

October 27, 2026

NEW MODEL PRESS RELEASE

2027 KAWASAKI KLE®650 ABS MOTORCYCLE LINEUP

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. CHALLENGE IT

Building on the adventure-focused foundation established by the KLE®500, Kawasaki expands its motorcycle lineup with the new [KLE®650 ABS](#). The KLE650 ABS combines rally-inspired capability with an increased emphasis on long-distance touring comfort. A 21-inch front wheel, long-travel suspension and purposeful ergonomics create a versatile package designed to deliver confidence and comfort whether tackling the daily commute, exploring backroads or setting out on an extended adventure.

At the heart of the KLE650 ABS is Kawasaki's next-generation middleweight 649cc parallel twin engine. New electronic throttle valves and carefully tuned intake and exhaust systems help deliver strong low- to mid-range torque, powerful performance at higher rpm and smooth, linear power delivery throughout the rev range. Kawasaki TRaction Control (KTRC) and electronic cruise control come standard, adding an additional level of rider confidence and convenience, particularly during long days in the saddle.

A compact trellis frame, 21-inch front and 17-inch rear spoke wheels, long-travel suspension and a road-oriented seat carry forward key elements of the KLE500 while adapting them to the KLE650 ABS's increased comfort and versatility. Larger rally-inspired bodywork gives the motorcycle a commanding presence and premium appearance, while the KLE®650 SE ABS adds Kawasaki Quick Shifter (KQS), tubeless tires and a larger windscreen for even greater convenience and long-distance comfort. Together, these elements make the KLE650 ABS ready to turn every ride into an opportunity for adventure.



KLE®650 ABS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Next-generation 649cc parallel-twin engine
- Kawasaki TRaction Control
- Multi-purpose trellis frame
- Instrumentation with smartphone connectivity

- Long-travel suspension
- 21" / 17" spoke wheels
- Adjustable windscreen
- KX-inspired ergonomics
- Selectable ABS
- Kawasaki Quick Shifter (SE model)
- USB-C outlet (SE model)
- Metal reinforced hand guards (SE model)
- Large aluminum skidplate (SE model)
- 106mm taller windscreen (SE model)
- D.I.D. aluminum fat-type handlebar (SE model)

ENGINE

At the heart of the KLE650 ABS is a liquid-cooled, DOHC, 8-valve 649cc parallel twin engine developed from Kawasaki's proven middleweight platform. Known for its reliability and rider-friendly character, the engine has been further refined with electronic throttle valves and optimized intake and exhaust systems to suit the KLE650 ABS. The result is strong low- to mid-range torque, powerful high-rpm performance, and smooth, linear response, providing the controllability needed for navigating city streets and unpaved roads while maintaining the performance desired for highway cruising and adventure touring.

The intake and exhaust systems have been carefully tuned to produce strong torque below 4,000 rpm, giving the rider responsive and predictable power at lower engine speeds. From the mid-range, a broad and seamless torque curve continues through the upper rpm range, with intake cam duration and overlap helping deliver a stronger power feeling above approximately 6,000 rpm. A slim air cleaner box is optimized for low- to mid-range performance, while dual intake ducts help reduce intake noise for increased comfort during extended cruising. Fine-atomizing fuel injectors producing 75-micron droplets work with optimized intake ports to provide an ideal fuel-air mixture and crisp response.

Electronic throttle valves allow the ECU to precisely manage both intake air and fuel delivery, resulting in smooth, natural throttle response and linear acceleration while also contributing to improved fuel efficiency. The 38mm throttle bores help enhance the engine's power feeling at higher RPM, while ECU settings prioritize controllability at lower engine speeds and provide torque delivery that responds faithfully to rider input. The system also enables electronic cruise control and contributes to the natural shifting feel of the available KQS (SE model), which allows both clutchless upshifts and downshifts.

The exhaust system was developed to complement the engine's broad performance characteristics. A 630mm header pipe contributes to strong low- and mid-range response, while the overall exhaust length and internal silencer baffle arrangement help maintain robust torque throughout the rpm range and support performance at higher engine speeds. The upswept silencer also plays an important role in the KLE650 ABS's adventure-focused design, providing ample ground clearance while creating space

for symmetrical accessory side cases positioned close to the motorcycle's centerline without compromising maximum lean angle.

A compact engine design contributes to the KLE650 ABS's nimble handling characteristics. A triangular arrangement of the crankshaft and transmission shafts minimizes the engine's front-to-back dimensions, while a cassette-style transmission package contributes to a compact layout and easier maintenance. A 180-degree crankshaft drives a balancer shaft for smooth operation, while a wet-sump lubrication system contributes to mass centralization and an optimized center of gravity. Additional refinements include lightweight, open-deck aluminum die-cast cylinders with plated, linerless bores, a simplified cooling system with reduced external plumbing and an auto-fast idle system. For increased rider comfort, a radiator fan cover directs hot air outward and away from the rider, helping reduce heat around the fuel tank, frame, and other rider contact areas during low-speed riding and extended periods of idling.

ASSIST & SLIPPER CLUTCH

The KLE650 ABS is equipped with an Assist & Slipper Clutch developed using feedback from Kawasaki's racing activities. The clutch utilizes both assist and slipper cams to provide a lighter clutch lever pull while helping manage back-torque during aggressive downshifts. During normal operation, the assist cam acts as a self-servo mechanism, pulling the clutch hub and operating plate together to compress the clutch plates, allowing for a reduced clutch spring load and lighter lever feel. When excessive engine braking occurs during quick or accidental downshifts, the slipper cam forces the clutch hub and operating plate apart, reducing pressure on the clutch plates and helping limit rear-wheel hop and skidding for smoother, more controlled deceleration.

KAWASAKI TRACTION CONTROL (KTRC)

KTRC offers two selectable modes designed to support riders across a wide range of riding conditions. The system continuously monitors multiple parameters to provide an accurate, real-time picture of riding conditions and manage rear-wheel traction accordingly. Mode 1 is the least intrusive setting and is designed with sport riding in mind, helping manage traction during cornering while maximizing rear-wheel drive for strong acceleration out of corners. Mode 2 provides a higher level of intervention, reducing engine output when excessive wheel spin is detected to help the rear tire regain traction. This allows riders to confidently navigate brief low-grip surfaces, as well as extended stretches of wet pavement, cobblestone or gravel.

KAWASAKI QUICK SHIFTER (KQS) - SE MODEL

KQS allows riders to take greater advantage of the KLE650 ABS's engine performance by enabling clutchless upshifts and downshifts for seamless acceleration and smooth deceleration. During acceleration, the system detects shift lever input and signals the ECU to momentarily cut ignition, allowing the next gear to be engaged without operating the clutch. KQS automatically controls engine speed to facilitate smooth clutchless downshifts. A highly reliable contactless-type sensor provides precise operation, while functionality from engine speeds as low as 2,000 rpm helps make shifting

smooth and comfortable even at slower speeds, particularly during around-town riding. KQS comes equipped with the KLE650 SE ABS and is available as an accessory for the standard KLE650 ABS.

ELECTRONIC CRUISE CONTROL

Kawasaki's electronic cruise control allows riders to maintain a desired speed without continuously applying the throttle, reducing strain on the right hand and contributing to relaxed, comfortable long-distance riding. The system is conveniently operated using controls on the left handlebar, with "+" and "-" buttons allowing the rider to adjust the selected cruising speed. Once activated, the Electronic Throttle Valves automatically adjust engine output to maintain the set speed, including when encountering ascending or descending grades. Electronic cruise control can be disengaged by operating the front brake lever, clutch lever or rear brake pedal, shifting gears, or closing the throttle beyond the zero-throttle position. The system will also disengage automatically in the event of significant traction control intervention.

INSTRUMENTATION

The KLE650 ABS is equipped with a 5-inch LCD instrument panel featuring a high-contrast positive display for excellent visibility during daytime riding. Its clean, functional layout places the speedometer and bar-style tachometer prominently within the display, allowing riders to quickly recognize essential information at a glance. Additional display functions include a gear position indicator, fuel gauge, odometer, dual trip meters, remaining range, current and average fuel consumption, coolant temperature, clock, service indicator, and Economical Riding Indicator. When connected to a compatible smartphone, the display can also show device notifications, including email and telephone alerts, smartphone battery level, and headset connection status.

The Economical Riding Indicator provides riders with an easy-to-reference visual cue when riding conditions are contributing to favorable fuel consumption. The indicator remains active at all times and appears on the LCD display when efficient riding conditions are detected, allowing riders to use the feedback to adjust their riding habits and help maximize fuel efficiency – an especially useful feature when covering longer distances.

The KLE650 SE ABS features a 5-inch full-color TFT instrument panel that gives the cockpit a refined, high-tech appearance while providing excellent visibility in a wide range of riding conditions. Thin-film transistor (TFT) technology delivers a high-quality display with vivid colors, while glass bonding positions the screen closer to its glass covering for enhanced clarity. IPS (in-plane switching) LCD technology provides a wider viewing angle, helping riders easily read information whether seated or standing. The display automatically switches from a white to black background when ambient light levels decrease, or riders can manually select either background according to their preference. Screen brightness also adjusts automatically to ambient conditions, with two rider-selectable brightness levels available.

Two selectable display layouts allow riders to tailor the instrumentation to their preference and riding situation. Type 1 features a sporty layout with a bar-style tachometer and prominent speedometer, while essential vehicle information is displayed in a simple format below. When connected to RIDELOGY THE APP MOTORCYCLE*, compatible turn-by-turn navigation can also

display upcoming direction changes and distance information. Type 2 draws inspiration from rally machines, placing greater emphasis on the speedometer and gear position while presenting turn-by-turn navigation in a larger, more prominent format. Navigation functionality requires an applicable license, and availability varies by market.

The comprehensive TFT display provides riders with access to a wide range of vehicle and riding information, including a digital speedometer and tachometer, gear position indicator, shift lamp, fuel gauge, odometer, dual trip meters, current and average fuel consumption, remaining range, average speed, total time, coolant temperature, clock and battery voltage. The display also provides information for KTRC, KQS, Electronic Cruise Control and Riding Modes, along with Kawasaki service and oil change reminders. When paired with a compatible smartphone, additional information includes incoming call and email notifications, smartphone battery level, headset and Voice Command status, Riding Log status, RIDEOLOGY THE APP MOTORCYCLE* connection status and turn-by-turn navigation. An Economical Riding Indicator is also included to help riders identify riding conditions that contribute to efficient fuel consumption.

SMARTPHONE CONNECTIVITY

Smartphone connectivity enhances the KLE650 ABS riding experience by allowing riders to connect their motorcycle wirelessly using Kawasaki's RIDEOLOGY THE APP MOTORCYCLE* application. Once connected, riders can access a variety of motorcycle information directly from their smartphone, including fuel level, odometer readings, and maintenance schedules. The riding log function can record GPS route information along with vehicle running data for review after a ride, while incoming telephone calls and email notifications can be displayed on the motorcycle's instrument panel.

Additional connectivity functions further expand convenience both on and off the motorcycle. On the KLE650 SE ABS, riders can use their smartphone to adjust general instrument settings, including shift indicator timing and date settings, while compatible turn-by-turn navigation can be displayed directly on the instrument panel. Through the app, riders can also search for destinations and businesses, review route information, add waypoints, and adjust route order. A voice command function allows compatible app features to be controlled hands-free, helping riders remain focused on operating the motorcycle. Availability of voice command and navigation functions requires a valid license, purchased separately, and varies by country.

CHASSIS

The KLE650 ABS is built around a compact, high-tensile steel trellis frame engineered to provide a balance of stability, responsive handling and lightweight maneuverability. Developed with real-world versatility in mind, the chassis is designed to deliver confident performance across a wide variety of conditions, from daily commuting and winding paved roads to unpaved routes and long-distance adventure touring. With a total frame weight of 37.2 lbs., strategically positioned cross members and carefully placed gusseting provide the necessary rigidity for composed on-road handling while maintaining the light, agile character expected from a middleweight adventure motorcycle.

The engine is utilized as a stressed member of the chassis, with rigid mounting points and short mounting brackets helping optimize rigidity and achieve an ideal front-to-rear balance for enhanced ride

stability. A swingarm mounting plate bolts directly to the rear of the engine, with the swingarm pivot shaft passing through the plate to effectively mount the swingarm to the engine. Its hollow, reinforced box construction helps reduce weight while eliminating the need for additional frame cross members. An optimized swingarm pivot position further contributes to the KLE650 ABS's responsive handling character.

The steel swingarm uses a similar hollow, reinforced construction to balance strength and low weight. Compared with the KLE500, vertical rigidity has been increased while gusseting on the cross-piece has been reduced, resulting in a 1.1 lb. weight reduction that helps lower unsprung mass. Chassis dimensions, including wheelbase, caster and trail, place a greater emphasis on on-road composure than the KLE500, complementing the KLE650 ABS's increased focus on long-distance touring while retaining the versatility needed when the pavement ends.

Attention to weight, rider control and comfort extends throughout the chassis. Machining on the aluminum lower triple clamp helps reduce mass, while a one-piece, left-to-right connected handlebar holder contributes to more direct handling. The handlebar holder is rubber-mounted to the upper triple clamp to help reduce vibration reaching the rider. A slim 4.2 gallon fuel tank balances useful riding range with maneuverability, and its carefully developed shape allows the rider to shift their weight farther forward for greater control on unpaved terrain. The tank is also designed to avoid extending excessively downward, helping preserve valuable ground clearance.

Adventure-touring practicality was incorporated directly into the chassis design. A rigid rear frame provides the strength necessary to simultaneously accommodate two accessory side cases and a top case, giving riders ample carrying capacity for longer journeys. A lightweight plastic skid plate comes standard and features a raised front section that helps shield the oil filter while providing additional protection for the engine and exhaust components. Its rugged design complements the KLE650 ABS's adventure-focused appearance, while its lower weight compared with a metal-type component helps maintain the motorcycle's light and responsive character.

SUSPENSION

The KLE650 ABS features long-travel suspension designed to retain the predictable handling, ride comfort and bump absorption needed for unpaved terrain while placing a greater emphasis on road-holding performance and long-distance comfort. Up front, a specially designed 43mm cartridge-type inverted fork provides 8.3-inches of wheel travel, with its inverted design helping reduce unsprung weight while providing the rigidity needed for precise, lightweight handling. The fork settings balance bump absorption with road-holding performance on paved surfaces, while a 10 N/mm spring rate complements the rear suspension settings and helps improve front tire ground-following performance for a comfortable and agile ride. Integrated fork guards help protect the fork tubes from rocks and debris when venturing off-road.

At the rear, Kawasaki's New Uni-Trak® suspension provides 7.7-inches of wheel travel, delivering smooth action through the initial portion of the stroke along with firm bottoming resistance. The system is tuned to provide confident road-following performance on pavement while maintaining a planted and reassuring feel over unpaved surfaces. A 75 N/mm rear spring rate places an emphasis on comfort and ride quality on smooth roads, complementing the KLE650 ABS's long-distance touring focus. Stepless

adjustable spring preload allows riders to fine-tune suspension setup and ride height to accommodate additional weight.

BRAKES & WHEELS

A capable braking package is designed to provide strong, predictable stopping performance and precise control across a variety of riding conditions. Up front, dual 300mm steel discs are paired with dual-piston calipers featuring 27mm pistons, providing braking performance well-suited to the KLE650 ABS's middleweight platform. A rigid front brake master cylinder helps minimize ineffective lever stroke for a more direct, controllable braking feel. At the rear, a 230mm disc is paired with a dual-piston caliper featuring large 27mm pistons for balanced braking performance.

A compact and lightweight ABS control unit provides precise brake control, while selectable ABS gives riders the ability to disable the system when desired, such as when riding on unpaved surfaces. When the motorcycle is turned off and restarted, the system automatically returns to its default setting with ABS enabled for both the front and rear wheels.

A 21-inch front and 17-inch rear wheel combination features lightweight aluminum rims paired with durable steel spokes that provide excellent bump absorption while helping reduce unsprung weight for light, confidence-inspiring handling across a variety of surfaces. Dunlop Trailmax Mixtour tires are fitted front and rear and were specially developed towards on-road grip. Their low block height and large block contact area contribute to enhanced handling on paved roads while providing the comfort desired for long-distance adventure touring. On the KLE650 SE ABS model, tubeless front and rear wheels allow punctures to be repaired without the need to remove and replace an inner tube.

ERGONOMICS

The KLE650 ABS features a relaxed rider triangle designed to provide comfort during long-distance riding while maintaining the freedom of movement needed when venturing off pavement. An elevated handlebar position, slightly forward footpeg placement and carefully shaped seat create a natural riding position for a wide range of riders and riding situations. The wide, forward-positioned fat-type handlebar – steel on the standard model and aluminum on the KLE650 SE ABS – provides ample room for movement whether seated or standing, while its weight is optimized to help minimize vibration. The slim fuel tank and smooth rider-contact surfaces, developed using experience gained from Kawasaki's KX motocross models, allow the rider to easily shift their weight and transition between seated and standing positions. The engine, clutch and front sprocket covers were also designed with flat profiles to provide additional freedom for leg movement.

Long-distance comfort is complemented by a rally-style windshield that can be adjusted between three positions: standard height, 27mm higher or 55mm higher at its tallest setting. The windshield maintains the same contour in each position for a consistent appearance while allowing riders to tailor wind protection to their preference. Clear panels surrounding the front cowling further reinforce the KLE650 ABS's rally-inspired design, providing a clear view of the terrain ahead while helping block wind without adding the visual bulk of a larger front cowling.

The stepped rider and passenger seats place the passenger higher than the rider, providing the rider with additional lumbar support while giving the passenger an elevated view and ample cushioning. Generous padding and a unique hollow seat construction contribute to comfort over extended distances, while the rider seat's shape allows easy forward and rearward weight movement for greater control. A seat height of 34.2-inches balances reach to the ground with a relaxed knee bend.

Removable footpeg rubber inserts further increase versatility and can be removed without tools to expose spiked, off-road-style footpegs, allowing riders to choose between cushioned comfort on pavement and increased grip when riding off-road.

STYLING

Distinctive rally-inspired styling gives the KLE650 ABS a purposeful appearance that looks equally at home exploring unpaved roads or covering long distances on the highway. Its design blends three distinct influences to create Kawasaki's latest adventure styling direction. Rally-raid inspiration comes through in the tall, compact front cowling, windshield and 21-inch front wheel, while familiar street motorcycle elements such as the stepped seat, low-mounted front fender and distinctly Kawasaki headlight design contribute to its approachable character. KX motocross-inspired elements, including long, smooth side covers and a slim fuel tank, complete the design while creating a seamless rider interface that promotes freedom of movement.

The tall front cowling immediately establishes the KLE650 ABS's condensed rally-raid appearance, with clear surrounding panels giving the front end a slim, compact look from the rider's perspective. A compact triple LED headlight serves as the focal point, with two upper low-beam headlights and a single lower high beam. Behind the cowling, the instrument panel is positioned high and angled for excellent visibility whether the rider is seated or standing, further reinforcing the rally-inspired cockpit. A convenient multi-purpose bar sits above the display, while the enclosed inner cowling surrounding the instrumentation incorporates a street motorcycle-inspired finish. Sharp LED turn signals with clear lenses complement the front-end design and add a premium appearance.

Large, flat shrouds and increased bodywork volume give the KLE650 ABS a substantial adventure-bike presence while retaining slim overall proportions. Compared with the KLE500, larger colored middle side covers work together with the shrouds to visually increase front-end volume and create the impression of a larger-class adventure machine. Sleek, flat surfaces along the side covers, engine covers and clutch cover draw inspiration from Kawasaki's KX motocross machines, contributing to a solid yet agile appearance. Metallic grey generator, clutch and chain covers highlight the engine and emphasize the KLE650 ABS's larger displacement, while the refined swingarm design contributes to its premium finish.

Toward the rear, the stepped seat provides a familiar street-bike appearance. An upward-slanting tail cowl draws further inspiration from the KX family and gives the rear of the motorcycle a light, agile look. The upswept muffler follows the same theme, with a slash-cut cover and KX-inspired end cap emphasizing its off-road-ready character and visual ground clearance. A vertically slim LED taillight finishes the compact rear profile, completing a design that blends rally-raid purpose, street-bike refinement and Kawasaki motocross influence into a distinctive adventure motorcycle.

KLE650 SE ABS

For riders seeking an even greater level of long-distance comfort, convenience and adventure-ready capability, the KLE650 SE ABS builds on the standard model with a collection of premium features and equipment. In addition to its TFT instrumentation and standard KQS, the KLE650 SE ABS features a windscreen that is 106mm taller for increased wind protection and comfort on extended journeys. A lightweight and strong D.I.D. aluminum fat-type handlebar contributes to responsive handling and rugged durability, while metal-reinforced hand guards provide added protection when riding off-road and help block wind during colder riding conditions. A USB-C outlet integrated into the cockpit's inner cover provides a convenient charging point for compatible electronic devices and is available as an accessory on the standard KLE650 ABS.

Additional equipment further enhances the KLE650 SE ABS's adventure-touring capability. A large aluminum skid plate extends farther along the sides and underside of the engine for increased protection when traveling over rough terrain. Tubeless spoke wheels retain the rugged, adventure-ready appearance and shock-absorbing characteristics of traditional wire-spoke wheels while adding the convenience of easier puncture repair for touring and everyday use. Together, these features give the KLE650 SE ABS an increased focus on comfort, convenience and versatility for riders looking to travel farther both on and off the pavement.

KAWASAKI GENUINE ACCESSORIES (KGA)

A wide range of Kawasaki Genuine Accessories (KGA) are available to help riders tailor the KLE650 ABS for touring, everyday riding and adventure use. Available accessories include a top case and bracket with passenger grab bars, panniers and pannier brackets, rear carrier, large windshield, hand guards, heated grips, USB Type-C outlet, LED fog lamps, large skid plate, engine guard, Low Seat, ERGO-FIT Pillion Seat, center stand, radiator screen, GPS bracket and accessory relay.

2027 Model Variations

Kawasaki KLE®650 ABS

Color: Pearl Blizzard White,

MSRP: \$8,799

Availability: February 2027

Kawasaki KLE®650 SE ABS

Color: Pearl Storm Grey, Metallic Bluish Green

MSRP: \$9,999

Availability: February 2027

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available only to users who have purchased a license for those functions. Feature availability may vary to meet individual markets.

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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. (KMC) 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. KMC and its affiliates employ nearly 3,100 people in the United States, with approximately 260 of them located at KMC's Foothill Ranch, California headquarters.

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