A stairway between the Marienbrücke bridge and the railway bridge makes it possible to access the Marienbrücke and to cross the river Elbe. On the other side of the river Elbe you descend to the Congress Centre via a stairway and reach the board on the Elbe (it is possible to bypass the stairs by going through the Palace garden up to the Marienbrücke and on the opposite side of the river via the Ostra river bank and the Kleine Packhofstraße down to the Elbe path). You reach the Sächsischer Landtag (Saxon state parliament) by walking a few steps in an upstream direction. The Information board is at the Kleine Packhofstraße, the Information board is located on the Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz square. Once you have walked another good 100 metres you will have again reached the route’s exit point. This exit point can be reached by taking the tramlines no. 4, 8 or 9, Theaterplatz tram stop. You should allow yourself some 60 to 90 minutes walking time for the trail.

Welcome to the Dresden flooding educational trail
The water is coming. What happens?
Who will provide the information?
Living on the riverside – living with flooding
Learning from experience (2 information boards)
Room for the river!
Reducing the water masses by diverting the river.
Where does the flood develop, when is the danger over?
Weißeritz – out of sight, out of mind?
High-water marks
Flood sculpture
Dresden water gauge, For water level, see display on the Theaterkahn (Theatre in a boat)
Welcome to the Dresden flood trail

Learn all about it here!

Complete protection from flooding will also not be possible in the future. Everyone who could be affected by flooding is called upon to take adequate precautionary measures. You will find more detailed information on this under the Internet addresses stated in the legal notice section.

Flooding takes on many guises.

The newly constructed flood protection system, which should protect the city districts of the Altstadt (Dresden old city centre), Wilsdruffer Vorstadt and Friedrichstadt from flooding of the Elbe, can be seen directly on the trail. The trail explains how long it would take for a flood wave from the Czech Republic to reach Dresden. Find out about the efforts being taken to preserve the Elbe meadows as flood plains and the effects of the two flood channels in the city area. A special risk emanates from the Weißeritz river in Dresden due to the very high speed at which it flows. Trail visitors discover how this risk is managed. Dangers to the building substance due to increasing groundwater levels during Elbe flooding are also addressed.

Once the flooding has passed by you have to prepare for the next flood

The flood trail clearly demonstrates the causes of flooding under the motto of "Learning from the flood". It becomes clear how important it is that citizens and companies at risk take adequate precautions themselves in good time, and make use of the numerous opportunities to obtain information. What happens when the water levels rise? Who informs whom? Where do you establish the current water levels and what do the four alert phases mean? The people affected have to live with the risk of flooding and should be able to answer the following questions.

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The days we went through in August 2002 – is the memory fading?

340,000 people were affected by the flooding in Germany in August 2002, tens of thousands of people had to be evacuated, 21 people died in the floods in the German free state of Saxony alone. The Elbe and Weißeritz rivers reached record high levels in Dresden. The flood destroyed essential infrastructures, temporarily shutting down energy and water supplies, paralysing parts of the economy and causing more than € 9 billion worth of damage. This was followed by one of the largest rescue missions in Germany; the assistance provided and solidarity of the people were exemplary. Just eleven years later, in June 2013, Dresden was once again hit by flooding of the Elbe, the Weißeritz and other rivers and streams. The Elbe reached the second highest water levels ever measured in Dresden of 878 centimetres. In August 2002 the peak water level was 940 centimetres. The damage caused was much slighter than in 2002 due to the protection systems that had by then been put in place and longer advance warning times, as well as flood prevention measures that had been better prepared. In the 2013 floods the newly constructed flood protection system at the Weißeritz river in the Plauen district passed its first acid test. There was no overflowing of the river into the city area. The countless protective and retention systems constructed after the floods of 2002 at smaller streams throughout the entire city areas fulfilled their intended purpose.

High-water marks serve as a reminder! Find these five marks along the trail!

- at the Radeberger Spezialauschank (special Radeberger pub)
- at the Augustusbrücke bridge
- at the Dresden Landtag (parliament of the federal state of Saxony), (Bernhard-von-Lindenau-Platz and Kleine Packhofstr.)
- at the Italian village

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