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2026 KAWASAKI KLE®500 ABS MOTORCYCLE

LIFE'S A RALLY. RIDE IT.

The new 2026 Kawasaki [KLE®500 ABS](#) is built for adventure, transitioning from city streets to dirt roads and beyond. Its rally-inspired styling immediately signals purpose and capability, with a tall windshield, raised short fuel tank, and sweeping side covers that emphasize both functionality and rider freedom. The 21" spoked front wheel and protective skid plate hint at the bike's off-road prowess, combining rugged cues with a sleek, cohesive design that balances form and function.

On paved roads, the KLE500 ABS offers smooth, confident performance. The upright riding position and elevated windshield provide excellent visibility and wind protection, while the trellis-style frame delivers an ideal balance of rigidity and low weight. Fully loaded with panniers or a top case, the bike maintains a composed, confidence-inspiring ride. Its compact, parallel-twin engine delivers strong torque and the perfect mix of power and control, whether running errands around town, cruising on the highway, or venturing on longer tours.

Off the pavement, the KLE500 ABS reveals its true capabilities. Long-travel suspension conquers rough terrain, while a slim fuel tank and sleek side covers facilitate natural standing riding positions. Generous ground clearance and smooth, linear power delivery give riders confidence across a variety of terrain. For those seeking an elevated experience, the KLE500 SE ABS model adds a premium package with a taller windshield, reinforced hand guards, larger skid plate, LED lighting, and TFT instrumentation –enhancing both comfort and control. With the KLE500 ABS, Kawasaki invites riders to embrace adventure wherever it leads.



KAWASAKI KLE500 ABS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fuel-injected 451cc parallel-twin engine
- Lightweight, multi-purpose trellis frame
- LCD instrumentation with Smartphone Connectivity via RIDEOLOGY THE APP*
- Relaxed, upright riding position with KX-inspired ergonomics
- KYB inverted front fork and New Uni-Trak® rear suspension
- Sturdy and light 21" front and 17" rear spoke wheels
- Large 300mm front / 230mm rear disc brakes with selectable ABS
- Rally-inspired styling with tall front cowl
- Adjustable rally-style windscreen

ENGINE

At the heart of the 2026 KLE500 ABS lies a responsive 451cc parallel twin engine, delivering usable power across the rev range. Whether cruising on the highway or tackling dirt roads, riders will appreciate its low-end torque, quick acceleration at higher rpm, and well-balanced, predictable character. The lightweight flywheel mass ensures sharp throttle response, while ECU settings smooth out power delivery on the road and provide plenty of low-end pull off-road. Combined with a fully machined balancer shaft to reduce vibration, the KLE500 delivers confidence-inspiring, comfortable performance both on and off the pavement.

The engine's design maximizes efficiency and compactness. Its 70.0 x 58.6mm bore and stroke provide strong, linear power, while the aluminum die-cast, open-deck cylinder offers excellent heat dissipation and reduced weight. Sleeveless plated bores further contribute to lightness and durability, while oil jets cooling the underside of the pistons enable the use of a lightweight piston design. Long-reach spark plugs not only aid performance with advanced timing but also optimize heat transfer by maintaining excellent contact with the cooling jacket, keeping the engine running efficiently under varying conditions.

A downdraft intake system delivers a short, direct path to the cylinders for efficient cylinder filling, particularly at high rpm. Its design also contributes to a slim chassis layout that improves reach to the ground. A large 5.6 L airbox, with rigidity designed into its top structure, enhances intake efficiency while filtering out unwanted noise – allowing riders to hear the satisfying intake note during acceleration. The left and right intake funnels feature different heights, a detail that smooths throttle response by tuning out torque valleys. Injectors placed close to the intake ports further improve combustion efficiency and deliver a natural, linear throttle feel.

Additional innovations reinforce the KLE500's performance advantage. Lightweight Denso stick-type ignition coils minimize electrical interference, while the silencer's upswept angle improves off-road ground clearance and allows panniers to be mounted symmetrically for balanced adventure touring. Maximum lean angle is preserved thanks to the thoughtful placement of the exhaust system. Heat management also received careful attention: Kawasaki's unique radiator fan cover redirects hot air away from the rider and critical contact areas like the frame, tank, and side covers, keeping the rider comfortable even in heavy traffic or during long days on the trail.

The KLE500's transmission complements its flexible engine performance with a 46/15 final drive ratio chosen for a perfect balance of highway efficiency and smooth off-road torque delivery. Its Assist & Slipper Clutch enhances control with an exceptionally light lever pull and wide engagement range, particularly valuable for new riders or those navigating technical terrain. The assist cam reduces spring load for an easy clutch feel, while the slipper cam prevents rear-wheel hop or skidding during aggressive downshifts by relieving pressure on the clutch plates. This dual-function clutch not only enhances performance but also makes the KLE500 more accessible and confidence-inspiring for riders.

INSTRUMENTATION

The KLE500 ABS features a high-contrast full LCD instrument panel designed for clear visibility and intuitive operation in all riding conditions. Its sophisticated layout includes a prominent bar-style tachometer that arcs over the speedometer and other displayed information, ensuring key data is immediately readable at a glance. The panel presents a comprehensive array of functions, including odometer, gear position indicator, fuel gauge, dual trip meters, remaining range, current and average

fuel consumption, coolant temperature, clock, service indicator, and connected device notifications such as mail and telephone alerts.

A standout feature of the instrument panel is Kawasaki's Economical Riding Indicator, which constantly provides feedback on favorable fuel consumption. By observing the conditions under which the indicator appears, riders can adjust their riding style to maximize efficiency and extend range. This practical, always-on feature complements the KLE500's adventure-ready versatility, helping riders balance performance and economy whether navigating city streets or exploring dirt roads.

SMARTPHONE CONNECTIVITY

The KLE500 ABS integrates advanced smartphone connectivity, allowing riders to interact seamlessly with their motorcycle via the RIDELOGY THE APP MOTORCYCLE* application. By linking their smartphone wirelessly to the instrument panel, riders can access a wide range of functions that enhance convenience, control, and overall riding experience. Essential vehicle information such as fuel gauge, odometer, and maintenance schedule can be monitored directly through the app, while GPS route and vehicle performance data can be logged and reviewed using the Riding Log function.

Connectivity extends to communication and customization features as well. Incoming phone calls and emails are indicated directly on the instrument display, keeping riders informed without taking their eyes off the road. General instrument display settings, including preferred units, date, and format, can be easily adjusted through the app, providing a personalized riding experience. Navigation capabilities allow riders to plan and modify routes, add waypoints, and search for destinations, helping to make adventure or commuting rides more intuitive and organized.

For added convenience and safety, select markets support a voice command feature, enabling riders to control the app while keeping hands and feet on the controls. Voice command and advanced navigation functions require a separate purchased license within the app, and availability may vary by region. This smartphone integration transforms the KLE500 into a connected, versatile adventure machine, combining modern technology with Kawasaki's signature riding performance.

CHASSIS

The KLE500 ABS is built on a high-tensile steel trellis frame, engineered specifically for real-world adventure riding. Rather than adapting motocross geometry, Kawasaki designed the frame for versatility and comfort across diverse conditions – from daily commuting to forest trails. Optimized chassis rigidity balance delivers both stability on the road and surefooted performance on rough terrain. Weighing only 41.8 lbs., the frame incorporates a thick down tube, ideally positioned cross members, and lightened gussets that reinforce key areas without adding unnecessary mass. The combination of lightweight construction and durable reinforcement ensures riders can enjoy both light handling and rugged capability.

To further enhance stability, the engine is mounted as a stressed member with short, rigid brackets, and was rotated forward around the axis of its output shaft – a sportbike-derived technique that lowers the center of gravity. This design provides a confident, lightweight feel whether maneuvering at a stop or picking the bike up off its side stand, while still offering 6.8" of ground clearance for off-road use. The fuel tank was also carefully designed to complement the chassis: slim and narrow to allow forward body

movement for better control on dirt but shaped not to extend too far downward so as to preserve clearance. With a 4.2-gallon capacity, it balances riding range with agile handling.

Additional chassis details reinforce the KLE500's dual-purpose nature. The aluminum lower triple clamp reduces weight, while the handlebar holder's one-piece rubber-mounted design cuts vibration for added comfort. At the rear, an aluminum diecast swingarm mounting plate secures the swingarm pivot shaft directly to the engine, boosting stability and enhancing handling response. The lightweight square-tube swingarm, reinforced with gussets, reduces unsprung weight for nimble suspension action. A rigid rear frame supports two panniers and a top case simultaneously, catering to touring riders who need cargo options. Meanwhile, a standard aluminum skid plate protects the engine and muffler from trail impacts, while adding to the KLE500's tough, adventure-ready styling.

SUSPENSION

The KLE500 ABS is equipped with suspension designed to deliver confidence and comfort across a wide range of terrain. Up front, a specially designed 43mm cartridge-type inverted fork –technology usually reserved for larger-displacement machines – offers 210mm of wheel travel. Its inverted construction reduces unsprung weight for responsive suspension action while providing greater rigidity than a conventional fork. The result is light, predictable handling on unpaved roads, complemented by fork settings that absorb bumps smoothly for reassuring control. Integrated fork guards in the front fender protect the tubes from rocks and debris, further enhancing durability in off-road conditions.

At the rear, Kawasaki's New Uni-Trak® suspension provides 200mm of wheel travel, delivering smooth, progressive action in the early stroke while maintaining strong resistance against bottoming. This balance ensures both on-road comfort and stability on rough trails. Stepless adjustable spring preload allows riders to tailor stiffness and ride height to suit their weight, riding style, or the added load of a passenger and luggage. Together, the advanced suspension components give the KLE500 ABS the versatility to explore dirt roads confidently while maintaining comfort and control on everyday rides.

BRAKES & WHEELS

Braking performance on the KLE500 ABS is designed to inspire rider confidence across both paved and unpaved terrain. A large 300mm steel front disc is paired with a balanced actuation dual-piston caliper using 27mm pistons for strong, controllable stopping power. The single-disc setup reduces unsprung weight, which not only contributes to light handling but also enhances ground-following performance over uneven terrain. A rigid front brake master cylinder further improves controllability by minimizing idle stroke, ensuring precise rider input is translated directly into braking force.

At the rear, a 230mm disc works with a dual-piston caliper fitted with large 27mm pistons, providing ample braking performance and stability. The compact, lightweight Nissin ABS control unit delivers highly accurate braking management, with selectable ABS functionality to match the rider's preference. Riders can disable ABS via a switch on the left handlebar when off-road riding calls for maximum direct control. For safety, the system automatically resets to its default mode (front and rear ABS enabled) after the bike is switched off and restarted.

The KLE500's wheels are equally tuned for adventure versatility. A 21" front and 17" rear wheel combination offer excellent stability and bump absorption. Lightweight aluminum rims paired with durable steel spokes strike the ideal balance of strength and reduced unsprung weight, contributing to agile, confidence-inspiring handling. Fitted with IRC GP-410 tires, the KLE500 benefits from a grip-

oriented compound for excellent road performance, while the tread design with wide-spaced center blocks enhances traction on dirt roads. These wheels and tires not only deliver performance but also add to the bike's purposeful, adventure-ready appearance.

ERGONOMICS

The KLE500 ABS offers a relaxed and versatile rider triangle, thoughtfully designed to accommodate a wide variety of rider sizes and situations. An elevated, aluminum fat-type handlebar and slightly foot-forward footpeg placement provide a natural, comfortable position for both seated and standing off-road riding. The wide handlebar allows freedom of movement while minimizing vibration, and the slim fuel tank promotes smooth transitions from sitting to standing, helping riders maintain control and balance in challenging terrain. Smooth bodywork and flat engine, clutch, and sprocket covers further allow riders to shift their weight freely, inspired by Kawasaki's motocross expertise.

Seat design enhances both comfort and control. The 33.8" seat height balances a relaxed knee bend with reachable footing, while its stepped arrangement provides lumbar support and a higher vantage point for the pillion passenger. Unique hollow cushioning offers long-ride comfort and style, making the KLE500 ideal for adventure touring. The rider's seat shape also allows easy forward and rearward weight shifting, optimizing bike handling during off-road maneuvers. Adding versatility, the footpegs feature removable rubber inserts, enabling a choice between road-friendly cushioning or spiked, off-road grip without the need for tools.

Rally-inspired features round out the ergonomics package. A tall, adjustable windshield offers three height positions – standard, 27mm higher, and 55mm higher – while maintaining a consistent contour and visual style. Clear panels surrounding the front cowling provide excellent visibility of the terrain and block wind effectively, evoking authentic rally machines. Together, these details combine to create a riding position that balances comfort, control, and style, giving riders confidence on both pavement and dirt.

STYLING

The 2026 KLE500 ABS showcases distinctive rally-inspired styling that emphasizes versatility and adventure readiness. Its tall, compact front cowling and windshield, combined with a 21" front wheel, convey a condensed rally-raid image, while familiar street bike elements such as the stepped seat, low-positioned front fender, and Kawasaki-family LED headlight design balance approachability with adventure performance. KX motocross-inspired touches – including long, smooth side covers and a slim fuel tank – create a seamless interface for rider movement, enhancing mobility whether seated or standing.

At the front, a compact triple LED headlight arrangement forms the focal point, with two upper low beams and a single lower high beam delivering excellent illumination despite the minimal footprint. Clear panels surrounding the front cowling and a closed inner cowling around the instrument panel give the KLE500 a slim, rider-friendly appearance, while the elevated, angled instrument panel ensures visibility from both seated and standing positions. A convenient multi-purpose bar above the panel adds functional versatility, rounding out the front-end design.

From the side and rear, the KLE500's styling blends performance cues with practicality. Shrouds and side covers feature large, flat surfaces and sharp graphics, emphasizing mass centralization, long-travel suspension, and adventure capability. The upward-slanting tail cowl and slash-cut muffler cover,

complemented by KX-inspired end cap styling, deliver an agile, off-road-ready look. Clear-lens turn signals and a vertically slim LED taillight contribute to a high-quality, compact appearance, while the stepped seat design maintains street-bike familiarity, underscoring the KLE500's versatility for both urban streets and rugged trails.

SPECIAL EDITION MODEL

The special edition KLE500 SE ABS elevates the adventure experience with premium features designed for both off-road excursions and on-road comfort. A taller 4.1" windshield enhances wind protection on long journeys, while a larger skid plate extends farther along the front and sides of the engine to provide extra durability and confidence when tackling challenging terrain. Metal-reinforced hand guards offer additional protection from branches and debris off-road, while also shielding the rider from wind and cold during extended rides, combining practicality with comfort.

The SE model also introduces a high-grade 4.3" all-digital TFT color instrument panel, replacing the standard LCD display. The TFT technology ensures exceptional visibility in all lighting conditions, with selectable background colors and auto-adjusting brightness. Riders gain access to a comprehensive suite of information, including a digital speedometer, bar-style tachometer, gear position indicator, shift lamp, fuel gauge, trip meters, remaining range, average and current fuel consumption, average speed, total time, coolant temperature, clock, battery voltage, service reminders, and the Economical Riding Indicator. Completing the premium rally-inspired look, sharp LED turn signals add both style and visibility, underscoring the KLE500 SE ABS' readiness for any adventure.

KAWASAKI GENUINE ACCESSORIES

Kawasaki offers a wide range of genuine accessories for the KLE500 ABS, allowing riders to tailor the bike to their adventure and touring needs. Available options include a top case with bracket and passenger grab bars, panniers with mounting brackets, and a rear carrier for additional cargo. Comfort and convenience can be enhanced with a large windshield, hand guards, grip heaters, USB Type-C charging, and an ERGO-FIT pillion seat or low seat option. Protective and performance-oriented accessories such as a large skid plate, engine guard, radiator screen, and center stand are also available, along with LED fog lamps, a GPS bracket, and a relay for additional accessories, ensuring the KLE500 is ready for any journey.

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2026 Model Variations

Kawasaki KLE500 ABS

Color: Metallic Carbon Gray/Ebony

MSRP: \$6,599

Availability: Now

Kawasaki KLE500 SE ABS

Color: Pearl Blizzard White, Metallic Bluish
Green

MSRP: \$7,499

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.

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