

# REVIEW - bmw k1200r

## REVIEW BY LOVELL HEATHCOTE

Thank you to Tommy Johns Motorcycles for allowing "Bike Talk" to test this awesome machine.

**FIRST IMPRESSION:** When at first fixing your eyes on this machine, one gets an immediate impression of an unmistakable combination of menace and class. I guess the class is naturally expected and visibly evident in this make of motorcycle. The menace comes from the sleek, naked styling and the incredible power plant, accompanied by the blending of the black and yellow paintwork.



**CONTROLS AND GADGETS:** The well positioned, highly visible and easy to read controls are accompanied by an aerodynamic mini-fairing which is enhanced by the (new-look) asymmetrical headlights.

**COMFORT:** The K1200R comes standard with fairly wide, straight handlebars which are well positioned and comfortable. This, in combination with a soft and forgiving seat, results in a fairly upright, very comfortable ride. This was the opinion after a 300km trip. Being a naked bike the wind protection was aided by the mini-fairing, thus resulting in a controlled ride up to  $\pm$  160km per hour, thereafter the normal naked bike turbulence was experienced.

**PERFORMANCE:** The power, torque and potent acceleration experienced, is enough to gain respect from even the most competent of riders. This machine is by far the best performing naked bike in production to date, pushing out 163bhp (120Kw) of power and 127Nm of torque at your command, combined with an 80% peak torque delivery available from 3 500 rpm all the way through to 11 000 rpm, is no mean feat by BMW. Not to mention (0 - 100) in 2,9sec. The bike feels light, with loads of agility and stability under severe cornering, thanks to BMW's advanced Paralever (rear) and Dualever (front) suspension setup, keeping the bike on an even keel during hard braking. This EVO braking system with optional ABS and 320mm brake discs results in "State of the Art" stopping power.

A huge bonus is the ESA (Electronic Suspension Adjustment) system which allows you to adjust the bikes suspension at the press of a button while on the move, to accommodate varying road surfaces, varying loads and your personal preferred riding style, in the choices of normal, comfort or sport modes.

What made the bike even more thrilling was the wailing sound which came from the aftermarket Laser can. What a privilege to experience this on a beautiful Saturday afternoon through the "Midlands Meander."

**ACCESSORIES:** A comprehensive list of BMW optional accessories are also available, namely: Anti-theft warning system, Heated handgrips, Low-profile seat, ABS brakes, Luggage rack, Clear turn signals, Cockpit fairing, BMW Navigator 11 GPS moving-map system, Center stand, BMW adjustable side cases, Soft top case, Tank bag.

**OVERALL RATING:** This bike separates the MEN from the boys. Do you have the "SOUL?"

**PRICE:** R126400.00 and an optional ESA at an additional R5500.00 Including 14% VAT

**TOMMY JOHNS**  
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