

# REVIEWS: Yamaha FJR1300



## REVIEW BY HEIN JONKER

The Yamaha FJR1300A is here to help you live for every touring moment. Great standard features like adjustable windscreen, handlebar and seat, plus heated grips, and easy on/off panniers make this the bike to take you places in deluxe sports style. The FJR1300 features all the performance, five-speed, comfort and refinement, super sport touring has never been so smooth.

In order for the FJR1300 to become a great success, Yamaha designed the sharp looking bodywork which talks about the abilities it covers with style. Also, this bike features a clever system for cooling herself and the rider, a central vent is situated beneath the instrument panel and this cools the rider and reduces negative pressure. The large capacity fuel tank is ergonomically shaped and offers excellent comfort and range.

I finally had the opportunity to test ride my favourite sport-touring motorcycle, since I've been on my own in 2006. "Mommy, I'm home!" It is my favourite because I was very fond of my own FJR and, according to my wife, it suited me perfectly. I first took it through city traffic (the only solution as I have just taken it from the dealer) and this is where the FJR touched my heart again. The bike is not so much touring oriented as it feels like a fat FZ1 managing to charm its occupants with increased levels of comfort and a more relaxed riding position.

Since 2006, Yamaha standard equipped the FJR1300 with anti-lock brakes and Unified Braking System, which is the same think as Linked Braking System. This system allows for the use of balanced anti-lock braking in all conditions and it shows. The rider feels truly in charge and this gives it confidence apart from safety.

Equipped with a 1298cc engine develops 145 hp @ 8000 rpm and 134Nm of torque @ 7000 rpm which leaves stop signs and green lights behind like no other as its engine doesn't lack in low-end grunt. The updated clutch ensures smooth engaging and is definitely less fatiguing on the rider's fingers than the one on the previous model years.

Hitting the highway I was anxious to see how the adjustable windscreen works at high speeds. While I did that, I noticed that the bike's taller gearing reduces revs from 4000 to 3500 rpm at a cruising speed of 120 km/h. I didn't detect any vibrations at that level but if you really want to bring more life into the mighty engine, 4500 rpm would be the vibration's starting point. Out on the highway, I saw the speedometer's needle up to as much as 240km/h and the road behaviour was absolutely spotless. This was only day one; I had this boy for a whole week which completed my unique experience encountered on the FJR1300 and put a big smile on my face.

Airflow at that kind of speeds was really important and I could notice that Yamaha has implemented a whole host of changes to the management of airflow. Those changes resulted into a better dispersion of hot air from the radiator and engine but most important from the rider. What completes the FJR1300's sporty character is the way it handles. The fact that it features upright handlebars provides good leverage and this helped me lean it very quickly. I actually managed to clip my boot while cornering on the M7 and I felt joy when I started to open the throttle again and again ... awesome!! Smooth, powerful and predictable.

Now that I look back, I clearly see how this Yamaha model ended up being such a great performer but my recent experience on it practically overwhelmed me. The bike is that great and its sportier character really makes a statement.

For those who want to experience the true sport-touring feel with a bit more sport than touring, Yamaha offer their best. Under the name of Yamaha FJR1300, this machine is worth every single penny. I'll advise you to put your hands on one and I bet it will become your best road companion, trust me!

**PRICE:** R149 999.00 - Incl. 14% VAT

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