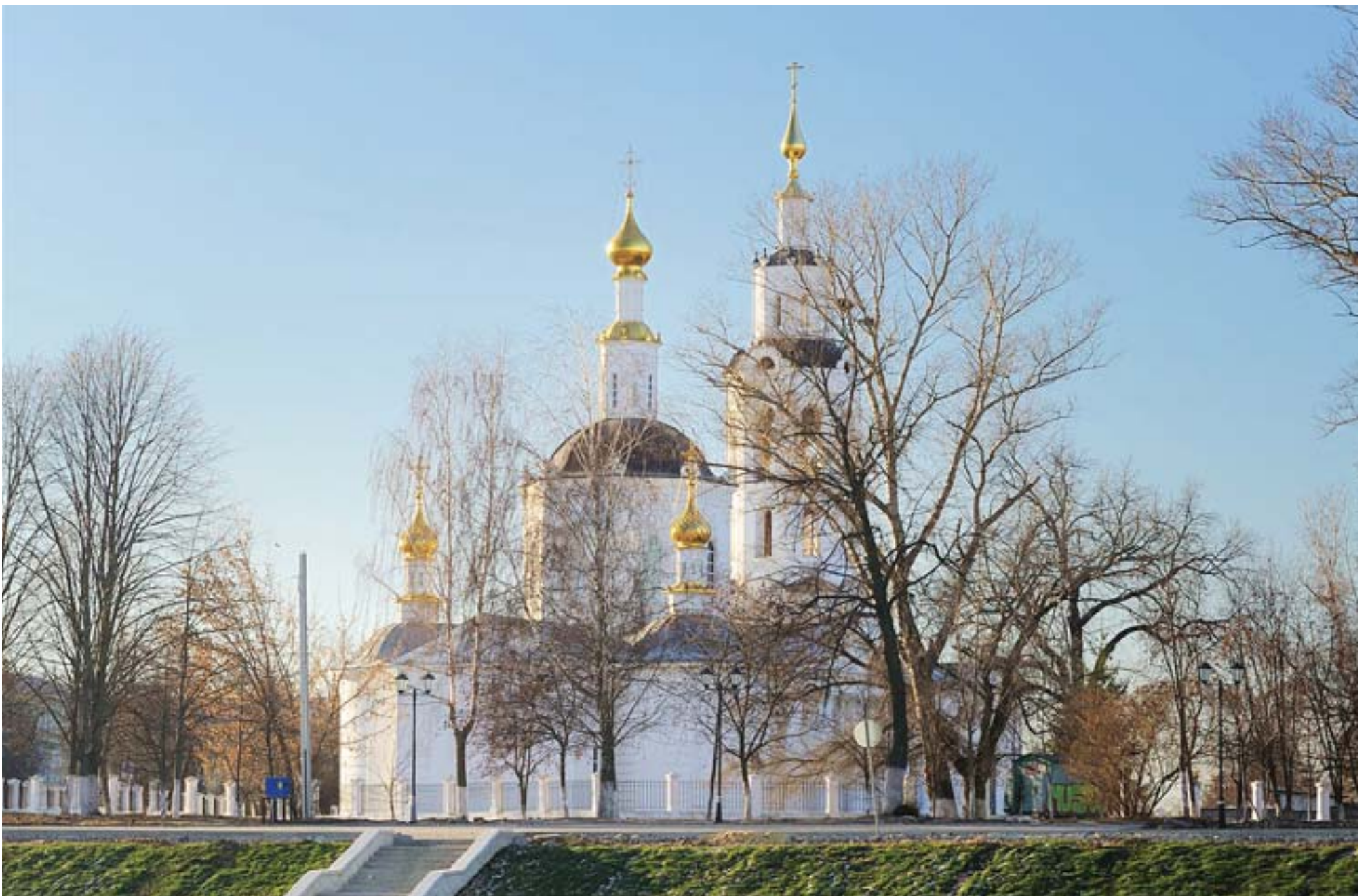


Remedies of the road: Our travel tales of getting sick (and better)



Germ-laden airports, upended sleep patterns and unfamiliar local bugs are just a few of the health risks travelers' face when seeing the world. But sometimes these travel maladies can yield a good story - in the problem solving of travelling companions, the mysterious (and miraculous) local remedies, or the assistance offered by total strangers.

Swept up in Venice

My friend picked up a nasty bug bite somewhere along the way during a summer spent traversing Europe by train. By the time we got to beautiful Venice, her whole thigh was blotchy, hard and swollen.

Speaking no Italian between us apart from 'please' and 'thanks',

we ventured out to find help. We soon met a lovely dustman, who, upon seeing my friend dragging her leg behind her, taught us the Italian for 'emergency room' while bringing us to the edge of his territory. Once we reached a certain cobbled alley, he gave a whistle and another man appeared pushing a cart with various brushes and shovels sticking out of it. We were then promptly passed