



Episode 11

Episodio 11

"Escape to Cuba"

"Escapar a Cuba"

Synopsis:

In this very interesting story, Elio and his friend, Pablo are having a conversation, where Elio talks about his trip to Cuba a few years ago. Pablo is very curious how he was able to travel to this "Forbidden Land". He goes into very specific details about how exactly he planned and arrived in Cuba. He briefly mentions a very comical moment with a local Cab driver; the charismatic and hilarious Cubano, Vladimir.

List Of Characters & Their Accents

Pablo - Argentina 
Elvio - Dominican Republic 
Vladimir - Cuba 

GRITTY SPANISH: PARTE II

Español

Pablo: **Che** Elvio, se me había olvidado preguntarte por tu viaje a Cuba

Elvio: Oye, eso fue hace más de tres años hermano jajajaja.

Pablo: Jajajaja ya lo sé, lo que pasa es que tengo una mala memoria, ¿no? ¿Cada vez se vuelve menos estricto viajar allá, ¿no? Digo, sé que es ilegal, pero, ¿no te dio miedo de que se dieran cuenta?

Elvio: Sí, es ilegal, según dicen, pero yo estaba decidido a ir y tengo que decir, que fue una experiencia única. Cuba es un país muy hermoso. ¿Estás pensando en ir?

Pablo: Si, estaba pensando en eso. Quiero escabullirme, así como hiciste vos. Me gustaría ir antes de que todos empiecen a ir.

Inglés

Pablo: Hey Elvio, I had forgotten to ask you about your trip to Cuba.

Elvio: Hey, that was over three years ago bro hahahaha.

Pablo: Hahaha I know, the thing is that I have a bad memory, right? It's becoming less and less strict to travel there, right? I mean, I know it's illegal, but you weren't scared that they would notice?

Elvio: Yes it's illegal, so they say, but I was determined to go and I have to say, it was a unique experience. Cuba is a beautiful country. Are you thinking about going?

Pablo: Yes, I was thinking about that. I want to sneak in like you did. I would like to go before everyone starts going.

Elvio: Ahh ya veo. Bueno, no fue tan difícil como yo pensé que iba a ser. Todo lo que yo hice fue viajar a Cancún, México, y allá, **cogí** un vuelo a Cuba. No fue tan difícil, pero hay que planificarlo muy bien, al menos, así era cuando yo fui

Pablo: Entonces fuiste a Cancún primero, y compraste un billete de avión ahí para viajar a Cuba.

Elvio: No, lo compré cuando estaba en Nueva York en Internet. Ahora que lo pienso, fue muy arriesgado. Yo tuve que confiar mucho en una agencia de viajes en México para que hiciera los arreglos por mí. No quería usar la tarjeta de crédito porque no quería dejar un rastro de papel, ¿tú sabe? Así que mejor le pagué a ellos. Ellos estaban encubiertos aparentando ser **dizque** un hotel. Así que lo que hice fue pagarle al "hotel". La agencia de viajes recibió su dinero, e hizo los arreglos **pa'l** vuelo de ida y vuelta y el visado.

Pablo: Guau... Eso sí que fue arriesgado; no puedo creer que hayas pasado por todo eso. Así que tomaste un vuelo normal a México y fuiste directo a Cuba.

Elvio: Sí exactamente. Como obviamente no había ningún vuelo directo a Cuba desde Nueva York, yo reservé 9 días de vacaciones en México, pero mi plan era ir a Cuba por 6 noches. Me quedé en Cancún 3 días. Pasé 2 días en Cancún antes del viaje y un día más una después que regresé.

Pablo: Entonces cuando volviste de Nuevo México, ¿solo tomaste el vuelo de regreso original a Nueva York?

Elvio: ¡Precisamente! Como dije antes, no fue difícil, pero tuve que planificarlo todo muy bien. No sé cómo sea ahora. Ni siquiera me hospedé en un hotel normal, yo me quedé en la casa de alguien. Es muy común que la gente **alquile** su casa para hospedar viajeros.

Pablo: Claro, me imagino que **obtenés** una experiencia cubana más auténtica si te quedas en una verdadera casa cubana.

Así que **decime**, ¿cuál es tu recuerdo favorito de allí?

Elvio: ¡Esa sí es una pregunta difícil mi hermano! Hubo varias, pero si tuviera que elegir una, yo diría ... jmmmmmm... Yo dejé mi hotel por un par de días

Elvio: Ahh I see. Well, it wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be. All I did was travel to Cancun, Mexico and from there, took a flight to Cuba. It wasn't that difficult, but you have to plan really well, at least, that's how it was when I went.

Pablo: So you went to Cancun first, and purchased a plane ticket there for your trip to Cuba?

Elvio: No, I bought it while I was in New York over the Internet. Now that I think about it, it was quite risky. I had to put a lot of trust in a travel agency in Mexico to make the arrangements for me. I didn't want to use the credit card because I didn't want to leave a paper trail, you know? So I paid them instead. They were disguised as a hotel. So what I did was pay the "Hotel". The travel agency received their money, and I made the arrangements for the round trip flight and the visa.

Pablo: Wow...That was risky; I can't believe you went through all that. So you took a normal flight to Mexico and went straight to Cuba.

Elvio: Yes exactly. Since there weren't obviously any direct flights to Cuba from New York, I booked a 9-day vacation to Mexico, but my plan was to go Cuba for 6 nights. I stayed in Cancun for 3 days. I spent 2 days in Cancun before the trip and one day after I got back.

Pablo: So when you arrived back to Mexico, you just took the original return flight back to New York?

Elvio: Precisely! Like I said before, it wasn't tough, but I had to plan really well. I don't know how it is now. I didn't even stay in a normal hotel, I stayed in someone's house. It's pretty common that people rent out their home to accommodate travelers.

Pablo: Of course, I imagine that you got a more authentic Cuban experience if you stay in a real Cuban home.

So tell me, what was your favorite memory there?

Elvio: That's a tough question bro! There were several, but if I had to pick one, I would say...hmmmmmm.... I left my hotel for a couple of days to go to a beach

para ir a un pueblo costero que se llamaba Bacuranao, que está a una hora de La Habana. En La Habana, conocí a un taxista que era [una cura](#), su nombre era Vladimir. Yo lo contraté para que me llevara a este [pueblito](#). Todo lo que tenía que hacer ese día era llevarme a la playa y regresar.

Pablo: ¿No hay playas en La Habana?

Elvio: No hay verdaderas playas en La Habana. Tú sabes que yo también soy del Caribe, así que yo tengo estándares muy altos cuando se trata de ese tipo de cosas jajajaja.

Pablo: [Y sí](#), entonces [contáme](#) una historia divertida sobre tu viaje a Bacuranao. Dijiste que un taxista divertido te había llevado allá...

Elvio: Bueno, [para hacerte el cuento corto](#), me llevó a Bacuranao, entonces yo renté un apartamento para pasar ahí una noche. Ahí, me dejó su número y regresó a La Habana. Salí, me tomé par de tragos y salí a fiestar un poco, lo cual fue muy [jevi](#). Al día siguiente, a eso del mediodía, yo le llamé para que me viniera a buscar. Después de llamarlo, caminé un poco por la calle para comer algo en un lugar local.

-- La escena cambia a dos años atrás--

Vladimir: Carajo [mijo](#), ¿Dónde estabas tú? Te he estado esperando [desde hace rato](#), ¡diablo! Entonces, ¿qué quieres hacer? ¿Quieres volver a la Habana o quieres quedarte un rato aquí?

Elvio: No, excúsame mi hermano, tú sabes que mi celular está apagado aquí en Cuba. Tuve que usar el teléfono público para llamarte. Oye, ¿Qué tan lejos está Varadero de aquí? La playa de aquí no es suficiente para mí viejo, y he oído cosas muy buenas de Varadero, pero primero siéntate conmigo y pide algo para ti.

Vladimir: Esta bien, voy a pedir algo. Varadero tiene una playa bonita, podemos ir ya mismo si tú quieres, pero está como a 2 horas y media de aquí, es lejos.

Elvio: ¿De verdad? ¿Tan lejos? Jmm, ¿tú sabes qué? Yo no me siento con ganas de volver a La Habana hoy, vámonos ahora y regresemos mañana cuando todavía sea temprano. Yo puedo pagar dos

town called Bacuranao, which is about an hour away from Havana. In Havana, I met a taxi guy that was super funny, his name was Vladimir. I hired him to take me to this little town. All he had to do that day was take me to the beach and come back.

Pablo: There are no beaches in Havana?

Elvio: There are no real beaches in Havana. You know that I am from the Caribbean as well, so I have high standards when it comes to that kind of stuff hahahaha.

Pablo: Got ya, so tell me a funny story about your trip to Bacuranao. You said a funny taxi driver had taken you there...

Elvio: Well, to make a long story short, he took me to Bacuranao, then I rented an apartment for a night there. So, he left his number with me and he returned back to Havana. I went out, had a couple of drinks, and went partying, which was fun. The following day, around mid-day, I called him to come pick me up. After calling him, I took a little walk down the street to get a bite at a local spot.

--The scene switches to two yrs. ago--

Vladimir: Damn man, where were you? I've been waiting for you for a while, ¡damn! So, what do you want to do? Do you want to go back to Havana or do you want to stay here for a while?

Elvio: No, sorry bro, you know my cell phone is off here in Cuba. I had to use the Payphone to call you. Hey, how far is Varadero from here? The beach here doesn't cut it for me man, and I've heard some very good things about Varadero, but first sit down with me and order something for yourself.

Vladimir: Okay, I am going to order something. Varadero has a beautiful beach, we can go right now if you want, but it's about 2 and a half hours away, it's far.

Elvio: Really? That far? Hmm, you know what? I don't feel like going back to Havana today, let's go now and come back tomorrow when it's still early. I can pay for two apartments for tonight, one for me and

apartamentos para esta noche, uno para mí y otro para ti.

one for you.

Vladimir: Podemos ir, pero tengo que ir primero a la Habana, mírame la ropa mijo, está sucia. No había pensado ir tan lejos y pasar la noche por fuera.

Vladimir: We can go, but I will have to go back to Havana first, look at my clothes man, it's dirty. I hadn't thought to go so far and spend the night.

Elvio: No le pare', viejo, yo tengo algo de ropa limpia en mi maleta, tú la puedes usar.

Elvio: Don't worry man, I have some clean clothes in my bag, you can wear it.

Vladimir: Está bien, muy bien, ¡vámonos!

Vladimir: Okay, very well, let's go!

--Elvio y Vladimir están sentados en el carro para Veradero--

--Elvio and Vladimir are seated in the car headed to Veradero--

Vladimir: Oye Elvio, ¿a ti te gustan las películas? A mí me encantan, hasta las americanas. No entiendo un carajo, pero igualito las veo sin subtítulos. ¿Te puedo preguntar algo?

Vladimir: Hey Elvio, do you like movies? I love movies, even those American ones. I don't understand a damn thing, but I watch them without subtitles anyway. Can I ask you a question?

Elvio: Claro.

Elvio: Of course.

Vladimir: Sin ofender, nada personal, siempre he querido saber esto. ¿Por qué en todas las películas, los negros son los que más joden, siempre son los malos y al final, se mueren.

Vladimir: No offense, it's not personal, I've always wanted to know this. How come in every movie, blacks are the ones that causes the most trouble, they are always bad guys and in the end, they die.

--Elvio se empieza a reír histéricamente --

--Elvio starts laughing hysterically--

Elvio: Jajajajajaj, ¡qué cura contigo!

Elvio: Hahahahaha, how funny!

Vladimir: Jajajaja, nunca falla, en todas las películas que he visto se mueren pal' carajo, son como que "ooh my god, fac, fac, motherfacka fac you motherfacka bom bom bom". Y después se mueren, terminan con un tiro o se mueren al final.

Vladimir: Hahahahaha, it never fails, in every movie I have seen they fucking die. They are like, "ohhh my god, fuck, fuck, motherfacka fuck you mother facka! Boom boom boom". And after that they die, they end up getting shot or die at the end.

--Elvio continúa riendo sin control, mientras que la escena cambia de nuevo al tiempo presente --

--Elvio continues to laugh uncontrollably while the scene shifts back to present time--

Pablo: Jajaja ¡muy bueno!

Pablo: Hahaha, so funny!

Elvio: Sí loco, yo me curé pila, incluso hasta se quillé manejando, pero yo lo dejaré eso para otro momento mi hermano. Pero mira, Cuba es precioso, la gente, los carros viejos, etc. Ellos son de la gente más tranquila que yo he conocido.

Elvio: Yes, man. I laughed a lot, he even had a bit of road rage, but I will leave that for another time man. But look, Cuba is lovely, the people, the old cars, etc. The people are some of the most relaxed people that I've met.

Pablo: ¿Y no te dieron problemas las aduanas

Pablo: Did customs give you problems

cuando volviste?

Elvio: Oye, lo que yo hice para [tripearlos un chin](#). cuando estaba en el aeropuerto de México, en la sección libre de impuestos, yo compré un sombrero mexicano, el más grande que yo pude encontrar. Cuando yo estaba cogiendo mis maletas de la cinta transportadora en Nueva York, un oficial de aduana se me acercó y me preguntó: "¿De dónde vienes?"

Entonces, los dos miramos el sombrero, luego sonrió y me dijo, "espero hayas disfrutado de México, pásala bien"

Pablo: ¡Nooooo! yo me hubiera asustado hasta la muerte, pero igual me convenciste. Voy a hacer los arreglos necesarios como hiciste vos, y voy a viajar a ver como es.

when you returned?

Elvio: Hey, what I did to throw them off a little when I was at the airport in Mexico, in the duty-free area; I purchased a Mexican hat, the biggest I could find. When I was picking up my bags at the Conveyor belt in New York, a customs officer approached and asked, "Where are you coming from?" ...

Then, we both looked at the hat, then he smiled and said, "I hope you enjoyed Mexico, have a good one."

Pablo: Nooooo! I would have been scared to death, but you convinced me nonetheless. I am going to make the necessary arrangements like you did, and I am going to travel to see how it is.

--Fin de la historia--

--End of story--

Notitas

(Little notes)

Che: Che is used in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It means either "hey" or "buddy", or simply "hey, buddy."

Cojí: Most Dominicans use the synonym "cogí" from verb "coger" instead of "tomar". They mean the same, but while most Spanish speaking countries use "tomar", most Dominicans use "coger". "Coger" is also used in a sexual context in some countries.

Dizque: Dominicans use that word way more than probably any other Spanish speaking country to describe something that is not true or might not be true, but it's mostly used as a filler in cases like "El dizque hotel" or as an outright replacement for the word "supposedly".

Pa'l: A combination of "para" and "el" used commonly in DR. Remember, to make it easier and less confusing; I didn't cut out most of the words cut by the Dominican voice actors/actresses. You'll be able to hear what was cut/shorten when you listen enough, get used to it and inevitably advance. If they were written cut, then it would have been major confusion.

Alquile: From verb "Alquilar" which is "To Rent".
Synonym of "rentar" or "arrendar". Alquilar is more commonly used by Dominicans.

Obtenés: People from Argentina speak using Vos form. This is the vos form of "obienes" from the verb "obtener" (to get, to obtain).

Decime: "Vos" form of "dime"(tell me). The verb *Decir* means, "say/to say".

Una cura: Dominican slang for something really funny.

Pueblito: Although "pequeño pueblo" is the literal translation, "pueblito" from "pueblo" would be more accurate. That being said, Dominicans and Latinos, in general, don't tend to use words like "little" in Spanish, they would use the whole diminutive of the word, for an example: Instead of "la pequeña mano" they'd say "la manito."

Y sí: *Y sí* is an Argentinian expression that could mean, "Got ya," Like, "I understand." Argentinians just tend to add "y" before "sí" (sí as affirmative, not conditional). It's something they do a lot, there's not a real translation for that, aside from plain and simple "yes", because that's really what they're saying, just with the "y" filler.

Contame: *Contame* is an Argentinian way of saying, "Cuéntame" or "Tell me."

Para hacerte el cuento corto: In this, case Dominicans would use that wording which is the literal translation of "make a long story short", but it's an idiomatic expression to what most would say "para resumir."

Jevi: Dominican Slang for something "cool" or "nice".

Mijo: Short form of "mi hijo"(My son).

For females: *Mija* "Mi hija". (My daughter).

In colloquial language, it is not only used to refer to your children, people use to refer to a friend (like "girl" and "gal" for females, and "buddy", "pal" for males). Sometimes it is used between couples as well.

Desde hace rato: Expression that means "for a while"/"in a while"/"for so long".

No le pare': Slang for "don't worry".

Viejo: Slang for "dude", "man".

más joden: The direct translation in Spanish for the phrase used in the story, "los negros son los que **más joden**" would be be "los negros son que **más causan problemas**". In the story, the word at the end used was, "Joden"(they fuck), which comes from the verb, "Joder" (to fuck). "Joder" is used in street expressions that means, "causar problemas"(to cause problems).

¡Qué cura contigo! : Slang for something really funny. *Cura* actually comes from the reflexive verb, "curarse" (to get better).

pal' carajo: Idiom that means "To hell with you"/ "sod off"/"screw off"/"get lost". In the scene, he said, "se mueren"(they die). By adding the *pal' carajo* at the end it's like saying, "They fucking die".

Muy Bueno: Argentinian slang for something funny.

Loco: "Loco" means "crazy"; but in some countries, it is also slang for "man" or "young man", "Friend", "buddy", etc.

Yo me curé pila: Again, Dominican slang "curé" from the reflexive verb, "curarse" (to get better). A Dominican person would use "curarse" when someone or something is very funny and/or laughing a lot.

Pila, which is the Dominican/PR/Venezuelan substitute of "a lot", so it's "I laughed a lot".

Se quilló manejando: Dominican way of saying, "Se molestó manejando". Is not a literal translation but would be closer in meaning to "road rage." "Quilló" from "quillarse" is slang for "molestarse" (to get upset).

Tripearlos: Slang for "despistar" or "mislead".

Un chin: Dominican/Puerto Rican slang for "un poco" "a little".