall compact form.

This advanced suspension setup gives the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS a distinct edge in the dual-purpose category, offering riders a plush yet responsive feel that holds up well whether on backroads, trails, or urban streets.

## **BRAKES & WHEELS**

The 2026 KLX230 SHERPA S ABS delivers exceptional braking performance tailored for dual-purpose riding, thanks to its petal disc brakes at both the front and rear. Up front, a 265mm disc paired with a twin-piston caliper provides strong, progressive braking that inspires confidence across varying conditions. The rear features a 220mm disc with a single-piston caliper, contributing to balanced stopping power and effective control whether descending off-road slopes or navigating urban traffic.

Kawasaki's dual-purpose ABS system on the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS has been specially calibrated to handle both paved and unpaved surfaces with ease. Designed to enhance rider confidence on low-friction terrain, the system can be temporarily disabled via a conveniently located left-handle switch—ideal for riders who prefer full manual control during technical off-road riding. When the ignition is turned off and restarted, ABS defaults back to full activation on both wheels.

Supporting its off-road capability are large-diameter aluminum wheels, 21-inches at the front and 18-inches at the rear, designed to roll smoothly over trail obstacles while maintaining stability. Fitted with IRC GP-21F front and GP-22R rear dual-purpose tires, the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS is well-equipped to handle everything from city commutes to rugged dirt routes. The rear wheel features a tubeless design for easier flat repairs should the tire be punctured without needing to remove the tire, perfect for riders who like to venture beyond the pavement.

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## ERGONOMICS

The KLX230 SHERPA S ABS is designed with rider comfort and accessibility at its core, offering an ergonomic layout that caters to all riders. Its natural, upright riding position, paired with a low 32.5-inch seat height, delivers a relaxed reach to the ground and bolsters rider confidence in a variety of scenarios, from navigating through town to venturing off the beaten path. The carefully positioned handlebars, seat, and footrests work in harmony to create a comfortable and intuitive riding posture, enhancing both maneuverability and comfort.

A tapered aluminum handlebar not only contributes to the bike's light, responsive handling but also reinforces its durable, off-road-ready construction. Meanwhile, the frame's design allows riders to grip it with their legs, improving chassis control, especially when traversing more technical terrain. The seamless transitions between the seat, side covers, and shrouds further aid in smooth rider movement, making it easier to shift body weight or stand during trail riding.

Comfort was a key consideration in shaping the seat, which included choosing the appropriate thickness to provide support during rides. Passenger footpegs come standard, inviting the option for two-up riding and expanding the bike's versatility for shared adventures. A 2-gallon fuel tank rounds out the package by offering a solid cruising range.

Whether it's a quick urban commute or an all-day trek through the wilderness, the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS delivers comfort, confidence, and control in an approachable, trail-ready platform.

## STYLING

The 2026 KLX230 SHERPA S ABS distinguishes itself from Kawasaki's traditional KLX lineup with styling that evokes rugged outdoor gear rather than race-inspired styling. Instead of the forward-leaning, downward lines and bright, racing graphics seen on KX-style models, the SHERPA S ABS features rising body lines and earth-tone color schemes that convey a friendly, approachable character. This design shift gives the bike a distinct identity, one rooted in versatility, function, and a strong sense of outdoor adventure.

Slim bodywork, compact proportions, and a visibly lower seat height contribute to the bike's accessible image, especially when compared to the larger, more imposing adventure motorcycles on the market. The overall package is compact and functional, allowing for easy navigation both on the street and the trail. The top of the tank shrouds follows the upward line of the frame, reinforcing the SHERPA's inviting and laid-back attitude, while providing riders with a clear view of the terrain beneath them.

At the front, a stacked dual-LED headlight unit delivers excellent illumination for trail or nighttime use, while its white-tinted beam adds a modern touch. The two-tone headlight cowl and distinctive guard bar below not only enhance its compact appearance but also emphasize the SHERPA's practical design. Metal-reinforced hand guards, slim side covers, and a durable aluminum skid plate all serve functional roles while reinforcing the motorcycle's tough, ready-for-anything image.

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The attention to detail continues with a premium two-texture seat in black vinyl, blending a dimpled top surface for high-grip feel with smooth side panels that underscore the SHERPA's refined ruggedness. Graphic accents, including diamond-plate patterns and a mix of gloss and matte finishes, add dimensional flair to the minimalist color palette. Matte black touches on the muffler cover, exhaust pipe, and headlight cowl balance the natural tones of the bodywork, while black alumite rims complete the cohesive, outdoor-ready look. Every aspect of the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS styling reflects its role as a highly capable, versatile machine designed to accompany riders wherever their adventures take them.

## **INSTRUMENTATION & SMARTPHONE CONNECTIVITY**

Modern functionality is brought to the trail with all-digital instrumentation and integrated smartphone connectivity. At the heart of its cockpit is a large, easy-to-read LCD screen that delivers critical riding information at a glance. The display includes a speedometer, odometer, dual trip meters, a fuel gauge, and a clock, along with smartphone call and mail notifications, a Bluetooth indicator, and a full set of indicator lamps, ensuring riders remain informed and connected whether they're navigating backroads or commuting through the city.

Adding a high-tech edge to the SHERPA's rugged capabilities is built-in Bluetooth connectivity, which allows the motorcycle to pair wirelessly with a rider's smartphone. Through the RIDEOLOGY THE APP MOTORCYCLE\* platform, Kawasaki offers riders a suite of features that extend the riding experience far beyond the handlebars. Once connected, users can view real-time vehicle information, including battery voltage, directly from their phone.

The app also offers robust ride-tracking and community features. The Riding Log function uses GPS to record routes and riding data, which can be viewed and analyzed post-ride. Riders can also create profiles and share their location and logs with other users, fostering a sense of community among adventurers who want to connect and share experiences. For those who value routine upkeep, the Maintenance Log keeps a detailed record of servicing events such as oil changes, inspections, and parts replacements, helping owners stay on top of bike care with ease.

*\*RIDEOLOGY THE APP is not intended for use during vehicle operation. Only use RIDEOLOGY THE APP when the vehicle is not being operated and it is safe to do so.*

## **KAWASAKI KLX®230 DF**

When the terrain gets tough and reliability is non-negotiable, the all-new 2026 [Kawasaki KLX®230 DF](#) stands ready as the ultimate heavy-duty two-wheeled companion. Built to thrive in demanding environments, this rugged multi-purpose motorcycle combines durability, performance, and all-around usability to meet the needs of riders who require a machine that's as capable as it is dependable.

The KLX230 DF is built off of the KLX230 platform and comes equipped with many of the same great features found on the KLX230 SHERPA S ABS, including its 233cc fuel-injected air-cooled single engine, compact perimeter frame, aluminum skidplate, disc brakes with optional ABS, handguards and tapered aluminum handlebar, LED headlight, slim shrouds, rugged styling with earth-tone colors, and digital instrumentation with smartphone connectivity. The KLX230 DF also comes equipped with a

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generous 7.8-inches of front wheel travel and 8.7-inches of rear wheel travel thanks to long travel suspension, and 9.4-inches of ground clearance.

Several exclusive features can also be found on the KLX230 DF, including engine guards that are attached to the bottom of the frame and add peace of mind when riding off-road and help protect the engine from tip-over damage. A rear carrier also comes as standard equipment and boasts a durable tubular steel black finish construction with a silver aluminum center plate. The 10x10-inch rear carrier offers 6.6 lbs. of cargo capacity with four welded bungee hooks for cinching cargo down.

The KLX230 DF earth-tone colors were chosen so that it doesn't stand out when riding in both natural and urban areas. The body panels, engine, frame, swingarm, and other parts were all colored black to keep the look simple, tough, rugged and stealthy.

## 2026 Model Variations

### **Kawasaki KLX®230 SHERPA S ABS**

**Color:** Whitish Beige

**MSRP:** \$5,699

**Availability:** Now

### **Kawasaki KLX®230 DF**

**Color:** Medium Cloudy Gray

**MSRP:** \$5,799

**Availability:** Now

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## ABOUT KAWASAKI

Kawasaki started full-scale production of motorcycles over a half century ago. The first Kawasaki motorcycle engine was designed based on technical know-how garnered from the development and production of aircraft engines, and Kawasaki's entry into the motorcycle industry was driven by the company's constant effort to develop new technologies. Numerous new Kawasaki models introduced over the years have helped shape the market, and in the process have created enduring legends based on their unique engineering, power, design and riding pleasure. In the future, Kawasaki Motors, Ltd. is committed to maintaining and furthering these strengths which will surely give birth to new legends.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. markets and distributes Kawasaki motorcycles, ATVs, side x sides, and JET SKI® watercraft through a network of approximately 1,100 independent retailers, with close to an additional 7,700 retailers specializing in general purpose engines. Kawasaki and its affiliates employ nearly 3,100 people in the United States, with approximately 260 of them located at Kawasaki's Foothill Ranch, California headquarters.

Kawasaki's tagline, "Let the good times roll.®", is recognized worldwide. The Kawasaki brand is synonymous with powerful, stylish and category-leading vehicles. Information about Kawasaki's

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complete line of powersports products and Kawasaki affiliates can be found on the Internet at [www.kawasaki.com](http://www.kawasaki.com).