



Biketest

Cube Nuroad WS

Women's-specific gravel bikes are uncommon. Frame builder **Liz Colebrook** tests one from Germany

This women's specific (WS) gravel bike is distinguished as such by its pink – sorry, 'coral' – details. Ah, well. The frame geometry is, surprisingly, exactly the same as the men's! Aside from the colour, the differences are the saddle shape and a narrower handlebar. So you could just get the equivalent-sized men's Nuroad Pro – or the better-value Nuroad Pro FE, which comes with mudguards, rear rack, and hub dynamo lighting for £1,049 – and swap the contact points.

There are frame fittings for mudguards and a rack on the Nuroad WS; Cube's in-house accessories will of course fit if

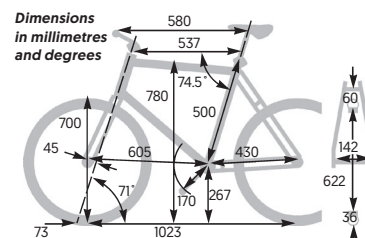


Above: The cables are routed internally, making for a clean and tidy look. Easier to hose down too!

you don't fancy the spartan set-up provided. The Nuroad is designed for those wanting to take the long way home and stray off the tarmac, as long as it's not too muddy. The bike does this well, with a geometry and finishing kit that makes it comfortable and fun.

The hydroformed down-tube is shaped to mimic carbon. It flares out to meet the tapered head tube, adding robustness to the handling and also keeping the worst of the road spray at bay. Helicopter tape is fitted to the underside, serving to limit damage from loose chippings. A nice touch.

Carbon fork blades absorb a good deal of road shock but ride comfort



Tech Spec CUBE NUROAD WS 2019

- **Price:** £999.99
 - **Sizes:** 50, 53 [tested], 56, 58cm
 - **Weight:** 10.4kg (no pedals)
 - **Frame & fork:** Aluminium 6061 T6 Superlight frame. Cube Nuroad fork, one-piece 3D-forged steerer/crown, carbon blades, 1 1/8" -1 1/2" tapered, 12x100mm. Fittings for mudguards, rear rack, 2 bottle cages.
 - **Wheels:** 35-622 Schwalbe G-One Allround Kevlar. Cube RA 0.8 CX wheelset (Alex 6061 H rims 622x21, 28-hole, 3 cross).
 - **Transmission:** Tiagra FC4700 chainset 50/34 170mm, Shimano BB86, KMC X10 chain, CS-HG500-10 11-34 cassette. Tiagra SL-4700 shifters [with reach adjusters] & Tiagra RD4700 derailleurs [rear med cage]. 20 ratios, 27-123in.
 - **Braking:** TRP Spyre mechanical discs, 160/160mm rotors, flat mount.
 - **Steering/seating:** Cube Gravel Race bar [hood c-c 41cm; drop c-c 47cm], 90mm stem +/- 6°, FSA Orbit Z-T Eco Top zero stack OD44mm bottom integrated 1 1/2" Aheadset. Cube Natural Fit Active Race WS saddle, 27.2x350mm seatpost.
- Website:** cube.eu

and performance is influenced most significantly by the wheel system. This in-house tubeless set-up is great for starters, but those spending more time off-road may want to upgrade to a rear hub with quicker pawl-engagement and a tyre with shoulder lugs.

Of all the mechanical discs out there, TRP Spyres are an excellent choice as both pads move to meet the rotor just like hydraulic brakes. Gearing is a subjective topic but a sub-compact or 1x would have impressed me more than a road-standard compact double, especially if the 50cm were fitted with a 165mm chainset. ●

Verdict

This is a super-versatile hybrid with drops. The men's Nuroad Pro FE is better value, however, even adding a women's saddle and handlebar.

Other options

TREK CHECKPOINT ▶ ALR 4 £1450

Premium aluminium frame with carbon fork. Plenty of accessory mounts plus Trek's canny 'Strangehold' rear dropout system. trekbikes.com



PINNACLE ARKOSE ▶ 3 £1250

The 2018 Arkose 3 features Shimano hydraulic discs and the Praxis Alba 48-32 chainset [165mm fitted to S]. No 2019 model yet. evanscycles.com

