

10 Essential Phrases to Protect Yourself While Traveling

1. ¿Tú crees que yo nací ayer?

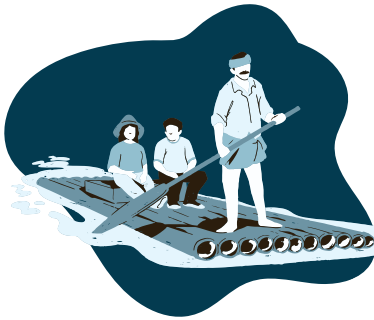


Literal: Do you think I was born yesterday?
Meaning: I'm not naive. I know what's going on.

Example:
Vendor: Son mil pesos por ese sombrero. *(It's 1,000 pesos for that hat.)*
You: ¿Tú crees que yo nací ayer? *(Do you think I was born yesterday?)*

💡 **Pro Tip:** Use with a playful but firm tone. It tells them you're aware without being rude.

2. Ya me las sé todas



Literal: I already know them all.
Meaning: I know all the tricks.

Example:
Seller: Son quinientos pesos por balsa. Pero no puedes compartir la balsa con otras personas. *(It's 500 pesos for the raft. But you can't share with others.)*
You: ¿Por qué? Ya lo hemos hecho antes. Vivo en Ciudad de México, ya me las sé todas. *(Why not? We've done it before. I live in Mexico City, I know how all this works.)*

💡 **Pro Tip:** Great for when someone tries to invent "special rules."

3. No es mi primera vez por aquí



Literal: It's not my first time around here.
Meaning: I've been here before—I know how things work.

Example:
Vendor: Para usted, el precio es especial: 300 pesos. *(For you, the price is special: 300 pesos.)*
You: ¿Estás seguro? Mira que no es mi primera vez por aquí. *(Are you sure? It's not my first time around here.)*

💡 **Pro Tip:** This shows confidence—you're not new or easy to fool.

4. No me quieras ver la cara



Literal: Don't want to see my face.
Meaning: Don't try to fool me.

Example:
Taxi driver: No traigo cambio, pero así está bien, ¿no? *(I don't have change, but this is fine, right?)*
You: No, cómo crees. No me quieras ver la cara. *(No way. Don't try to fool me.)*

💡 **Pro Tip:** Use with a serious tone—perfect for when someone tries to keep your change.

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5. Ya conozco cómo se mueve esto

Literal: I already know how this moves.

Meaning: I know how things work here.

Example:

Builder: Si paga ahora mismo, le hago el precio especial.

(If you pay right now, I'll give you a special price.)

You: Ya conozco cómo se mueve esto, amigo.

(I know how things work here, my friend.)

Pro Tip: Calm but assertive, shows you know when someone is applying pressure tactics.



6. No soy un turista cualquiera

Literal: I'm not just any tourist.

Meaning: I'm a savvy traveler.

Example:

Waiter: Se rompió un vaso. Vamos a agregar \$500 pesos a su cuenta.

(Someone broke a glass. We'll add 500 pesos to your bill.)

You: Mira, no soy un turista cualquiera. Sé que eso fue un accidente y no lo tengo que pagar.

(Look, I'm not just any tourist. I know that was an accident and I don't have to pay.)

Pro Tip: Best when someone assumes you don't know local customs or prices.



7. Yo sé cuánto cuestan las cosas

Literal: I know how much things cost.

Meaning: I've done my homework—you can't overcharge me.

Example:

Taxi driver: El aeropuerto, 500 pesos nomás. *(To the airport, just 500 pesos.)*

You: ¡Ah, caray! Yo sé cuánto cuestan las cosas. Nunca me cobran más de 300. *(Oh, come on! I know how much things cost. They never charge me more than 300.)*

Pro Tip: Simple and effective—hard for anyone to argue against.



8. ¿Por quién me tomas?

Literal: Who do you take me for?

Meaning: Who do you think I am?

Example:

Vendor: Este souvenir... 800 pesitos para usted. *(This souvenir... 800 pesos for you.)*

You: ¿Por quién me tomas? *(Who do you think I am?)*

Pro Tip: Use with a raised eyebrow—it's classy but firm.

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9. ¿No le pierdes?



Literal: You're not losing, are you?

Meaning: You're clearly making a big profit.

Example:

Uber driver: El viaje... 500 pesos, más la caseta, más propina.
(*The ride... 500 pesos, plus toll, plus tip.*)

You: ¿No le pierdes, eh? (*You're not losing, are you?*)

💡 **Pro Tip:** Sarcastic but fun—perfect when prices are exaggerated.

10. Se cobró a lo chino



Literal: He charged himself Chinese-style.

Meaning: He took the payment into his own hands.

Example:

Friend: Me dijo 50 pesos, pero le pagué con 100 y contestó: "Pues así quedamos."
(*He said 50 pesos, but I paid with 100 and he said: "Well, that's it then."*)

You: Se cobró a lo chino. (*He just decided the payment himself.*)

💡 **Pro Tip:** Common phrase in Mexico. Use cautiously since it has cultural baggage.

Quick Reference Cheat Sheet

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3. **No es mi primera vez por aquí** – It's not my first time around here.
4. **No me quieras ver la cara** – Don't try to fool me.
5. **Ya conozco cómo se mueve esto** – I know how things work here.
6. **No soy un turista cualquiera** – I'm not just any tourist.
7. **Yo sé cuánto cuestan las cosas** – I know how much things cost.
8. **¿Por quién me tomas?** – Who do you think I am?
9. **¿No le pierdes?** – You're not losing, are you?
10. **Se cobró a lo chino** – He took the payment himself.

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