

## **Horiuchi Kaimagari and Hiyako Kaimagari Streets**

*Kaimagari* (literally, “key turn”) streets are thought to have developed from castle defenses during the early part of the Edo period (1603–1867). By creating a right-angled turn in a street lined with tall walls, a passable thoroughfare could be made to look like a cul-de-sac. Visual trickery was employed to make would-be intruders think that their way was blocked, become disoriented, and turn back the way they had come.

Hagi Castle Town has two fine examples of *kaimagari* streets. The first, Horiuchi Kaimagari, is located near the Kuchiba Family Residence in the high-ranking samurai district of Horiuchi (“within the moat”). The second is Hiyako Kaimagari, which is located near the former villa of Tanaka Giichi (1864–1929), a Meiji-era military leader and prime minister. Hiyako Kaimagari is especially picturesque during the summer, when ripe, bright orange *natsumikan* citrus hang over the street’s beautifully preserved earthen walls. Natsumikan fruit is a Hagi specialty, and the spot draws photographers attempting to capture this emblematic image of Hagi.

### Horiuchi Kaimagari

Address: Horiuchi, Hagi, Yamaguchi

No phone

Open: 24 hours (daily)

Admission Free

Access: 2-minute walk east of the Kuchiba Residence

Google Maps link: [here](#)

### Hiyako Kaimagari

Address: 143 Hiyako, Hagi, Yamaguchi

No Phone

Open: 24 hours (daily)

Admission Free

Access: 3-minute walk north of the Former Villa of Tanaka Giichi, adjacent to Kankitsu Kōen Citrus Park

Google Maps link: [here](#)