

KINESIS RTD

£850 (frame & fork), £2,500 as built

Race The Distance, optimised for speed over long distances



Kinesis UK has close ties with the global Kinesis frame manufacturer based in Taiwan, so it's unsurprising to see advanced techniques such as liquid SPF hydroforming used in its new model RTD bike. This allows tubing to be manipulated into shapes which aim to lower weight while improving strength and comfort, and an extremely rare element called Scandium has been added to the aluminium here to achieve this, creating thinner tubing in the process.

The RTD is aimed primarily as a fast bikepacking bike and took initial design cues from the late endurance cycling legend Mike Hall. A close look at the RTD design shows that lots of thought has gone into the frame

design including very neat cable routing, Di2 compatibility, mudguard mounts and three bottle-cage mounts. There are no rack mounts, which was a conscious design decision to slightly lower weight as Kinesis expects most riders to use bikepacking bags. Another neat touch includes the single but removable 'switch lever' to aid wheel removal while keeping a smooth look.

On the road, the Challenge Strada Bianca tyre – a claimed 33mm but measured to a plump 35mm – ensured a very comfortable ride. There's plenty of room to spare, too, meaning mudguards can easily be fitted. Our build had a flawless Shimano Ultegra groupset which combined with primarily

Ritchey finishing kit created a fine overall build. We would question the choice of gearing with 52/26 and 11-28 cassette which might be too high for some riders, especially if bikepacking is planned, but given it's a custom-build bike this could be changed to suit. The own-label Kinesis wheels are light and responsive and it is good to have a tubeless ready wheel, even if the tyres fitted to our test bike weren't tubeless compatible. With such big tyre clearance, it's impressive to see that the chainstay length has remained relatively short, allowing for a more spirited ride. This, along with the slightly more relaxed head tube angle at the front, ensures that descending is a stable, confident affair.



GOOD

- **Tyre clearance** – Enough for larger tyres for better comfort
- **Frame design** – Neat cable routing, future-proof axle and brake mount options
- **Ride quality** – Smooth and swift – makes big rides that much more enjoyable



NOT SO GOOD

- **Gearing** – We wouldn't pick 52/36, 11-28 for this kind of bike but build can be customised
- **Looks** – The paint job is muted. A second colourway is expected soon, though
- **Tyres** – A tubeless option would have been preferable



PRICE: £2,500 as built
SIZE/WEIGHT: 54cm/8.7kg
FRAME: Scandium alloy; Columbus Futura carbon fork
GROUPSET: Shimano Ultegra R8000
BRAKES: Shimano Ultegra R8070 hydraulic disc
CHAINSET: Shimano Ultegra R8000, 52/36
CASSETTE: Shimano 105 R7000, 11-28
BARs: Ritchey Comp Evocurve
STEM: Ritchey Comp 4axis
SADDLE: Kinesis, plus Ritchey Comp 2-bolt seatpost
WHEELS: Kinesis Racelight Disc V2 with Challenge Strada Bianca VCL tyres
CONTACT: kinesisbikes.co.uk



CONCLUSION

Kinesis' new RTD is an impressive bike that meets its brief perfectly. It's a smooth, quick and fun bike to ride and the frame is well designed, while its clean cable routing gives it a sleek look. With a great choice of components throughout, it all adds up to what is, quite simply, a superb bike. 🚴

Rating

