

## Historic Roads and Pathways

There were two types of roads in Kamikatsu before motor vehicles became common: *okan* and *satomichi*. *Okan* were major roads between settlements, while *satomichi* were narrower footpaths that connected individual houses and farms. The routes found on a map dated 1813 are still used to this day, and offer a glimpse into life before automobiles.

Major modern driving routes often stay along flat land, but in the 1800s major traffic routes often led through mountain passes and hilly terrain. They also wove through the *satoyama*, the border between the semi-cultivated hills and flat farmland, to minimize travel distance for foot travel, rather than prioritize flat surfaces. This traffic pattern led to settlements developing next to mountain passes. These were also the primary routes for carrying charcoal made in the mountains down to the village of Kashiwara.