

2614 Ellis Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225, USA
April 29, 2018

Dear Family:

My name is Catherine Eileen McIntyre, known as Cat. I hope to visit your family for a month this fall. My home is Bellingham, Washington, in the U.S.A. Bellingham is in the far northwest of the US, close to the Canadian border. In fact, Vancouver, BC, Canada is the big city closest to where I live; Seattle, the largest city in Washington State is 100 miles from Bellingham.

I am a retired medical social worker, living in my own little house with two cats. I am beginning to learn Russian language for my planned trip. For ten years, I volunteered as an English tutor for immigrants from India, Thailand and China. In 2015, I went to Prague in the Czech Republic and earned a certificate to teach English as a foreign language (TEFL). In 2016, I spent a month in Laos, in SE Asia, teaching English to school children, aged 9-12 years. In short, I like teaching English very much.

Over my long life (I am 73 years old), I have lived in four countries besides the US, one in Asia, two in Africa and one in the Caribbean. In addition, I have traveled in 49 other countries. Whenever I travel to a country for more than a month, I learn the language of the country as best I can. Learning other languages has taught me a lot, and allowed me to be a good guest in non-English speaking countries.

After living with your family for a month, and teaching you English, I plan to spend another month in Russia visiting interesting places. I hope you will be able to give me some good suggestions where to go in Russia.

Both my parents are now dead, and I have been single for many years. I have no children of my own. I am very close to my brother's family, especially my nephew, Paul, and my niece, Laura. They are both grownups now, but we have many happy memories of doing things together when they were children. My brother is really my best friend, and I love his dear wife. Her name is Alexis and she is very proud of her Russian heritage.

I have always been fascinated by Russian history, literature and music. When I was very young, my parents introduced me to the music of Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Rimsky-Korsakov and Mussorgski. Just today, I attended a performance of *Pictures at An Exhibition*. Wow! What a thrilling piece of music.

I am very fond of exploring local foods, and have learned to cook foods of the countries I visited. My favorite so far is the food of Latin America. I also love Latin music. Exploring, on foot or by bus, is one of my favorite pastimes, and I love to read.

Most people find me quiet and a good listener. By living in other countries and traveling so much, I have become very flexible and enjoy fitting in to the place I live or visit. I enjoy people of all ages, and I look forward to learning from your family what it's like to live in Russia.

Sincerely,

Catherine "Cat" McIntyre