



LAKE MURRAY

Columbia

► SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia's Southern charms make it a great setting for relaxing and civility. Nearby Lake Murray provides a place to bust loose.

Lake Murray was formed in 1930 by the distinctive five-tower Dreher Shoals Dam on the Saluda River. The 48,000-acre reservoir — 41 miles long and as wide as 14 miles — produces electrical energy and is the main source of Columbia's drinking water. It has also become "the water playground for the (South Carolina) Midlands."

Although the lake is a power-producing reservoir, water level changes are not massive — four feet between normal summer high and normal winter low.

Water skiing, wakeboarding, cruising and

swimming are all popular. Murray is famous too for its rafts of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of boats, plus numerous poker runs on this enormous inland waterway.

Dozens of marinas serve the lake, with abundant landings and ramps.

Columbia, 18 miles away, claims one of the lowest costs of living in the United States. Still, upscale home communities ring the lake, so pick your lifestyle. The city overflows with options such as concerts, ice shows, Broadway shows, dancing, historic homes, museums, theaters, and a zoo and botanical garden. Columbia's Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden is consistently ranked among the nation's top 10.



NEED TO KNOW

► **DREAM BOAT:** **Stingray 225SX** — Wakeboard, ski and be first to the cove with this speedy runabout.

► **FUN FACT:** A B-25 bomber on a training run ditched and sank in 150 feet of water in Lake Murray in 1943. It was located 59 years later and, in 2005, raised from the lake's depths.