

Schneider Square, named in honor of Hannes Schneider, and the café and art gallery L'atelier Kura form by far the best introduction to the village; both are centrally located near Nozawa Onsen's tourist information office and bus terminal. In Schneider Square you'll find a large monument commemorating two personalities who contributed to the town's growth and reputation: the blue tile-covered wall features a pair of wooden skis and poles, as well as a bronze bust of Hannes Schneider, while the large, round sculpture next to them—which resembles an Olympic medal—was designed by the late Taro Okamoto, the famous avant-garde artist who was a regular visitor to Nozawa Onsen. Nearby L'atelier Kura, meanwhile, is another local institution, which occupies an old, renovated warehouse (*kura* in Japanese) and renowned for its homemade bread specialties. Don't leave without tasting their "Nozawana Mayopan," a sandwich filled with a paste made from pickled local vegetable leaf Nozawana and mayonnaise. It's not the only masterpiece on offer, though. Head up to the second floor and you'll find a free art gallery.