## **Supplementary Materials**

## Supplementary methods

**MALDI-TOF mass-spectrometric analysis of the AlkB activity.** The demethylation activity of AlkB towards 2aPu-containing substrates was confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry on a Bruker REFLEX III instrument at the Joint Center for Genomic, Proteomic and Metabolomics Studies of ICBFM (Novosibirsk, Russia). The experiments were conducted with the free substrate (ss15m<sup>1</sup>A\_2aPu) and free product (ss15A\_2aPu) in a reaction mixture consisting of 1.5  $\mu$ M substrate, 15  $\mu$ M AlkB, 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5), 50 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM  $\alpha$ KG, 2 mM sodium ascorbate and 40  $\mu$ M (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Fe(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> 6H<sub>2</sub>O. After incubation at 37 °C for 30 min, the reaction products were precipitated with 2% lithium perchlorate in acetone and desalted in a ZipTipC<sub>18</sub> pipette tip (Millipore, Germany). The spectra were acquired in negative mode using the 3-hydroxypicolinic matrix in 10 mM ammonium citrate.



Figure S1. PAGE analysis of AlkB repair activity towards model substrates. AlkB at 1.5  $\mu$ M was incubated with an equimolar amount of a <sup>32</sup>P-labelled ss-(or-ds)-15m<sup>1</sup>A\_(A) or ds15m<sup>1</sup>A substrate (B). The reaction was quenched at each time point by the addition of an equal volume of 0.2 M NaOH. After thorough purification, each probe was treated with the DpnII enzyme, which is specific to non-methylated GATC motifs, and was analysed by denaturing PAGE. Each chemical quench experiment was carried out three times. Panels (A) and (B) represent the typical one.

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Figure S2. MALDI-TOF mass-spectrometric analysis of the reaction product generated by the incubation of AlkB with substrate 15m<sup>1</sup>A\_2aPu containing a 2aPu fluorescent base. Three probes were analysed by mass spectrometry in negative mode on the 3-hydroxy picolinic acid matrix: ODN 15m<sup>1</sup>A\_2aPu corresponding to the methylated substrate (left panel), ODN 15A\_2aPu corresponding to the undamaged product (central panel) and a reaction mixture (right panel).



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**Figure S3.** The SF time courses of Trp fluorescence obtained under interactions of AlkB and non-methylated DNA. The single- and double stranded DNA substrates of 15 nt length contained the adenine residue instead of m<sup>1</sup><sub>1</sub>A. Equal concentrations of the enzyme and substrate were used (1.5 µM). All experimental conditions were the similar to those of SF experiments with methylated DNA.



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Figure <u>\$3\$54</u>. The emission spectrum of the FAM label within the ssDNA or dsDNA substrates. *1*: The emission spectrum of substrate  $ss15m^1A$ \_FRET. *2*: The emission spectrum of substrate  $ds15m^1A$ \_FRET.  $\lambda_{ex} = 494$  nm. The spectra were recorded in solutions consisting of 1.5  $\mu$ M substrate, 50 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.5), 50 mM KCl and 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>.



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