Mayflower - Map Depicting its Route

When "The Pilgrims" boarded the *Mayflower*, for their journey to America, they did not travel directly from Leiden (Leyden), in The Netherlands, to the "New World." This map illustrates their route of travel.

- From Leiden, they went to the Dutch port town of Delfshaven. There—on July 22, 1620—they boarded a ship called the *Speedwell* on which they traveled to the British port town of Southampton. They planned to meet-up with another ship called the *Mayflower*.

- En route to Southampton, the *Speedwell* began to leak. Posing a great risk for the Atlantic crossing, the leaking ship was repaired in Southampton. That process took a week to complete.

- On the 5th of August, the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell* set sail for America. *Speedwell* began to leak, again, so both ships pulled into Dartmouth's harbor (southeast of today's Dartmoor National Park) where *Speedwell* had more repairs.

- Both *Speedwell* and *Mayflower* left Dartmouth around the 21st of August. Sailing about 300 miles, *Speedwell* began leaking again. Both ships turned back, arriving in the British port of Plymouth.

- Tired of addressing *Speedwell's* endless leaks, the Separatists decided to leave that ship behind. They would sail to America on *Mayflower* as their only ship.

- Some of the people were so worn-out by the process that they decided not to make the transatlantic crossing. All supplies, cargo and individuals were loaded aboard *Mayflower*. The ship set sail for America on September 6, 1620.

It was not the best time of year to begin the journey.

After about two months at sea, which was sometime treacherous (especially during the month of October), the travelers sighted land—Cape Cod—on the 9th of November, 1620.

Their destination had been Northern Virginia which, at that time, included the Hudson River (in today's New York State). Attempting to sail south, to reach the mouth of the Hudson River, the group was forced to turn back to Cape Cod. The weather was just too bad to keep sailing.

Thus it was that this group of colonists ended-up anchoring in what is now called Provincetown Harbor (in today's Massachusetts).

Click on the image for an expanded view.

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