Heading North again, we finally arrived in our furthest destination: Oporto. The name, meaning "the port" comes from the city's primary role of transporting its most adored product - wine - all around the world.

In fact, the most famous Portuguese export of all is named after this city: PORT WINE. Oporto had a very different feel from Lisbon. A little WILDER than its neighbors to the south. Uncle Wayne and Ms. Maureen carried me up and down the steep hills and across iron bridges built around the river. I also learned how to make port wine in one of the major "bodegas" (or "distributor cellars," as we say in English).

While they were off tasting the wine, I made friends with a curious peacock. I guess he liked me - he opened all of his feathers and strutted around proudly. I, however, was a little scared, and played dead as not to become his next meal. The whole experience was exhausting. I found a café and settled down for a nap.
THE TOWER OF BELEM
Returning from OPORTO back to our starting point, Lisbon, we spent our last day of travel in the region of BELEM exploring the famous tower. It was from here that Portuguese explorers set off to discover Brazil some 500 years ago. It was also a fortress to attack enemy ships trying to enter the harbor of Lisbon.

Thank goodness the city has outdoor elevators (like the one pictured on the left) to help take us up and down the cliffs that separate the city into the CIDADE ALTA ("High City") and CIDADE BAIXA ("Low City"). As it was our last day of "vacation," I was happy to spend the afternoon stretched out on the sidewalk, getting some tan on my flat self.
Uncle Wayne and Ms. Maureen work in The International School of Prague. It has students the same age as Emily, but it also has older students in the Middle School and High School as well.

As much as we all liked to travel and take pictures in Portugal, they returned to the Czech Republic with lots of WORK to do, and I was happy to help. For this reason, I was on my own seeing the beauty of Prague (with no camera) so you'll have to look at the Souvenirs I sent you to get a better sensation of all that Prague has to offer!

Uncle Wayne teaches other teachers and students at his school how to use the internet and computers properly. He also helps them with a lot of creative projects. I spent a full week in the computer lab learning with his students, as you can see in the pictures to the left. I made many friends, some of which took me around when Uncle Wayne was too busy to give me any attention :-(

Last Friday Night, the High School held a concert in the school where the students sang, danced, and performed with friends. Luckily, Uncle Wayne has "connections" and was able to get me an ALL-ACCESS PASS! See me on the stage above?
One of my biggest JOBS over vacation was to serve as assistant to Uncle Wayne in the theater of the International School of Prague. A big group of upper school students wrote and produced an original play that combined the story of "Le Petit Prince" with the real-life drama of the story's writer. It was a spectacle, combining live action with puppets, visual effects, live music, and three separate stages! During the many shows, I helped project the scenery from a computer controller while Uncle Wayne focused on sound effects and music. The audience loved the show. It was cool!
MY FINAL DAYS IN PRAGUE
WOW! What a month this has been! And this book only tells part of the story. Prague and the Czech Republic have so many mysteries, beautiful scenery, and adventures for people my age - Flat or not! Some of the pictures on these pages show you a few of the beautiful sites in this city.

The Astrological Clock, for example, was built centuries ago and is so complex that the inventor had his eyes CUT OUT by the King so that he could never build another clock like it elsewhere in the world! But most of Prague’s stories aren’t that scary. To find out more, you’ll have to examine the book, “The Three Golden Keys,” that Uncle Wayne sent to you. It helps paint a picture of this magical city.

Uncle Wayne, Ms. Maureen, and all of their students and friends have heard so much about YOU, EMILY from MY stories. They all hope that you will cross the Atlantic soon and see all of this in person! Thanks for giving me this trip, but now... It's your turn.
AND THAT'S MY STORY!